

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

No. 943**28 November 2014**

FORMAL PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL SITES, LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL FEATURES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, STRUCTURES AND UNMARKED BURIALS, SITUATED ON OR AT THE WEST COAST FOSSIL PARK ON FARM 1223 IN THE DIVISION OF MALMESBURY, HOPEFIELD DISTRICT.

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency, as the national heritage resources authority for the Republic of South Africa, in terms of section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), archaeological and palaeontological sites, unmarked burials, the landscape and natural features of cultural significance and structures situated on or at Farm 1223 in the division of Malmesbury, Hopefield District, known as the West Coast Fossil Park, and as surveyed and reflected in the diagram S.G. 1154/2010 held at the offices of the Surveyor General and covering 830,4981 hectares in extent, are hereby formally protected under Section 27 of the Act bearing the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Act in mind. Notice number 6969 published on 23 March 2012 in the Western Cape Provincial Gazette is hereby repealed.

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

**DECLARATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AS NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES
WEST COAST FOSSIL PARK**

In terms of Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999, the South African Heritage Resources Agency hereby declares the West Coast Fossil Park, fully described in the schedule, as a National Heritage Site.

Schedule

The demarcation of the National Heritage Site is as follows:

Farm/Erf	Province	SG Diagram	Figure	Extent
Farm 1223	Western Cape	1154/2010	A B C D E F G H 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 T1 U1 V1 W1 X1 Y1 Z1 A2 B2 C2 D2 E2 F2 G2 H2 J2 K2 L2 M2 N2 P2 Q2 R2 S2 T2	830,4981 ha

Significance

The West Coast Fossil Park at Langebaanweg is a five million year old fossil bed that was discovered in the floor of an open cast phosphate mine in the 1960s. Since then, researchers at the Iziko: South African Museum have amassed over one million vertebrate fossils from controlled excavations, surface collecting and bulk sampling in different parts of the mine. These fossils have achieved international acclaim by scientists for their superb preservation, abundance and richness in diversity to the extent that this locality is now widely regarded as possibly the most important Early Pliocene terrestrial fossil occurrence in the world.