

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18203

Date: Thursday May 26, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd ('Red Cap') is proposing to develop four Wind Farms and associated grid connections (together referred to as the Hoogland Project) in an area located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. Hoogland 1 and 2 are located to the north closer to Loxton and form the Northern Cluster of Wind Farms that will share a grid connection named the Hoogland Northern Grid Connection. Hoogland 3 and 4 are located closer to Beaufort West and comprise the Southern Cluster which will similarly share a separate grid connection, named the Southern Grid Connection This application is for the Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm), which is subject to a Scoping and EIA process. Even though these are two separate applications they will be considered in the same Scoping Report. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has granted Red Cap permission to combine the two Wind Farms into one Environmental Authorisation Application processes under Regulation 11 (1) of GN R. 982. It is proposed that each wind farm will comprise of up to 60 turbines with a targeted nameplate generation capacity of a maximum of 420MW. The entire footprint for each respective wind farm falls within the Western Cape Province, however, some watercourse crossing upgrades on existing roads fall within the Northern Cape and are under the jurisdiction of SAHRA. It should however be noted that the specialist has confirmed they have no heritage significance and do not warrant an assessment.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty Ltd) has been appointed by Red Cap Hoogland 1 (Pty) Ltd and Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster between Loxton, Northern Cape Province and Beaufort West, Western Cape Province (Hoogland 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and Hoogland 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of 94 and 82 turbines respectively for each facility including infrastructure such as underground cables, on-site substation, battery energy storage system, turbine foundations, transformers at each turbine, workshop and laydown areas, hardstands at each turbine, operation and maintenance buildings, office stores, service and access roads, stormwater infrastructure, gates,



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temporary site camps, concrete batching plant, crane boom and blade laydown areas. It must be noted that the majority of both developments is located in the Western Cape. The only development activities located in the Northern Cape include stream crossing upgrades, which are shared activities for both EA applications. This comment pertains only to the stream crossing upgrades located within the Northern Cape Province.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Proposed Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project Northern Cluster: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm, Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and Associated Hoogland Northern Grid Connection, Western Cape Province: Palaeontological Heritage.

The proposed development area is underlain by the lower Beaufort Group of Middle to Late Permian age. Several fossils were identified within streams in the Western Cape section of the development area which include several skulls and post-cranial skeletal remains of tetrapods, numerous tetrapod burrow casts and a low diversity of trace fossils which were concluded to be of limited scientific or conservation value. The area in which the stream crossings are located were not assessed as part of the PIA as these activities were added after the completion of the PIA.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The final, authorised layout of the Hoogland Wind Farm and Grid Connection projects should be crosschecked against the available fossil database and other relevant resources (e.g. satellite imagery, geological maps) by the palaeontological specialist who should make recommendations for pre-construction phase mitigation, if any proves necessary. This might entail, for example, focused palaeontological walk-downs of selected, previously un-surveyed and potentially sensitive sectors of the project footprint with judicious sampling or collection of threatened fossil material of scientific and / or conservation value;
- Application of Chance Fossil Finds Protocol by the ECO and palaeontological specialist during the construction phase (See Appendix 4).

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape.

Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm between Loxton and Beaufort West, Western and Northern Cape Provinces

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Page No: 3

Only the results of the survey at the stream crossings will be discussed here. One of the stream crossings includes a concrete bridge dated to 1952, making the bridge 70 years old and thus protected by section 34 of the NHRA. The report noted the bridge as a heritage resource of very low cultural significance and required no further study.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a field based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section be conducted as part of the EIA phase as fossils have been identified in streams in the Western Cape section of the development. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA documents inclusive of appendices and updated PIA.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

ADMIN:

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