

**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](mailto: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](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 14522

Date: Monday December 02, 2019  
Page No: 1

## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 45063  
Claremont  
7735

**Substantive Amendment to the Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the Sutherland 2 Wind Energy Facility (WEF) near Sutherland in the Northern and Western Cape for Mainstream Renewable Power Developments. The proposed amendment is to increase the hub height from 150 m up to 200 m and to increase the rotor diameter from 150 m to up to 200 m. The number of turbines have been decreased from 56 to 36. The amendment is also to change the contact person and contact details of the holder of the Environmental Authorisation. Northern Cape Province. The original EA was granted by DEA in February 2012 for the three WEFs, namely Rietrug, Sutherland and Sutherland 2 WEFs. The EA was subsequently split into three separate EAs for each WEF.EF. Two amendments have subsequently been granted by DEA. This current amendment comprises amendment 3 and is for the Sutherland WEF.**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed by South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application to amend the authorised 140MW Sutherland Wind Energy Facility (WEF), near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1782/2).

A draft EA Amendment Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendments include the following:

- Hub height from up to 150 m to up to 200 m;
- Rotor diameter from up to 150 m to up to 200 m;
- As a result of these amendments the layout of the turbines has been updated, however, the layout remains in the originally approved buildable area.

Previous SAHRIS Case ID 10500 has reference

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Page No: 2

(  
<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/ea-amendment-process-sutherland-wind-energy-facility-wef-northern-and-western-cape-provinces>).

A letter has been submitted by ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd regarding the proposed amendments.

*Orton, J. 2019. Heritage Comment: Substantive amendment application for a revision to turbine and hub specifications of the already authorised Sutherland Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Sutherland 2 WEF and Rietrug WEF, located near Sutherland, Northern and Western Cape Provinces.*

The author found that the proposed amendments would not cause additional impacts to heritage, and that the amendments would result in a minor benefit to heritage due to the reduction in the number of turbines.

### **Final Comment**

*\*It must be noted that this application contains sections of the development that are located in the Western Cape Province. SAHRA does not have jurisdiction to provide comments in this regard. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape (HWC).*

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Amendment Assessment Report and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that there will be no additional impacts to heritage resources as a result of the amendments and has no objections to the proposed amendments to the authorised development;
- 38(4)b – The conditions provided in the Final Comments issued on the 16/01/2017 and 15/05/2017 for SAHRIS Case ID 10500 regarding the Walkdown and walkdown report are valid and must still be complied with;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

**Amendment (no. 3) to Environmental Authorisation for Sutherland WEF near Sutherland, NC**

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Page No: 3

CaseID: 14522

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. 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;
  - The Final EA Amendment Assessment Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
  - The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

# Amendment (no. 3) to Environmental Authorisation for Sutherland WEF near Sutherland, NC

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Page No: 4

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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/530712>  
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1782/2/AM3)

## 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.