

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 16159

Date: Friday November 12, 2021

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Final Decision

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Prescali Environmental Consultants (pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 2544
Montana Park
0159

Draft Scoping Report for the proposed amendment of the Environmental Management Programme and Section 102 application. The proposed additional infrastructure: 3 opencast pits (1 iron ore and 2 manganese ore); DMS crushing and screening plant; waste rock dump; access road; water storage reservoir; manganese static plant; new workshop area; topsoil dump; sub-station; container office; container onboarding facility; and stormwater infrastructure Portions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Farm Macarthy 559, situated between Postmasburg and Sishen in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa

Prescali Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Salene Manganese (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Section 102 Amendment Application of the Environmental Management Programme for the Macarthy Mining Operations on portion 2 – 5 of the farm Macarthy 559 near Kathu, Northern Cape Province (NC/30/5/1/2/2/10013 MR).

A draft and final Scoping Reports were submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed amendments include new opencast pits, new topsoil dump, waste rock dump, new DMS plant, new manganese static plant, new access road, increased groundwater abstraction, new water storage reservoir, new workshop area, new substation, new container onboarding facility, and storm water infrastructure.

APelser Archaeological Consulting provided heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(3) and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).



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Pelser, A. 2020. A Phase 1 AIA Report for the Salene Manganese EIA/EMP Amendment located on various Portions of the Farm MaCarthy 559, Magisterial District of Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province.

A total of four heritage sites were identified. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low heritage significance with one site (Site 1) of medium to high heritage significance.

Two structure of recent age were identified that have no heritage significance, and one fenced cemetery younger than 60 years is located close to the current site offices. The cemetery will not be impacted by mining activities.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Detailed mapping and recording of Site 1 and potentially other sites located around the hill;
- Surface sampling of material from the site and the hill;
- A 30m buffer zone (around the cemetery) within which no development will be allowed needs to be adhered to;
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment on the 31/03/2021, requesting that a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist as part of the EA process. Further comments would be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and the draft EIA documents with associated appendices.

A field-based PIA was submitted to the case (07/04/2021), while the draft EIA and appendices were uploaded on the 29/09/2021.

Bamford, M. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Salene Manganese MR on McCarthy 559, Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by the non-fossiliferous Kuruman Formation, Gamogara Formation and the potentially fossiliferous limestones of the Ghaap Group and Kalahari sands. No fossils were identified during the site visit and no limestone or palaeo-pan/sprint features are present, therefore, it is extremely unlikely that fossils occur within the development footprint. A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be included in the EMPr.

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SAHRA issued Final Comment on the 07/10/2021 in which the BGG made the recommendation for the proposed buffer-zone to be increased to a 100m. Following this, the developer requested a buffer relaxation.

Final Decision

The SHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development.

In terms of the Burial Grounds and graves permitting policy, SAHRA requires a 100m buffer-zone for *in-situ* preservation of graves potentially affected by mining operations. In light of the fact that the identified burial sites are younger than 60 years, clearly demarcated and seemingly looked after, the BGG unit will allow *in-situ* preservation with a 70m buffer. It is further recommended that you appoint a specialist to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the site.

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

Yours faithfully

Thingahangwi Tracy Tshivhase
Heritage Officer: Permitting
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Mimi Seetelo

Manager: Burial Grounds & Graves Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/560513>

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.