

NATURA VIVA cc
Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management,
Natural History Education, Tourism, Research

Attn: Ms Natasha Higgitt
SAHRA
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town

Date: 3 June 2022

NORTHERN CAPE PALAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE INPUT:

**Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm between Loxton and Beaufort West,
Western and Northern Cape Provinces**

Dear Ms Higgitt,

I have been forwarded a copy of your Interim Comment of 26 May 2022 on these renewable energy projects (SAHRA Case ID: 18203).

I note that you are requesting that a field based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section of the project footprint be conducted as part of the EIA phase for these developments.

As you have noted, in my PIA reports for these WEFs I have recommended a focused specialist palaeontological walk-down of selected, potentially sensitive sectors of the WEF footprints in the pre-construction phase. This would include stream / river crossings where these have not already been surveyed. In the case of the particular Northern Cape stream / river crossings in question, I understand from my colleague Dr Jayson Orton, who has been on site, that these crossings are unlikely to have good exposure of Beaufort Group bedrock or older consolidated alluvium - the primary targets of fossil surveying in the region, so I would not expect any issues here (I am appending here a very helpful tabulation of the relevant N Cape sites, none of which shows potentially vulnerable sedimentary bedrock exposures, which has been kindly provided by Dr Orton).

The developer, RedCap and EAP SLR have already gone the extra mile in promoting PIA input into the Hoogland WEF projects, in contrast to several other Karoo WEF developers and EAPs. I am reluctant to complicate the EIA process when I do not feel that a separate palaeontological site visit is likely to add value to the palaeontological database or fossil heritage conservation at this stage. For these reasons – and also due to added expense *plus* time constraints – my preference would therefore be stay with my original recommendations rather than have to make a separate trip and PIA report for the EIA phase. Perhaps we could rather reinforce the PIA recommendations to specify palaeontological walk downs of stream / river crossings in the N. Cape in the pre-construction phase.

Best wishes,



John Almond (Palaeontologist), *Natura Viva* cc

NATURA VIVA cc (Reg. No. 2000/019296/23)
Members: Dr J.E. Almond (British)(Managing), M.L. Tusenius
76 Breda Park, Oranjezicht CAPE TOWN 8001, RSA
Tel: +27 (21) 462 3622 E-mail: naturaviva@universe.co.za