



Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

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CaseID: 8761

Date: Thursday April 07, 2016

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## Final Comment

### 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

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

SANRAL is proposing to widen the N4 national road to add an additional lane in certain sections. SAHRA has already commented on the HIA that was submitted to the case and the Interim Comment is dated 15/12/2015. The comment had requested a Phase 1 field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment to which this comment will speak to.

*Millsteed, B.D. February 2016. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment Report – on seven sites of proposed widening of the N4 Highway between Waterval Boven and Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province.*

A desktop and field assessment for rock outcrops for fossiliferous rock that may be impacted by the grading and expansion of various sections of the N4 road to the border of Mozambique in Mpumalanga was submitted and it has documented that:

Section WB7 has a stratigraphic sequence of 6 formations that form part of the Tjakastad and Geluk Subgroups (Archaean Onverwacht Group). These are considered of insignificant fossil potential due to the age of the rock suits and igneous origin of the rocks.

Section WB5 and EB3 is underlain by carbonate rocks of the Malmani Subgroup known to contain stromatolite fossils, which are of low significance.

Sections WB1, WB3, WB4 and EB1 are located in an area with undifferentiated sequence of strata that lie stratigraphically between the Malmani Subgroup and the Silvertown Formation (Pretoria Group). The sequence may consists of mainly sandstones and mudstones as well as igneous rocks of the Hekpoort Formation. No palaeontological resources are known from the area.

### Final Comments

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit agrees with the recommendations made in the

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heritage report referenced in this comment as follows:

If any fossils are uncovered during construction of the facility they must be retained *in situ* and construction must cease, with a buffer area of 5m around the finds, marked with danger tapes, then the ECO must notify SAHRA immediately and palaeontologist must be called in to verify the finds. If they determined to be significant finds then they must be mitigated with a Phase 2 permit from SAHRA.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development on the following conditions:

- 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, 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, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652),
- and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

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

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## 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.