Archaetnos



Culture & Cultural Resource Consultants CC 1998 / 09854/23 ⊠ 55, GROENKLOOF, 0027 Tel: 083 459 3091 Fax: 086 520 4173 E-mail: antony@archaetnos.co.za

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## To whom it may concern

## LETTER FOR HIA EXEMPTION REQUEST: AMANDELBULT'S PROPOSED FINE CHROME RECOVERY PLANT PROJECT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Archaetnos cc has been appointed by SRK to provide a motivation for the exemption of doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) related to the above mentioned development. This is located at the Amandelbult Section of Anglo American Platinum, near Northam, Limpopo Province (Figure 1).

Anglo American Platinum Rustenburg Platinum Mines (RPM) Amandelbult Complex is an existing platinum mine. The Fine Chrome Recovery (FCR) initiative forms part of the "Making Amandelbult Investable Again" programme and the Amandelbult journey towards "P101". The proposed FCR Plant project will add limited infrastructure to the extensive Amandelbult Complex and will further utilise the existing facilities, thereby reducing the impact of the project significantly.

The Amandelbult Concentrator Complex has an existing approved and operational Chrome Recovery Plant. However, this existing Chrome Recovery Plant is not designed to recover fine chromite (-100µm fraction). An initiative was therefore identified in which an increased recovery of chromite can be realised at Amandelbult through the beneficiation of fine chromite from the Concentrator tailings. It is envisaged that the additional recovery of metallurgical and/or chemical grade chromite will result in an increased yield of chromite for Amandelbult, as well as reduced water losses associated with the existing approved tailings dams. The tailings streams from both the UG2 #1 and UG2 #2 Concentrators as well as the Merensky Concentrator tailings stream will feed the proposed FCR Plant to realize the full benefit of fine chromite recovery (Figure 2).

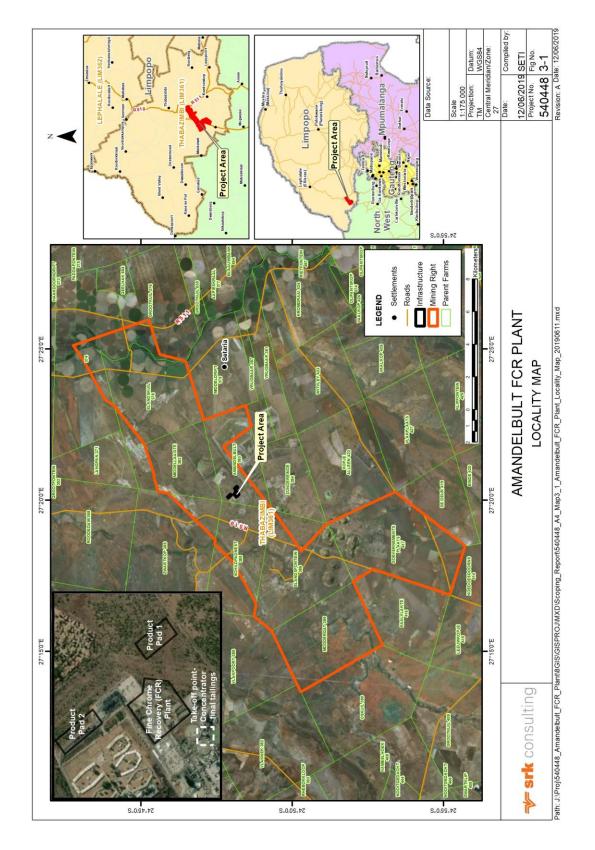


Figure 1: Locality map (SRK).

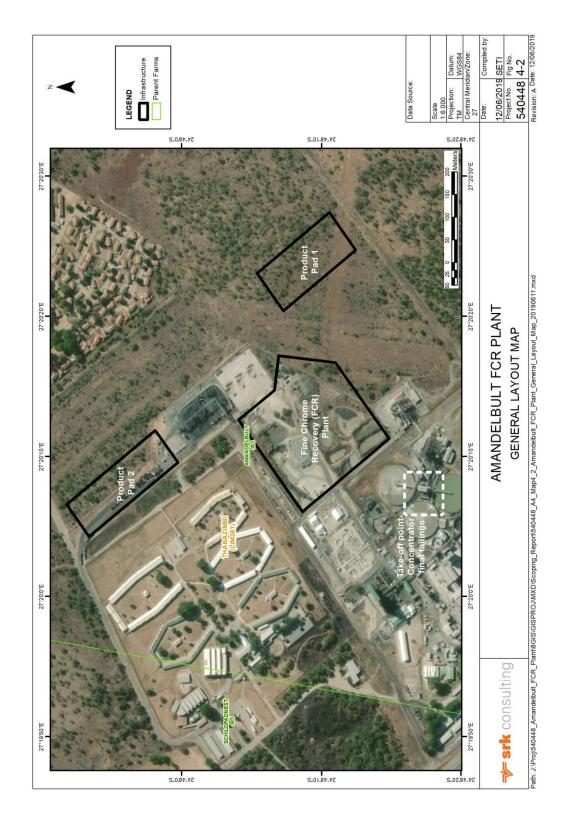


Figure 2: Detailed view of the site (SRK).

The site is 10.5 Ha in extent and is entirely disturbed by former mining and associated infrastructure development (Figure 3-8). Vegetation cover consist of pioneer species including weeds and grass.



Figure 3: General view of disturbance on site.



Figure 4: General view of the site.



Figure 5: View of pioneer vegetation on site.



Figure 6: View of temporary buildings and other disturbances in the area.



Figure 7: Another view of vegetation in the area.



Figure 8: Another view on site.

It therefore is my opinion that the project may be exempted from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The following is applicable:

- The proposed development is within an area already almost entirely disturbed
- Little natural vegetation are to be found on site
- Open areas also indicate disturbance as does pioneer plant species
- Mining and associated infrastructure is found in the area
- Area has been worked by heavy equipment leaving soil disturbed.

Due to the mentioned factors, the chances therefore of finding any heritage related features are indeed extremely slim. It is therefore believed that an additional Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is not needed for this project and any of the alternatives can be used. This letter serves as an exemption request to the relevant heritage authority.

The developer should however note that due to the nature of archaeological material, such sites, objects or features, as well as graves and burials may be uncovered during construction activities on site. In such a case work should cease immediately and an archaeologist should be contacted as a matter of urgency to assess such occurrences.

## **Recommendation:**

That the development be exempted from doing an HIA.

I trust that you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully

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Prof AC van Vollenhoven: Director