

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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CaseID: 18594

Date: Tuesday June 21, 2022

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: ASTRAL Foods (Pty) Ltd

The proposed project will entail the expansion of the Vlakfontein Breeder Farm. The proposed expansion will include the establishment and operation of: 1x Additional rearing house to Rearing Site 1 (R1); 1x Additional rearing house to Rearing Site 2 (R2); 1x Additional rearing house to Rearing Site 3 (R3); 1x New Rearing Site (R4) with a total of eight (8) rearing houses; 1x New Rearing Site (R5) with a total of eight (8) rearing houses; 1x New Laying Site (L1) with a total of six (6) houses; and 1x New Laying Site (L2) with a total of six (6) houses. Alternatively, two (2) additional rearing sites (R6 & R7 and each with a total of 8 houses) and one (1) laying site (L3 with a total of 6 houses) have been identified for the proposed project and will be outlined as alternative sites.

Labesh (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Astral Foods (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed expansion of the Vlakfontein Breeder Farm on the Remainder of Portion 6 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Portion 35 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Portion 3 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Remainder of Portion 33 of the Farm Bokfontein JQ, Portion 39 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Portion 34 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Remainder of Portion 9 of the Farm Bokfontein 385 JQ, Portion 32 of the Farm Hartbeestfontein 38 IQ, Rustenburg Local Municipality, Bojanala Platinum District, North West Province.

A Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The expansion will include the establishment and operation of a 1x additional rearing house to rearing site 1 (R1), 1x additional rearing house to rearing site 2 (R2), 1x additional rearing house to rearing house 3 (R3), 1x new rearing site 4 (R4) with a total of eight (8) rearing houses, 1x new rearing house (R5) with a total of eight (8) rearing houses, 1x new laying site (L1) with a total of six (6) houses, 1x new laying site (L2) with a total of six (6) houses. Alternatively two (2) additional rearing sites (R6 & R7 each with a total of 8 houses) and one (1) laying site (L3 with a total of 6 houses) have been identified for the proposed project and will be outlined as alternative sites. This will require the removal of 17ha of indigenous vegetation over a 348ha property.

It is stated on section 1.5, pg. 43 of the DBAR that " It is not expected that the proposed development to have an impact upon landscapes and/or sites that constitute the nations cultural heritage". It is further stated on section 8.3.6 under 'Archaeological and Cultural Heritage' and section 8.3.7 under 'Palaeontological' that " It is



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Page No: 2

not expected that the proposed development to have an impact upon landscapes and/or sites that constitute the nations cultural heritage and a screening report for the study area indicates a low sensitivity for the area". The screening report for palaeontology indicates that the study area is located in areas of moderate and high palaeontological sensitivity and a desktop PIA is required.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA APM Unit acknowledges receipt of the DBAR and comments contained therein in relation to heritage resources and requests that the following is undertaken in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) as part of the EA application process.

The proposed expansions has the potential to impact negatively on heritage and/or cultural resources, therefore a heritage impact assessment must be conducted. A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified archaeologist should they deem it appropriate.

The proposed expansions are located in areas of moderate and high palaeontological sensitivity to the south-west. A desktop assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources must be undertaken. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified palaeontologist should they deem it appropriate.

The assessment should include any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above. The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment.

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

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Page No: 3

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/597625>
(DETECT, Ref:)