# Archaeological Impact Assessment For the proposed widening of the N4 National Road, Section 6E, Near Waterval-Onder, Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref: 8761

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

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CaseID: 8761



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

## **Interim Comment**

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Date: Tuesday December 15, 2015

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

Attention: Prism Environmental Management Services cc

P O Box 1401 Wilgeheuwel 1936

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SANRAL proposes to widen the existing N4 road between Waterval and Mbombela by 4.7m within the existing road servitude; the total length of this project is proposed to be 43km in Mpumalanga Province.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) heritage resources are protected. These resources are for instance burial grounds, unmarked and marked graves that are older than 60 years, built structures that are older than 60 years old, archaeology (stone tools, stone walled sites, prehistoric and historic pottery sherds, ash grounds etc.) and palaeontology (fossils of plant and animal material).

Van der Walt, J. July 2015. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed widening of the N4 National Road, Section 6E, near Waterval-Onder, Mpumalanga Province.

The field survey consisted of a walk down of sections of the proposed road upgrades and expansions where a second road lane will be constructed. This survey found there were 6 heritage sites/resources with possible impacts on stonewalled sites located close to the road reserve.

### **Interim Comment**

SAHRA agrees with the recommendations in the heritage report referenced above as follows:

- An archaeologist should be present during the construction of the road near the stone walled sites by WB7. A letter of agreement or appointment between SANRAL and an archaeologist to be present on site should be submitted on SAHRIS before a Final Comment is issued.
- A Palaeontological Desktop Assessment should be conducted for the proposed development route, as it is located on rocks that range between Very High, High and Low palaeontological sensitivity on the PalaeoSensitivity Map on SAHRIS (<a href="http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo">http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo</a>).

SAHRA awaits this additional information before commenting further on this proposed development.

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo

Heritage Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency

### ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/344261

#### 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.

