

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE  
DEPARTEMENT VAN KUNS EN KULTUUR**

**No. 599****21 May 2004**

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCE AGENCY**

**DECLARATION OF THE TAUNG HERITAGE RESOURCE AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE**

1. The Council of the South African Heritage Resource Agency hereby declare the Taung heritage resource as a National Heritage Site.
2. **DESCRIPTION**  
The site, the Taung Heritage Resource, which includes the old mine barracks mine shaft, blue pool and the area where a stone cairn was erected in 1985 to mark the spot where the Child skull is assumed to have been dug out, described as follows on the Surveyor-General's Diagram: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A1 B1 C1 D1 E1 F1 G1 H1 J1 K1 L1 M1 N1 P1 Q1 R1 S1 represents 158,7429 hectares of land, being declared a national heritage site over the remainder of farm Taung 894 HN situated in the North West Province.
3. The Deed of Transfer for this site is No. T57/1969.
4. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
The Taung Heritage Resource's significance paraded around the discovery of a child specimen in 1924 which Raymond Dart of the University of the Witwatersrand gave the scientific name *Australopithecus Africanus*. Since this discovery, the site continues to be an international important site for scientific investigation of the origins of humanity. In addition, to the foregoing, the cave deposits at the site delivered most fossils of extinct species of baboon, *parapapio antiquus*.

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**PROVISIONAL PROTECTION AS A HERITAGE RESOURCE**

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resource Agency in terms of section 29 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (the Act), read with section 29 (1) (iii) of the Act, property as fully described in the Schedule hereto is provisionally protected for a period of two years.

**SCHEDULE**

**VOC BARRACKS/OLD RECTORY, MEEDING STREET, PLETTENBERG BAY**

**Description:** The property known as the VOC Barracks or Old Rectory, situated on Erf 3339, Plettenberg Bay, in the Knysna Magisterial District.