

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Palaeosciences Centre, East Campus, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue, Braamfontein, Johannesburg
Private Bag 3, WITS 2050, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA Tel: 011 717 6682

Marion.bamford@wits.ac.za

28 September 2016

Nokukhanya Khumalo
SAHRA
P O Box 4637
Cape Town 8001

Dear Ms Khumalo

RE: Case ID: 9647 - Elders Colliery ca. 25 km north of Bethal, Mpumalanga

As requested by you, and on behalf of SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd and their clients Anglo Operations (Pty) Limited, a Palaeontological Impact Assessment has been done for the proposed Elders Colliery to be located approximately 25 km north of Bethal. Coal will be mined by means of the bord and pillar mining method. Coal will be transported via a new overland conveyor system to the existing Goedehoop Colliery where the coal will be processed.

The Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Elders Colliery concludes that there is very little likelihood of any fossils of scientific interest being found during the excavations for the infrastructure because the coal seams are more than 30m below surface. Once underground mining operations have begun there is a small chance of finding some fossil plants of the *Ecca* glossopterid flora in the shales between coal seams and lenses. The occurrence of these fossils is unpredictable and very patchy. A monitoring programme is recommended. Based on the available information and knowledge of the area it is the specialist's opinion that the project can proceed and no further palaeontological impact assessment is required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M Bamford'.

Prof Marion Bamford
Palaeobotanist PhD (Wits 1990)
ESI