

Natasha Higgitt
Tel 021 462 4502
CaseID: 14844

Friday 08 May, 2020

Dear Ms. Higgitt,

RE: PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION OVER PORTION 2 AND 3 OF THE FARM BISHOP 671, KURUMAN DISTRICT NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SAHRA FINAL COMMENT.

In response to your comments letter on the 3rd of April 2020, where it is indicated that the submitted HIA can not be accepted due to the fact that all the borehole locations were not physically investigated, we would like to indicate the following;

1. The sites that were omitted from physical investigation was in areas with remarkably similar landscape characteristics. Although the aerial photographs might indicate that these are easily accessible this is not in fact the case on the ground. Several geographic and ecological factors were at play when these decisions were made. As you will know, field investigations are a fluid process where decisions need to be made on the spur of the moment and prevailing conditions determine these.
2. It was decided that the areas with remarkably similar characteristics as those found to be devoid of archaeological remains, be surveyed by drone flight to exclude the possibility of any large features occurring there. As you correctly indicate, micro occurrences and sub-surface deposits can mostly not be identified by this method and therefor it was recommended that once access to these sites have been established during the prospecting phase that they be investigated as part of a monitoring program to determine if any deposits such as these might be present. These would then be mitigated on a site-by-site basis.
3. Under normal circumstances we would schedule a return visit to physically investigate every location as per your instructions, however as you know we are currently under extraordinary circumstances as a result of the government Covid-19 Lockdown requirements and as a result, this will only be possible once the restrictions on interprovincial travel has been lifted. The timeframe for this is currently not known and it could be a substantial time before this happens.

Taking the above explanations and the extraordinary circumstances that currently prevail into consideration we respectfully request that you reconsider the requirements for physical investigations of each site and that you consider allowing the monitoring of these areas during prospecting as an alternative solutions.

Normally we would not consider asking for such a compromise since we regard your decisions as final and binding, however we are extremely far removed from a 'normal' situation currently. We therefore urge you in the light of current national cooperation and compromise to consider coming to terms in this regard and assist us to move forward with the truly little work we are currently being allowed to.

I trust that you will consider this request and look forward to your response or alternative suggestions on how we are to handle this issue.

Sincerely,



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Stephan Gaigher (CEO, G&A Heritage Properties (Pty) Ltd)