



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11437

Date: Monday March 05, 2018

Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Tekplan Environmental

PO Box 55714
Polokwane
0070

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999) FOR THE PROPOSED NELSONSKOP FARM TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Exxaro Coal (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a township just outside the existing Marapong Township and it will be named Marapong Extension 7. It will be located on the Portion 1 and the remainder of the farm Nelsonskop 464 LQ in the Lephalale Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been compiled by Tekplan Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd, in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA). A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Heritage Contracts and Archaeology Consulting cc and a Palaeontological Desktop Assessment by BM Geological Services have been submitted to SAHRA, in terms of section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

The Marapong Extension 7 township develop entails the construction of housing units, an internal water and sewerage reticulation system, electricity power lines, roads and storm water management infrastructure. In addition to above one bulk sewerage pipeline the length of 4.6 km from the proposed Marapong Extension 7 project across the farm Zongesien 467 LQ to the Zongesion Waste water treatment facility. There will be cemetery as part of the project that will be 5 ha in extent, and the entire project area is 220 hectares.

Van der Walt, J. July 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment (Required Under Section 38(8) of the NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) for the Proposed Nelsonskop Farm Township Development, Lephalale, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed development area and did not identify any surface heritage resources. The closest known heritage site within the region is Nelsonskop, which is known for its rock engravings and stone walling located on the top of the hill. This project will not impact on the site as it located 100 km away.

Milstead, B.D. July 2017. Desktop Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment Report on the Site of the



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Page No: 2

Proposed Marapong Township Extension Project, Including a Bulk Sewer Line, Near Lephalale, Limpopo Province.

The surface geology of the proposed development area consists of cenozoic regolith which is underlain by the swartrant and clarens formations of the Karoo Supergroup, as well as lavas of the Jurassic letaba Formation. The cenozoic regolith and the swartrant formation have high palaeontological significance and the letaba formation has very low palaeontological significance. The author determines there will be a medium negative impact on the cenozoic regolith and the swartrant formation.

The recommendations provided in both reports are as follows:

- Implementation of a chance finds procedure.
- An appropriate staff member (e.g., the environmental officer) of the company responsible for the construction process be trained in recognition of the types of fossils that may be expected to be encountered in the envisioned excavations.
- The relevant employee should make regular and thorough examinations of all excavations that occur within the sediments of the Karoo Supergroup and Cenozoic regolith.
- Should any fossil materials be identified, the excavations in that area should be halted in that location and SAHRA informed of the discovery.
- A palaeontologist must then be appointed by the company to evaluate the fossil deposits and make the necessary recommendations regarding damage mitigation of the fossils materials.
- The excavations associated with the project should be inspected by a palaeontologist 2 times a year (i.e., once every 6 months) while they are occurring to ensure that no fossil materials are being damaged or destroyed.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the recommendations within the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment and the Heritage Impact Assessment reports. SAHRA has no objection to the proposed construction of the Marapong Extension 7 going ahead. The recommendations in the HIA report and the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment report must be included in the EMPr. The following additional conditions in addition to the specialist report recommendations should be included in the EMPr:

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.



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Page No: 3

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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



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Page No: 4

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/406403>

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.