

**PROPOSED NEW COAL MINING ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 38 OF THE FARM  
ELANDSPRUIT 291 JS, MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Our Ref: 5836



Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 5836

Date: Wednesday December 17, 2014

Page No: 1

an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Yoctolux Investments Pty Ltd

### **PROPOSED NEW OPENCAST COAL MINING ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 38 OF THE FARM ELANDSPRUIT 291 JS, MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Thank you for submitting the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report for SAHRA comment as requested in the comment published on the 12th of August 2014.

Fourie, H. September 2014. *A new opencast coal mine, Yoctolux Investments (Pty) Ltd Nkangala District Municipality, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province Farm: Elandspruit 291 JS. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field study.*

Dr H. Fourie conducted a field based palaeontological assessment on Portion 38 of the farm Elandspruit 291 JS, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The aim was to survey the proposed development area of Elandspruit coal mine for any palaeontological resources.

On the surface of the project area of the proposed coal mine the field survey found fossiliferous baked shale that is part of the Vryheid Formation. Baked shale is a good indicator of the presence of the very high sensitivity of fossil bearing Vryheid Formation as mentioned in the report. The fossils occur in the grey shale inter laid with the coal seam and are likely to be found during mining.

However since there was no visible fossil presence in the rock out crops of the Vryheid Formation on the surface, a fossil finds procedure must be created in detail and included in the EMP indication the steps in which the mine, the workers and geologist will have to take in order to ensure that fossils found during mining activities are not discarded or damaged further.

### **Final Comment**

SAHRA APM agrees with the recommendations of the Phase I Palaeontological Report and has no objection to the development of the Elandspruit mine on condition that the following is included in the environmental authorization and EMP:

A Fossil Finds procedure needs to be created for the site and it should include:



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

**PROPOSED NEW COAL MINING ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 38 OF THE FARM  
ELANDSPRUIT 291 JS, MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**Our Ref: 5836**



Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 5836

Date: Wednesday December 17, 2014

Page No: 2

an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

- The palaeontologist will have to be around during the construction of the haul road, access roads and the plant to inspect the trenches that will be dug out during construction.
- Also the mine geologist will have to inspect all the sandstone and shale that is mined out or about to be mined out of the open cast pits for any fossils.
- All the employees working in the construction phase and mining phase need to be educated by the palaeontologist of how fossils look like and what to do once they have spotted one.

If fossils are discovered then: Any activities must cease immediately around the fossils and a buffer of 20m around them must be in place until a palaeontologist can be contacted to inspect the finds. They will also subsequently apply for the Phase II PIA permits at the SAHRA APM Unit.

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502), and unmarked human burials contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

**PROPOSED NEW COAL MINING ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 38 OF THE FARM  
ELANDSPRUIT 291 JS, MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**Our Ref: 5836**



Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 5836

Date: Wednesday December 17, 2014

Page No: 3

an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/166299>  
(MDEDET, Ref: 17/2/3N-247)

**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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>