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21 May 2018

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

Application for HIA Exemption

Proposed Macadamia Processing Plant
Darnall
KwaDukuza LM, Ilembe DM, KwaZulu-Natal

Project Description [1]

An agri-business, Mayo Macs Macadamias, intends to establish a macadamia nut processing facility at Darnall. The processes at the facility include delivery by road, drying, cracking, sorting, sterilizing, roasting and packing; and will see the construction of an agri-industrial facility exceeding 2000 m^2 including staff and administration facilities and parking and loading provisions.

SDP and Hornby Smyly Glavovic Consultants are the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioners to oversee acquiring Environmental Authorisation from the competent authority (DETEA: KZN) in terms of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014, for which a Scoping and Basic Environmental Assessment process is applicable.

Project Location and Environmental Description

Local Municipality	KwaDukuza (KZN 292)
District Municipality	Ilembe (DC29)
Surveyor General 1:50 000 map sheet	STANGER 2931AD
Co-ordinates	29 16 25 S ; 31 22 14 E
Property Description	Proposed Sub of Portion 5 of the Farm Prospect Three No. 17875

[1] SDP and Hornby Smyly Glavovic Consultants (EAP's).

Figure 1 Proposed Sub of Portion 5 of the Farm Prospect Three No.17875, Darnall.

History of Darnall

The small village community of Darnall[2] takes its name from the prospector, David Brown, who was one of the first settlers in this district[3]. He purchased a farm in the area and named it Darnall, after his hometown in Yorkshire, England. When sugar cane was imported from Mauritius in the 1840's and the sugar industry got under-way, Mr Brown was one of the first to introduce it to the Natal north coast. He set up a sugar mill in 1904, but his milling ventures were not a financial success and the Natal sugar magnate James Liege Hulett from Kearsney, took over the Darnall mill in 1906. However, Mr Brown did manage to bring a significant change to Zululand, this being the extension of the railway line from Stanger through Darnall to the Tugela being completed.[4] In 1895 an agreement was reached with Liege Hulett, representing the Zululand Railway Company, for the construction of the new line which was officially opened in December 1898[5]. By 1903 the line had been extended to Somkele (Mtubatuba) to deliver anthracite to Hulett's north coast sugar mills and for steam ships at Port Natal.

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[2] www.darnall-library.co.za

[3] http://steam-locomotives-south-africa.blogspot.com/2009/12/darnall-sugar-mill-avonside-17401916-mr.html

[4] AH. Tatlow (ed). 1911. *NATAL: Descriptive Guide and Official Handbook*. South African Railways Printing Works. Durban. Natal.

[5] Espitalier, T.J.; Day, W.A.J. (1944). *The Locomotive in South Africa - A Brief History of Railway Development. Chapter III - Natal Government Railways.* South African Railways and Harbours Magazine, September 1944.

Observations

The intended facilities are to be built on the proposed Sub of Portion 5 of the Farm Prospect Three No. 17875, located between the railway line reserve and the R102 at the road entrance to Darnall village and mill.
See Figure 1 (and kml loaded to SAHRIS Case File).

eThembeni staff conducted a site visit on 27 February 2018. The entire area is observed to be under sugar cane and has been so since the late 19th C (B.K Hageman[6] pers.comm. May 2018).

The current alignment of the R102 was redirected in the early 1960's on construction of a new double lane bridge over the Nonoti River, to the east of the town and railway line. Previously, the road crossed the Nonoti on a single carriageway bridge and ran west of the railway line through the village. The railway reserve has been in its current alignment since the end of the 19th C (*op cit*).

Field inspections within the proposed property revealed no archaeological residues and no building or structures are present.

Figure 2. Railway reserve to W of property

Figure 3. Propert under cane cultivation

[6] BK Hagemann is a 4th generation farmer on the farm Bethany which abuts the farm Prospect Three No.17875.

The underlying lithology is Natal Group Sandstone which is not palaeontologically sensitive[7].

Recommendations

The proposed agri-businesss is in keeping with the activities of the town and mill, namely agri-processing. In the absence of any foreseeable impact on any classes of heritage resources, we request that Amafa authorise the project to proceed with exemption from any further heritage resource mitigation.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely

Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

[7] Groenewald. G. 2012. Unpublished Palaeotechnical Report for Amafa KwaZulu-Natali. Pietermaritzburg