



DIGBY WELLS ENVIRONMENTAL

2 March 2018

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY PROJECT

Dear Stakeholder/ Landowner

This letter serves to provide you with information pertaining to the Heritage Resources Management (HRM) process being undertaken for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project.

SARAO spearheads South Africa's activities in the SKA Radio Telescope, in engineering, science and construction. The SKA Project is located in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, some 900 km, 650 km and 90 km from Johannesburg, Cape Town and Carnarvon respectively.

The Project comprises two primary components, namely the 'core', including Meys Dam and Losberg recently acquired through the SKA Land Acquisition Programme (38 land parcels), and three 'spirals' (73 land parcels) covering an approximate areal extent of 211 000 hectare (ha). This land makes provision for the 'core' site, KAT-7 radio telescope, MeerKAT and HERA instruments. SARAO propose to establish an additional 133 antennas to the 64-dish MeerKAT radio telescope, including various ancillary infrastructure comprising:

- Access gravel roads to a width of between 6 – 8 m;
- Upgrading 320 km of existing roads;
- Establishment of 115 km new roads;
- Develop electrical infrastructure including:
 - Above and below ground power cables within a 9 m wide servitude;
 - Substations and electrical kiosks;
- Establishment of 20 borrow pits;
- Establishment of three stone quarries; and
- Establishment of temporary construction camps.

Current planning estimates that construction activities associated with Phase 1 will commence in 2019, continuing through to the years 2023/2024. To this effect, SARAO are required to undertake the necessary studies to comply with the national regulatory requirements, one of which is an HRM process to satisfy the requirement of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). SARAO appointed

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*Non-Executive

Digby Wells Environmental as the specialist service provider to undertake the HRM component of the Project.

The HRM process comprises two primary parts:

- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA); and
- Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The aim of the HRM process is to comply with the South African national regulatory framework, the requirements stipulated by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) during a Special Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 March 2017, and international best practice standards to promote the ethical preservation, conservation and management of heritage resources within the Project zone of influence.

In respect of Section 38(e) of the NHRA, the results of consultation must be provided as part of this HRM process. To this effect, you are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and/or to comment on the proposed Project.

We therefore request you complete the enclosed "Registration and Comment" form and return it to the Digby Wells Environmental offices for processing. You may return the form via the following:

- Email: nondumiso.gwala@digbywells.com
- Fax: (011) 789 9498 / (011) 069 6801
- Post: Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125

You are welcome to contact us on Tel: 011 789 9495 if you would like to discuss any aspects of this Project.

We look forward to receiving your comments

Regards,



Nondumiso Gwala

Assistant Stakeholder Consultant



Justin du Piesanie

Manager: Heritage Resources Management