



BPI for Palaeontological Research

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Email: bruce.rubidge@wits.ac.za

Ms Lee-Anne Proudfoot
Biotechnology & Environmental Specialist Consultancy cc
PO Box 8241
Nahoon 5120
East London

Dear Ms Proudfoot

Palaeontological Impact Analysis, Riverleigh VII cc– Farm 939 Cove Rock

I have undertaken a desk top palaeontological impact analysis for the area which will be covered by the Riverleigh Township Development Farm 939 Cove Rock, East London.

The entire area is underlain by rocks of the Middleton Formation of the Beaufort Group. These rocks are known to contain a rich diversity of fossil tetrapods of the *Tropidostoma* and *Cistecephalus* assemblage zones which are Late Permian in age. As both these biozones are very rich fossil-bearing biozones of the Beaufort Group, rocks in the area to be developed may well contain fossils. However currently the entire area is covered by vegetation, no rocks are exposed and it is thus not possible to prospect for fossils in the area.

Township development will thus not impact negatively on palaeontological heritage of the area. However, because the underlying rocks of the Beaufort Group are known to be rich in fossil reptiles, fossils may be uncovered in the process of excavation. It is thus recommended that should extensive exposures of mudrocks of the Beaufort Group be exposed in the course of the development, that the exposed rocks be searched by a qualified palaeontologist

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Rubidge'.

Professor Bruce Rubidge

