

The Proposed Exxaro Dorstfontein West Expansion Project within the Jurisdiction of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref: 15487



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15487

Date: Wednesday October 21, 2020

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Exxaro Coal Mpumalanga (Pty) Ltd

Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Exxaro Dorstfontein West Expansion Project within the Jurisdiction of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Nsovo Environmental Consultancy (Pty) Ltd have appointed Vhuvbo Consulting cc to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on behalf of Exxaro Coal Central (Pty) Ltd, for the proposed construction of a new conveyor belt, expansion of a discard dump and associated road services on their Dorstfontein West Mine. It is located on Portion 1 of the Farm Boschpoort 211 IR on the outskirts of Ermelo, in the Delmas Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. They also propose to construct a stone crushing plant.

A draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (dEIAR) by Nsovo Environmental Consultancy (Pty) Ltd has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended).

To meet the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) a HIA report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Magoma, M. March 2020. Phase I Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Specialist Report for the Proposed Development of Exxaro Dorstfontein West Discard Dump Facility and Transportation of Coal from DCM West To DCM East within Emalahleni Local Municipality of Nkangala District in Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field study of the proposed new conveyor belt route has been disturbed by recent agricultural activities and the discard dump is also located on previously disturbed areas. The overall impact that both proposed conveyor belt routes and service roads is low as well as low for the discard dump area. The author did not identify any heritage resources near or around the proposed mining activities. The author recommends chance finds procedures, whereby, the construction manager knows who to contact if any heritage resources are uncovered during construction.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot provide comments on this development as not all heritage was assessed. The draft EIAr contains a map that clearly indicates that all proposed activities are located in a very high sensitive palaeontological zone and yet a PIA did not form part of the specialist studies. The conveyor belt footings, the road grading and the expansion of the discard dump will have an impact on palaeontological resources which that impact has not been investigated. A PIA must be undertaken by a suitably qualified palaeontologist as part of this EA application.

Furthermore, the HIA does not contain a tracklog of the field survey, the HIA will have to be amended to include it, SAHRA cannot accept the report as is.

SAHRA will comment further once the HIA report is amended and a PIA report is submitted to the case for comment prior to the submission of the Final EIAr to the competent authority.

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

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Phillip Hine

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/539806>
(DMR-MP, Ref:)