



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11025

Date: Thursday October 26, 2017  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Pule Hlahane  
South African Farmers Association

**The Blue-Green Aquaculture PTY Ltd is a small scale commercial farming enterprise that was established in 2013 and is proposing to establish an aquaculture production facility. Blue-Green Aquaculture has leased land, i.e Plot 413 in Bosplaas West, from Mr T J Kgomo for the establishment of an aquaculture production farm. The lease agreement includes the utilisation of a borehole with the capacity to store 10 000 L of water.**

CSIR has been appointed by Blue-Green Aquaculture (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Tilapia Aquaponics Project on Plot 413 of the farm Bosplaas, near Hammanskraal, North West Province. A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (HCAC) and Palaeo Field Services were appointed to provide specialist heritage input as part of the BAR process.

*Van der Walt, J. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Blue-Green Aquaculture Pty Ltd Farming Development, North West Province.*

No archaeological heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. A chance finds procedure has been recommended.

*Rossouw, L. 2017. Palaeontological desktop study of an aquaponics farm project on the farm Boschplaats 91 near Hammanskraal, Bonjanala District, North West Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by moderately fossiliferous sediments of the Hammanskraal Formation (Ecca Group) and unfossiliferous granites of the Lebowa Granite Suite. *Glossopteris* flora has been recorded in the coal zone of the Hammanskraal Formation, which however crops out poorly if at all in the area. Ancient human skeletal remains and Florisian faunal remains have been identified at Tuinplaats in the Springbok Flats in geological recent calcareous soils at a depth of  $\pm 1$  m. Considering the scale of the development, it is extremely unlikely that any fossils will be present. A chance finds procedure is



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recommended.

The DBAR notes the presence of two informal cemeteries on the property. The statement in the DBAR further notes that the graves are supposed to be recent due to the presence of a recently ruined structure in the nearby vicinity. The DBAR provides recommendations for the graves including a 10 m no-go buffer zone and that they be fenced off.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 04/10/2017, SAHRA requested that the graves as indicated in the DBAR must be assessed as part of the HIA.

A letter was submitted in the 11/10/2017 providing clarity on the graves

*Van der Walt, October 2017. SAHRA Case ID 11025: Blue Green Aqua.*

The letter indicated that no graves were identified as part of the HIA, and that there had been an error in the BAR with regards to the indicated graves. The lack of graves within the proposed development area was confirmed through two instances of consultation.

## Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development. The recommendations in the heritage specialists and the following additional conditions must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA BGG Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- SAHRA must be notified of the decision regarding the EA Application and the relevant documents must be uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398287>

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.