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#### Heritage Western Cape

Attention: Andrew Hall (<u>Andrew.Hall@westerncape.gov.za</u>)
Copy: Calvin Van Wyk (<u>Calvin.VanWyk@westerncape.gov.za</u>)

SAHRA (REF 9/2/084/181)

APPLICATION FOR ROAD WIDENING AND PROPOSED LANDSCAPING WORK OF THE R45 MR191 BETWEEN PAARL AND FRANSCHHOEK PGWC CONTRACT C749.2, DWARS RIVER VALLEY, CAPE WINELANDS CULTURE LANDSCAPE

A proposal for the widening of MR191 (R45) between Paarl and the turnoff to Hellshoogte (R310) was submitted to SAHRA in October 2011.

In an accompanying letter to SAHRA by myself, dated 31 October, it was stated that the road widening would occur within the existing road reserve and involved the widening of existing lanes and the addition of a shoulder.

A series of landscape plans accompanied the submission. In the letter referred to it was stated that the landscape proposals had addressed the heritage issues identified. It was thus recommended that the heritage authorities and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Planning endorse the landscaping proposals. The application was tabled at the SAHRA Built Environment and Landscape (BELCOM) meeting on 10 November 2011. The BELCOM decision was to support the recommendations of the impact assessor and the landscaping proposals as per the plans submitted. (Refer Annexure 1, 2, 3).

The road widening proposal made provision for a diversion around the 1860 railway bridge, a heritage resource identified as having considerable significance. Detailed design related to operational requirements related to clearance over the railway line, the need to ensure the conservation of the physical fabric of the bridge and cognisance of the flood line has necessitated the realignment of the road some 50m eastwards. (Refer Annexure 4, 5).

The realignment from the SAHRA approved plans will have no heritage impact. There are only two structures within the proposed road reserve; a concrete block shed and an unfurnished labourer's cottage, which are of no heritage significance (Refer photos, Annexure 6).

It is thus recommended that SAHRA comment to HWC that it concurs with the assessor that there will be no heritage impact, and that HWC comments to DEA&DP that the diversion will have no heritage impact, that no further heritage analysis is required and that the road widening may proceed.

Please contact me should you have any queries.

Kind regards

Nicolas Baumann

#### Annexures:

1. SAHRA approved Landscape Plans (2).

- 2. Letter from Nicolas Baumann Urban Conservation and Planning to SAHRA dated 31 October 2011 motivating approval.
- 3. Letter of approval from SAHRA dated 10 November 2011.
- 4. The Revised alignment/deviation (Consultant's Plan No. 21097KPO/LS/1, undated).
- 5. MR 191 Alt. 6 (aerial).
- 6. Site photographs.

# ATTACHMENT 1 Landscape Concept





## ATTACHMENT 2 MR191 Heritage Comment

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# MR 191 (R45): HERITAGE COMMENT ON LANDSCAPE PLAN (REV. 1) DATED 26 OCTOBER 2011 BY TANYA DE VILLIERS, CNDV AFRICA PLANNING AND DESIGN

This heritage comment is in response to a series of landscaping proposals related to the upgrading and road widening of MR 191 (R45) between the R101 (Paarl) and the R310 (Hellshoogte turnoff).

#### 1. NATURE OF INTERVENTION

The road widening will occur within the present road reserve. Lanes are to be increased to 3.7 m from the existing 3.0 m and 2.0 m shoulders are to be provided. A new pedestrian path is proposed. The length of road which will be affected is approximately 9.57 km. (Refer attached location plan).

#### 2. NATURE OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The road traverses a landscape of considerable cultural historical and scenic significance. Land grants in the scenic corridor date from the late eighteenth century and the related built form reflects the rich layering of the landscape from this period. Many of the historical farm werfs are located on the terrace to the west of the Berg River and do not have a visual spatial relationship with the MR 191. Heritage resources which do have a visual spatial relationship with the MR 191 have been identified in the Drakenstein Heritage Survey and have been mapped in the attached documentation. They include, inter alia, the old railway bridge adjacent to the R101, the farm werfs at Keunenberg, Keunienburgh and Riverside, the Het Stigt school complex (PHS), the Simondium station, various railway cottages and farm cottages and the small commercial node at Simondium. Significant lateral views of the Klein Drakenstein and Simonsberg mountain have also been identified and mapped and have a significant clump of trees.

#### 3. POTENTIAL HERITAGE ISSUES /INDICATORS

The heritage practitioner has had a number of interactions with the project team including PGWC, the road engineers, the environmental consultants and the landscape architect, Tanya De Villiers of DNDV Africa and Planning, to ensure that the landscaping proposals address the heritage issues identified. These issues include, inter alia, the need for hard and soft landscaping interventions to respond positively to the following:

 Acknowledge that the route traverses areas of particular cultural historical significance and ensure that road engineering interventions and landscaping treatments respond accordingly in terms of threshold conditions and surface and edge treatments.

