

Attention: Nokukhanya Khumalo

South African Heritage Resources Agency

Via E-mail: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

6 March 2017

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS: SCOPING REPORT EVANDER GOLD MINES

Case ID: 10237

Dear Sir / Madam;

Your comments dated, 8th December 2016 has reference. Please see below in response to your comments.

“Page 17 of the Scoping Report mentions that a previous Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Report was conducted in the past, this report needs to be submitted to the case. However, no assessment of the proposed activities was conducted and the age of the HIA report is not mentioned. SAHRA still requires a heritage assessment for the proposed activities outlined in the Scoping Report, the HIA should also include a map of the heritage resources that will be or may be impacted by the proposed activities, overlaid with the proposed project areas. This HIA should be conducted by a qualified Archaeologist.”

The previous HIA was conducted in September 2010 by African Heritage Consultants and included a survey of the overall Mining Right Area. In light of the above comments, a second HIA was completed by Prof.A.van Vollenhoven in February 2017 focusing on the proposed activities associated with the current application. This report includes a map of the heritage resources in relation to the project area and proposed activities.

Both reports have been appended and uploaded to the case file.

“The underlying geology consists of colluvial and alluvial sands, silts and clays which overlie sandstone, mudrock and coal of the Vryheid Formation. The Vryheid Formation has a very high sensitivity for the occurrence of fossiliferous rocks as such a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA). The PIA must be conducted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.”

As per your request, a desktop PIA has been conducted by Prof. Marion Bamford (see attached report). The report concludes that as the site is already largely disturbed, and as the excavations associated with the project are relatively shallow, the likelihood of finding/disturbing fossils is relatively low and no further studies are required at this stage.

We trust that you find the above in order and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and regards,

Michelle Venter