Expansion of tented camp, Nkomazi Game Reserve, Mpumalanga

Our Ref: Case 14901



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Cultur

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CaseID: 14901

Date: Wednesday March 18, 2020

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Nkomazi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd

Granger Bay Court, Block B, 3rd Floor, Unit 301, Beach Road Cape Town

Nkomazi Game Reserve explored the possibility of expanding the existing tented camp with an additional 14 tents. The expanded tented camp will consist of the following: • Five tents accommodating four people each; • 17 tents accommodating two people each; • Two dining rooms; and • One spa and gym tent. The expansion of the tented camp are proposed on the remainder of the farm Nkomazi 722-JT, near Emanzana in Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, in Mpumalanga Province

Nkomazi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd have constructed a tented camp along the Komati river in 2007/2008 and now wish to expand their existing camp by constructing an additional 9 tents at 65m² each, three tents at 129m², one tent for gym and spa facilities at 200m², and one new dining room at 300m². All tents are located within the existing tented camp area.

They have appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment (BAr) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended and a Mining Permit in terms of section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended), for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

A draft BAr was been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

The BA found that the tented camp area is fenced and disturbed during the 2007/2008 construction. The reserve proposes to construct additional tents within the disturbed area.

On page 21 of the Draft BAR states that the proposed development will not impact on any heritage resources as it is located on in existing disturbed land and it will benefit the Barbeton Mkhonjwa Mountains World

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Heritage Sites in supporting increased tourism due to its declaration.

Interim Comment

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA), heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are generally protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. In contexts of development applications, the developer must ensure that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, by lodging an application to SAHRA and submitting detailed development specifications as a notification of intent to develop. If the application is made in terms of s. 38 (8) of the NHRA then it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is undertaken, as s. 38(2)a does not apply. Such a study should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports and section 38(3) of the NHRA.

The HIA must be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist and if they assess the proposed development scope and determines that an exemption may be submitted. Once the report or letter is submitted to the case for commenting, SAHRA will provide further comments on this proposed development.

In addition to the HIA report, SAHRA also requires an assessment of palaeontological resources by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

The HIA and the Palaeontology Impact Assessment (PIA) or the respective exemption letters must be provided to SAHRA in the EIA phase of the NEMA application process.

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

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Heritage Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/534707

(DARDLEA, Ref:)