

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](mailto: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](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Briege Williams  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [bwilliams@sahra.org.za](mailto:bwilliams@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 13412

Date: Wednesday June 12, 2019  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Mervin Chetty  
Liquid Telecom

**METISS is a proposed new subsea fibre optic cable system that will connect Mauritius to South Africa and provide high-speed connectivity of 24 terabytes per second to the global telecommunications network and low latency access to enhance business operations across multiple industries.**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the “Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Installation and Operation of the METISS Subsea Cable System to be landed at Amanzimtoti, South Africa”.

SAHRA previously issued an interim comment in February 2019 in response to the Draft Scoping Report. The DSR had identified the need for a Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (MUCHIA) to be undertaken as part of the application. SAHRA supported the need for this specialist study and requested that, once complete, it is uploaded onto SAHRIS as part of the Draft EIA.

The Draft EIA and supporting documents were uploaded onto SAHRIS in May 2019 for review and comment. SAHRA is pleased to note that an HIA has been included as part of the Draft EIA and that it has addressed concerns raised regarding the potential impact on any underwater cultural heritage.

SAHRA has reviewed the recommendations and mitigation measures set out in the HIA. These measures include the recommendation that any remote sensing data collected of the seabed prior to the installation of the cable is provided to an archaeologist for review. Should any material be located during data collection, prior to the work commencing or during the proposed installation then all work must cease until the project archaeologist and SAHRA has been informed and appropriate advice has been provided regarding how to proceed. It is also stated in the HIA that the route alignment will be adjusted to avoid heritage material as it can damage the trenching equipment.

These mitigation measures are supported by SAHRA and must be adhered to especially in the event that any cultural heritage should come to light.

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](mailto: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](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Briega Williams  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [bwilliams@sahra.org.za](mailto:bwilliams@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 13412

Date: Wednesday June 12, 2019  
Page No: 2

The last paragraph in section 6.6.3.2 reads “Sidescan Sonar Data was used to identify any wrecks within the vicinity of the proposed cable prior to installation. The subsea cable route has been designed to avoid any known or identified wrecks”. It is not clear when this survey took place or if the data has been provided to a maritime archaeologist for review but SAHRA would like to reiterate that any such data must be reviewed for possible cultural heritage by a suitably qualified person.

Should any shipwrecks be identified as part of this project then SAHRA must be notified to enable the information to be added to the national shipwreck database. Any new discoveries or updated data is a valuable resource in adding to our knowledge of South Africa’s maritime history.

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

Yours faithfully

---

Briega Williams  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Lesla Grange  
Acting Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

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](mailto: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](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Briege Williams  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [bwilliams@sahra.org.za](mailto:bwilliams@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 13412

Date: Wednesday June 12, 2019  
Page No: 3

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/520560>

## 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.