

20 April 2020

Ms Arlene Singh
Savannah Environmental Pty Ltd

Korana WEF access routes: Heritage response

Dear Ms Singh,

Thank you for all the material sent thus far with the proposed change of the Access routes with respect to the above.

It is understood that the applicant requests that the authorised access route (currently Alternative A1: Namies Suid) be amended to Alternative A2 (Poortjies South). The authorised route as per the Environmental Authorisation (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/682) is Alternative A1 (Namies Suid).

We understand the reasons for this request to lie in the following:

- Adjustments to the width and vertical alignment will have to be undertaken for the Namies Suid A1 route (which is 49,5km long) before safe abnormal load access can be guaranteed. There are also sections through the proposed land parcels of land that may require widening to accommodate abnormal load access. Approximately 5.3km of new road will have to be constructed within the site.
- The Poortjies South access road is longer (63km) but has a more suitable vertical and horizontal alignment for abnormal load access. There is only one corner that may require horizontal re-alignment within the current road reserve.

The Poortjies South road, which although longer, is considered by the applicant to be the technically more feasible route in that it will require less intervention to render it suitable for the transportation of abnormal loads.

In terms of the impact assessment already completed, it was found that the heritage of the project areas for both alternatives was mostly of an archaeological nature and consists of multiple dispersed and ancient scatters of Middle Stone Age material and artefacts. Such material is well represented within and around the project areas with the result that the envisaged impacts were considered acceptable and did not constitute an unacceptable loss. For Alternative 1 (Namies Suid) we identified an additional archaeological heritage resource which is the remains of the old Namakwaland village of Namies, of which the school along with numerous ruins and foundations are visible today. This was considered a potentially important heritage site worthy of conservation which was reflected in the original HIA and found to be a potential restriction. As a result the Namies Suid access road was not supported since mitigation would be required and that always represents a loss of heritage value.

Thus, the amended choice of access road, Poortjies South is supported as the heritage risks are lower and no mitigations for that choice of route are necessary.

In summary the change of access road to Poortjies south (A2) elicits no objections and we wish the proponent the very best for the way ahead.

Yours sincerely



Tim Hart: Director
For ACO Associates