

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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 19269

Date: Friday March 03, 2023
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd

The activities entail the development of photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Droogfontein No. 62, Registration Division Kimberley, Northern Cape Province situated within the Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Kimberley is located approximately 20 km south of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 200MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. Two alternative sites have been identified within the affected property that will be assessed comparatively on the same level for the development. Each site under assessment is 500ha in extent.

Environamics has been appointed by FS Droogfontein (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Droogfontein 5 Solar and Battery Energy Storage Energy Facility, near Kimberley, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Ref: 2022-05-0021).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, 132kV powerline, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), cabling (underground where necessary), auxiliary buildings, internal access roads and fencing within a project footprint of between 490 and 500 ha.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Prof David Morris were appointed to provide the heritage specialist reports as part of the EA process as required in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment Droogfontein 5 Solar and Battery Storage Facility Energy near Kimberley.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Allanridge Formation which is overlain by Quaternary superficial sediments. The sensitivity of the project area is between Low and Moderate, and the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts to palaeontological resources of the area. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.



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Morris, D. 2022. Archaeological Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report for a Basic Assessment Report for Droogfontein 5 Solar and Battery Storage Energy Facility, north of Kimberley, Northern Cape Province.

No heritage resources were identified with the proposed project footprint. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 27/01/2023, SAHRA requested that the HIA be revised to include a tracklog of the conducted survey. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, an updated report and additional report have been submitted (23/02/2023).

Morris, D. 2022. Archaeological Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report for a Basic Assessment Report for the Solar Photovoltaic project Droogfontein 5 (third option), north of Kimberley, Northern Cape Province

Rocky outcrops with flake removals of low heritage significance were identified within the proposed development area. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Final Comment

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 BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 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;

Droogfontein 5 Solar Energy Facility and Battery Energy Storage System near Kimberley, Northern Cape Province

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- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA for offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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 BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;

The decision regarding the EA 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

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/602851>

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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.