- Retain identified sites of heritage significance i.e. the need to bypass the historical railway bride (circa.1860).
- Retain significant tree belts, e.g. the row of mature gums at Simondium.
- Celebrate significant landscape features such as river crossings with appropriate signage and edge treatments.
- Ensure that significant, dramatic mountain and valley view corridors are retained and enhanced by appropriate tree planting, for instance the view southwards across the Berg River valley from the rise to the south of the brickworks.
- Ensure that the visual spatial relationships with the identified heritage resources within the scenic corridor are enhanced.
- Ensure that kerb and channel treatments are kept to a minimum, and that as low a
  profile as possible is used to allow the road to integrate with the surrounding
  landscape to as great an extent as possible.
- Use stone pitched channels when possible.
- Ensure that visual clutter is kept to a minimum and that elements such as street lighting standards are neutral in character and design conception.
- Implement an appropriate maintenance programme for the proposed tree planting.

#### 4. POTENTIAL HERITAGE IMPACTS

The landscape proposals dated 26 October 2011 are regarded as having addressed the abovementioned issues. While specific features such as the nature of kerb and channel treatments, signage and lighting will form part of the subsequent design process, the overall programme for tree planting and the celebration of key features such as the railway bridge, the Het Stigt complex and the commercial node at Simondium have been addressed. The visual spatial relationship with identified heritage resources within the visual corridor has been acknowledged and enhanced as have the significant long lateral view of the valley and mountain setting.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The landscape proposals as illustrated in the figures dated 26 October 2011 to a large extent mitigate the potential negative impacts resulting from the proposed road widening. It is recommended that the heritage authorities and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Planning endorse the landscaping proposals as the minimum necessary mitagatory measures commensurate with the high heritage significance of the surrounding context.

Nicolas Baumann 31 October 2011

### ATTACHMENT 3 R45 MR191 24 November 2011



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

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Our Ref:

9/2/084/181

Your Ref:

Enquiries: Mrs S Warnich-Stemmet
Date: 24 November 2011

Mr Nicolas Baumann 43 Glen Crescent Higgovale CAPE TOWN 8001

Dear Mr Baumann

APPLICATION FOR ROAD WIDENING AND PROPOSED LANDSCAPING WORK OF THE R45 MR 191 BETWEEN

PAARL AND FRANSCHHOEK PGWC CONTRACT C749.2 ,DWARS RIVER VALLEY, CAPE WINELANDS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The above application that was tabled at the SAHRA Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCom) meeting on 10 November 2011 refers.

The following plans and documents were tabled:

- MR191/R45, Landscape Concept rev01 (Plan1), Scale 1:500@A0; 1:3000@ A2, Drawing number: 2107-02.CP-Rev 01, Date: 26 October 2011, by CnDVArfica
- MR191/R45, Landscape Concept rev01 (Plan2), Scale 1:500@A0; 1:3000@ A2, Drawing number: 2107-02.CP-Rev 01, Date: 26 October 2011, CnDVArfica
- MR191/R45, Entrance and Bridge Feature, Scale 1:500@A0; 1:3000@ A2, Drawing number: 2107-02.CP-Rev 01, Date: 18 October 2011, CnDVArfica
- 4. MR191/R45, Simondium Feature, Scale 1:500@A0; 1:3000@ A2, Drawing number: 2107-02.CP-Rev 01, Date: 26 October 2011, CnDVArfica

#### **BELCom Decision:**

The committee responded as follows:

The committee supports the recommendations of the impact assessor and the landscaping proposal as per the plans submitted.

Should you have any queries in this regard to the BELCom, please do not hesitate to contact the acting Manager, Ms Sonja Warnich-Stemmet at <a href="mailto:swarnich@wc.sahra.org.za">swarnich@wc.sahra.org.za</a>.

Yours sincerely

Sonia Warnich-Stemmet

ACTING MANAGER: SAHRA BUILT ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

For SAHRA BELCOM COMMITTEE

CC: Ms Colette Scheermeyer, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit Manager, scheermeyer@sahra.org.za

Chantelle Kok, Drakenstein Municipality, <a href="mailto:chantellek@drakenstein.gov.za">chantellek@drakenstein.gov.za</a>

