

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Wednesday September 27, 2017
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Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

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

Attention: National Department of Public Works

The proposed development entail the maintenance and repair of the above-mentioned existing infrastructure as well as maintenance dredging in the harbour.

Mott Macdonald Consulting Engineers have been appointed by the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) on the behalf of the Department of Public Works to undertake the coastal engineering infrastructure activities Work Package 4 of the Proclaimed Fishing Harbours Western Cape Development Programme, also known as the small harbours programme. This work package includes the harbour at Gansbaai.

Gansbaai Harbour consists of the Old and New Harbours; it is unclear when the harbours and their associated structures were built. The Old harbour consists of a 370m long main breakwater, a 140m long secondary breakwater, 2 quays, 2 slipways, a jetty and a shore crane. The new harbour consists of a 550m long main breakwater, a 210m long secondary breakwater, a jetty and 4 berths, a sunken vessel lies on the seaward side of the secondary breakwater.

The proposed works will entail the repair and maintenance of existing harbour structures, no expansion of the existing footprint will occur as a result of these works.

The project involves the following aspects:

Old Harbour

- Repair and maintenance to concrete structures;
- Foundation stabilisation of Breakwaters 1 and 2;
- Rehabilitation of rock revetments on Breakwater 1;
- Localised concrete repair and patching on slipways 1 and 2 and jetty 1;
- Maintenance and repair Quays 1 and 2;
- Shore crane repair;
- Dredging of the harbour basin;



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New Harbour

- Repair and maintenance to concrete structures;
- Foundation stabilisation of Breakwater 3;
- Rehabilitation of rock revetments on Breakwater 3;
- Localised concrete repair and patching of jetty 2;
- Replacement of access bridge to jetty 2;
- Dredging of the harbour basin;
- Removal of sunken vessel;

The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the project checklist for the proposed repair, maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure and the dredging of the harbour basin at Gansbaai Harbour, Western Cape.

Repair and maintenance to the infrastructure in Old and New Harbours

SAHRA has reviewed the submitted documents and has noted that the date of construction of the harbours has not been established and therefore their age is unclear. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including maritime and underwater cultural heritage sites older than 60 years fall under the protection of the act and are the responsibility of SAHRA. Section 34 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999), states that these sites may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. Once the age of the structures has been established and should they be proven or suspected to be over 60 years of age a permit must be acquired from SAHRA before any work can commence on the structures.

The information provided regarding the sunken vessel shows that it is a modern fishing vessel that sank within the last 2-3 years. It therefore lies outside of the remit of the NHRA which protects any wreck older than 60 years of age.

Proposed Dredging activity

The proposed dredging activity in the two harbour basins is estimated to total 42300m³ and therefore exceeds an area of 5000m² and thus requires input from SAHRA in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHRA. However the dredging is intended to re-instate the previous depth levels and it does not extend beyond the area or depth that has been previously dredged. Therefore no further work is required.

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The documents provided mention that future dredging maintenance plans need to be established, possibly as part of an MMP, and a possible project may involve the dredging of an additional 67000m³ of material to create a sand trap. Should this be envisioned in the future SAHRA would need to be notified and consulted as may trigger Section 38(1) of the NHRA but may not necessarily class as re-instatement and may require further studies.

The disposal sites for the dredged material have yet to be finalised though the intention is to replenish the beach areas to the north and south of the harbour.

There are no known maritime or underwater cultural heritage sites in the area of dredging or in the proposed dredge disposal sites, but should anything of historic importance be uncovered during the proposed works, SAHRA must be notified immediately so that further advise can be given regarding complying with heritage legislation.

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

Yours faithfully

Briege Williams
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Lesla la Grange
Acting Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/407842>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/1/1/106)

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.