

# Waste Management License for the Closure of the existing unlicensed Riemvasmaak Landfill Site

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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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Wednesday January 13, 2016

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Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 8732

## Final Comment

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

Attention: Khai Garib Local Municipality  
Private Bag X6,  
Kakamas,  
8870

**The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) commissioned a study in 2007, completed in 2009, that aimed at identifying and determining the number of waste disposal facilities in South Africa that are not licenced. Of a total of 581 sites that were identified, 431 needed to be licenced. It was evident from the study that Local Municipalities (LMs) did not have adequate training or funding for lodging applications to licence their unlicensed waste disposal facilities or the management thereof. The Minister undertook to begin the process of licencing these sites, with a target that all would be licenced by 2013/2014. Subsequently, the DEA has identified an additional 57 municipal waste disposal facilities which must be licenced during the 2014/15 financial year. The licencing of the Riemvasmaak landfill falls within the scope of this process. The Khai Garib Local Municipality is applying for a waste management license for the closure of the existing Riemvasmaak Landfill. The landfill is located about 2.1 km south east of Riemvasmaak settlement, Northern Cape. Waste generated in the settlement of Riemvasmaak is currently collected on a weekly basis for disposal at the existing Kakamas Landfill. However, some domestic waste is currently dumped illegally, after which it is burnt at the existing Riemvasmaak landfill site.**

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) appointed Sustainable Environmental (Pty) Ltd (SE Solutions) and AECOM SA (Pty) Ltd to prepare the necessary applications for the Waste Management License and closure of the existing un-licensed Riemvasmaak Landfill near Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape. A Basic Assessment (BA) process was completed in compliance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) as amended (NEMWA).

According to the Basic Assessment Report (BAR), activities for the closure of the Riemvasmaak Landfill will include re-contouring of the landfill area and covering of the site with topsoil. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) provides more details for the closure. The EMPr stated that the re-contouring will include the stripping of the top 150 mm of topsoil which will be stockpiled. In addition, the areas requiring re-contouring will be cross-ripped and scarified to allow for vegetation growth. The stockpiled topsoil will be used to cover the landfill site and add to the re-contouring activity.

The BA process did not identify any impact to heritage resources.

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### **Final Comment**

Based on the information provided, it is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed closure of the Riemvasmaak Landfill. The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final EMPr:

- A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during the re-contouring phase of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. Should heritage resources be uncovered during the construction phase of the project, all work in the area must cease immediately and be reported to SAHRA.
- Should additional topsoil be required to complete the re-contouring, the above Chance Finds Procedures must be implemented for the relevant borrow pit area. Should the borrow pit exceed 5 000 m<sup>2</sup>, the developer must notify SAHRA of the development as per section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Should SAHRA deem it necessary, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) or Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will need to be completed and submitted to SAHRA for comment.

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

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/343732>  
(DENC, 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.