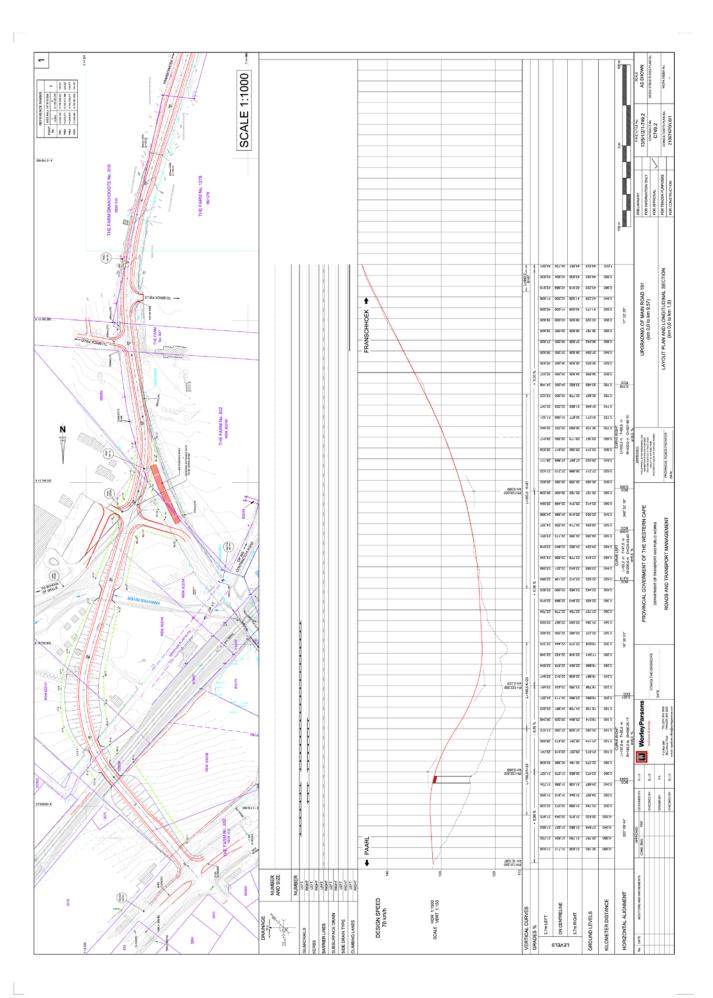
Drakenstein Heritage Foudnation, Mr Len Raymond, dalrest@iafrica.com

Heritage Western Cape, Mr Andrew Hall, abhall@pgwc.gov.za

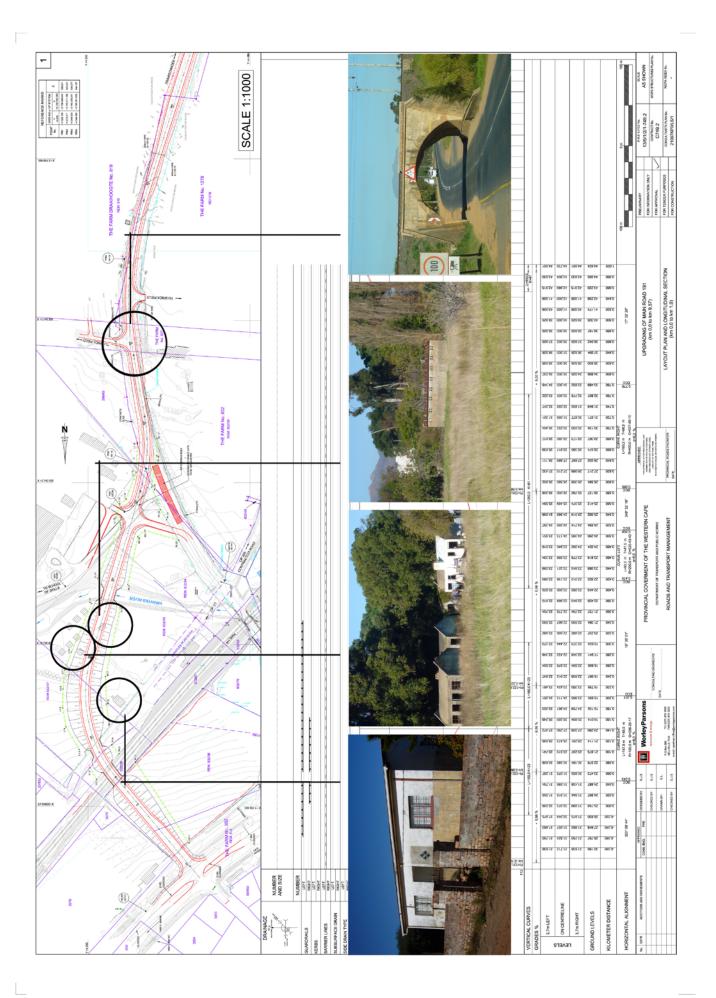
Tanya De Villiers, Landscape Architect, Tanya@condv.co.za

Email: urbancon@iafrica.com

## ATTACHMENT 4 Ls-1\_21097KPO-LS1 Plan



# ATTACHMENT 5 Ls-1\_21097KPO-LS1 Plan with photos



# ATTACHMENT 6 MR191 Alt6\_Plan

