



Amafa aKwazulu-Natali
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22 August 2013

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Bernadet

**Application for Exemption from a
Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of
Proposed Muslim Cemetery,
Newcastle Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

DC25/0011/2012: KZN/EIA/0000732/2012

Project proposal

Udidi Environmental, Planning and Development Consultants have been appointed by the Newcastle Municipality to manage the environmental authorization process for the extension and development of the Muslim Cemetery. The existing cemetery serving the Muslim community in Newcastle is nearing capacity and there is an urgent need for additional burial space in this area.

Location and land use

The proposed development site is situated on municipal-owned land adjacent to the existing Muslim Cemetery on Falkirk Street Erf Re/1A Newcastle Local Municipality, North Umzimyathi District. The site is approximately 1.136 hectares in extent and is currently being used as an illegal dumping site as it is surrounded by light industrial activities. The central co-ordinates for this site are 27°45'25.14"S 29°56'57.05"E (refer to attached Background Information Document for map).

Vegetation

Since the proposed site is currently being used as an illegal dumping site, this inhibits the growth of vegetation and the land is covered with bare soil with a few scatterings of shrubs, wattle, weeds and some trees.

Topography and geology

Generally flat to shallow terrain associated with very little runoff dominates this study area. Therefore it is classified as lowlands, with moderate relief which is underlain by sandstone bedrock.

Given the nature of the disturbance to the proposed development site and similar industrialised areas within the town of Newcastle (personal observation) we request that Amafa grant an exemption from a full Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for this project.

Furthermore, since the existing municipal cemetery is not a heritage resource protected by Amafa in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 4 of 2008, there is no need for the compilation of an historical report of the cemetery (personal communication with Ms Annie van de Venter, Deputy Director of Professional Services, Research and Compliance, Amafa).

Please contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl