

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
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CaseID: 20674

Date: Tuesday April 04, 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: Mura 1 (Pty)Ltd

Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces

WSP has been appointed by Mura 1 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 132kV powerline and associated infrastructure near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 a 132kV overhead powerlines, switching stations, access roads and temporary laydown areas and powder cement storage.

A very small portion of the proposed powerline is located in the Northern Cape. SAHRA does not have jurisdiction to provide comments for development applications located in the Western Cape. This comment pertains to the Northern Cape section of the proposed development only.

Almond, J. E. 2022. Combined Desktop & Field-Based Palaeontological Heritage Study: Proposed Mura PV Solar Facilities between Loxton and Beaufort West, Beaufort West Local Municipality (Central Karoo District Municipality), Western Cape and Ubuntu Local Municipality (Pixley Ka Sema District Municipality), Northern Cape

The report combines the results for five development applications. Only the results pertaining to Mura Grid application will be discussed below.

The proposed development is underlain by the Teekloof Formation. No fossils were identified within the Northern Cape sections of the proposed grid route. A Chance Fossil Finds Protocol is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape and Victoria West Magisterial District, Northern Cape

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No heritage resources were identified within the Northern Cape section of the proposed grid route.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- A pre-construction archaeological survey must be undertaken during the EMPr approval stage;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Final Comment

*This comment pertains to the Northern Cape section of the proposed development only.

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. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development:
- The recommended preconstruction survey must be conducted prior to any ground clearance. The report of the survey must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to any ground clearance. No ground clearance of construction may occur on site without comments from SAHRA;
- SAHRA reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, layout changes or object to the development based on the results of the preconstruction survey;
- 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

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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/Nggabutho 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;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding 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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/612931>
(DFFE, Ref:)

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.