

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday February 15, 2016

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Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 9098

Final Decision

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

Attention: Mr Hein van der Merwe
United Salt

Continued mining at existing operation. This application is for exemption from NHA permissions given exytent of pre-existing site condftion

Site Plan Consulting was appointed by United Salt (Pty) Ltd to prepare a Mining Right Application (MRA) for the existing Naroogna Salt Mine, at the Naroogna Salt Pan, near Brandvlei, Northern Cape. The Draft Scoping Report states that the mine has been in operation since the early 1980's and the old mining right had not been converted. No new infrastructure or activities are proposed as part of the MRA. The existing concentration and evaporation ponds, stockpile areas, office etc will continue to be utilized. Site Plan Consulting appointed Jonathan Kaplan to prepare the Heritage Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process.

Kaplan, 2016. Recommended Exemption: Heritage Impact Assessment Naroogna Salt Mine near Brandvlei, Northern Cape.

A Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further Heritage studies was submitted. The letter notes that no new infrastructure is planned and that the status quo of the mine will remain. Known heritage resources in the area include Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age microlithic stone implements, pottery and rock engravings. The author is of the opinion that the MRA area is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

Final Decision

Based on the information provided and the lack of new infrastructure in the Mining Right Area, it is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the continuation of mining activities at the Naroogna Salt Mine. The Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit have no objection to the project and grants exemption for further heritage studies as per Section 38(2)b of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) with the following conditions:

- Should any new infrastructure be planned within the Mining Right Area, or the Mining Right Area expanded in any way, a Heritage Impact Assessment must be completed and submitted to SAHRA for

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comment;

- Should any evidence of archaeological remains and paleontology be uncovered during the continuation of the mining activities, an archaeologist or a palaeontologist, according to the nature of the finds, must be called to site to inspect the findings. The SAHRA APM unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, should the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance. A Phase 2 rescue operation may be necessary, for which a permit must be applied.

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
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/356284>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/10096MR)

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

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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.