

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 12292

Date: Wednesday March 28, 2018
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Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Tracy Cheetham
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project in the Northern Cape Province.

Digby Wells Environmental has been appointed by the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) Project near Carnarvon, Northern Cape Province. The HIA will be conducted as per section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

The proposed project will include 133 dish antennas and supporting infrastructure such as access roads, overhead and underground power cables, substations, five PV plants, 20 borrow pits, three new quarries and temporary construction camps.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) has been submitted along with a Project Execution Plan that details the crucial steps of the pending assessment.

Du Piesanie, J. 2018. The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory Square Kilometer Array Heritage Impact Assessment and Conservation Management Plan: Notification of Intent to Develop.

As a result of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) conducted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a total of 105 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development areas through desktop research.

Recommended studies to be included in the HIA are as follows:

- Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA);
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA);
- Built Environment and Architectural Assessment;
- Burial Grounds and Graves Assessment;
- Visual Impact Assessment (VIA);

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- Public Participation; and
- Integrated Conservation Management Plan (ICMP).

The Project Execution Plan details the schedule, Scope of Work (SoW), team details and responsibilities, stakeholder engagement methodology, and project strategy.

Response to NID

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the NID and Project Execution Plan for the proposed SKA Project.

The pending HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA, while the AIA and PIA must comply with the 2007 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessment Reports.

The CMP must consider the 2006 SAHRA Guidelines for the Development of Plans for the Management of Heritage Sites or Places

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

Yours faithfully

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/488663>