BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ROAD R54 SECTION 1 FROM POTCHEFSTROOM (KM 0.0) TO PREVIOUS NW/GP BORDER (KM 41.60), GAUTENG AND NORTH WEST PROVINCES.



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Case ID: 25262

Interim Comment

Date: Wednesday, 2 July, 2025

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited 38 Ida Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0081 Private Bag X17, Lynnwood Ridge Pretoria 0040

South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited has applied to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for to upgrade National Road R54, Section 1, stretching from Potchefstroom to the former Northwest/Gauteng provincial border, Gauteng Province and Northwest Province.

The strategic infrastructure initiative prioritizes the incorporation of Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) facilities and enhancements to public transit services to ensure safer and more inclusive mobility. The project objectives are to improve road safety for both vehicles and pedestrians, support surrounding community development, and modernize existing infrastructure to meet future demands. Planned upgrades include road widening to increase capacity and accommodate all road users, new pavement construction for improved ride quality and durability, and enhanced drainage systems to prevent flooding and structural degradation

Project structures will be redesigned to meet updated hydraulic and structural requirements aligned with the new road geometry. These structures will be replaced and upgraded, including approximately 112 minor culverts, four major culverts, and five bridges. To support construction activities, five borrow pits have been identified. The anticipated material requirements include approximately 480,000 m³ of G6–G8 materials from five sources, 500,000 m³ of G5 materials from three sources, and 600,000 m³ of G1 materials from three sources.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) is making the following comments in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act as contemplated by the EIA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA:

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 The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) must be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.

Date: Wednesday, 2 July, 2025

- The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist
 and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological
 Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of
 qualified archaeologists). The HIA must consider any impacts to coastal and underwater heritage that
 may occur due to the seawater intake pipelines.
- The proposed development is located within an area of unknown to very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.
- Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and draft EIAr inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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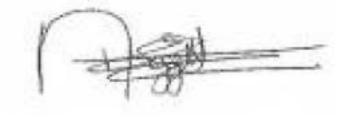
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Khanyisile Bonile Heritage Officer South African Heritage Resources Agency



Natasha Higgitt

Manager: Development Applications Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: https://sahris.org.za/node/381629