

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING DAM ON REM PORTION OF THE FARM OVERVLAKTE 125 MS, MUSINA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Our Ref: 12775



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12775

Date: Friday October 26, 2018

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Tua Conserva Environmental

PO Box 960
Fauna Park
Polokwane
0787

The area proposed for development on the Remaining portion of the farm Overvlakte 125 MS, 61km west of Musina, Limpopo, is an application to extend an existing dam. Total hectares proposed is 98.2 ha of which 32 ha is the existing dam. The farm is mainly utilized as an irrigation water storage farm for citrus production.

Tua Conserva Environmental and Conservation Services cc is undertaking an environmental assessment on behalf of their client, in respect of listed activities in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, that require an application for Environmental Authorisation, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA).

To meet the requirements of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Shasa Heritage Consultants was undertaken and the report submitted to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting.

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 15/08/2018 requesting the HIA be amended to take the results of the previous impact assessment undertaken for the mine and to rename the identified sites according to the site names provided the 2009 and 2012 HIA, and the subsequent monitoring reports undertaken on a quarterly bases for the mine. An amended HIA has since been submitted to the case for commenting, however the initial HIA for the dam expansion was removed from the case.

Stegmann, L. and Roodt, F.E. September 2018. Phase 1 Heritage Resources Scoping Report Proposed Expansion of the Existing Dam on Rem Portion of The Farm Overvlakte 125 MS, Musina Local Municipality,

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Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

The amended HIA specifies that the six areas identified in the April 2018 report correlate to site 45 of the 2009 and 2012 HIA conducted on that farm portion. Particularly S6 area which located in the exact position of site 45, whilst the other sites are located on the outskirts. These findings are of medium significance and will be impacted by the proposed dam expansion. The authors recommend that either the dam size is changed to accommodate the conservation of the sites or that the sites are mitigated.

Jones, C. October 2018. Palaeontological Assessment of Part of the Farm Overvlakte 125 Ms, Musina Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. Impacts by Proposed Expansion of the Existing Dam Desktop Study and Protocol for Palaeontological Finds.

The study area is underlain by Permo-Carboniferous sedimentary rocks of the Tshidzi, Mikambeni and Madzaringwe Formations of the Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The author determines there is a high likelihood of uncovering fossils of the palaeoflora of *Glossopteris*, *Dadoxylon* and *Vertebraria* and recommends that a SACNASP registered palaeontologist undertakes a field assessment to identify *in situ* fossil occurrences during the excavation for the dam extension. Any fossils that are uncovered should be stored in a recognised repository.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the Palaeontological Desktop Study but rejects the heritage report because it does not follow sections 38(3) c, d, e or f of the NHRA, Act 25 of 1999 and the *SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards for the archaeological component of HIA reports*. It is also concerning that the report quoted large portions of previous HIA reports without addressing the issues and how it pertains to this proposed development.

- SAHRA APM Unit requires that the HIA is amended so that a significance and impact assessment is included in the report as well as detailed mitigation measures.
- It must be clear how the author determines the significance, the impact assessment and the mitigation measures.

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- A .kml file of the track log must also be submitted to the case.

SAHRA awaits the submission of an amended HIA report and this comment must be forwarded to the competent authority. Proof of submission and response must be uploaded to this case.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/510413>