

APPENDIX G4

Section A: Comments received during the 'in-process' public consultation process in terms of the NHRA (16th October – 15th November 2024) and responses provided by the Project Team.

No	COMMENT	RESPONSE
I&AP: Dr Gerda Dullaart – Stellenbosch University (Manager: Learning and Teaching) - 28 October 2024		
1	<p>I am an interested and affected person (IAP) in the group listed as Staff of Faculty - SU: Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Staff. I wish to comment that the preferred Option 3 implies that we encourage our students to practise sports and warm up over the existing graves. This is unacceptable for most cultural groups in South Africa, and many local cultures regard practising sports and recreation over graves as disrespectful.</p> <p>SALGA indicated in this document on good cemetery practice: [https://www.salga.org.za/Documents/Knowledge-products-per-theme/Community%20Development%20n%20Services/Good%20Practices%20on%20Cemeteries.pdf] that burial grounds are culturally sensitive, and a cemetery offers cultural services of spiritual & religious nature, a sense of place, and play an educational role of heritage and culture, as was also noted in the community feedback on Hardekraaltjie.</p> <p>Most indigenous cultures in South Africa regard the place of burial as very significant to cultural and spiritual community and continuity. For instance, Davhana & Maubane (2022) argue in this article for the preservation of burial sites, stating: "The preservation of burial sites for either religious, cultural or heritage purposes is a responsibility of all sectors of society. When all is said and done, the question remains whether graveyards are still sacred places and heritage sites, or have they become a haven for criminals?".</p>	<p>Finding a balance between the needs of past generations and the needs of the present and future generations to come has been the most challenging aspect moving forward. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention. While we agree and sympathise, with this spiritual belief, this is not always considered the most sustainable option. Considering the location of the site within a built-up urban area where development pressure and densification is being encouraged, open spaces for recreational purposes are limited. Sterilizing land within a built-up area must be carefully considered and all factors need to be well-thought-out. Several examples can be found where exhumation was undertaken as development pressures were given precent over burials. However, we reiterate that exhumation is not considered as part of the preferred option in this instance for a grave is an individual's final resting place. Furthermore, other than spiritual beliefs, albeit significant, there is no other need to exhume the graves as the area within which the potential grave targets are located fall within the recreational space of the SU Campus and is not being considered for development of any other nature/use.</p> <p>As indicated, the Tygerberg Campus constitutes a community of approximately 2000 staff members and most importantly approximately 4500 students. Considering that the Tygerberg Campus constitutes the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences the academic year of the students are the most demanding across the SU Campuses considering students endure up to 42-hour weeks in comparison to the 26-28 hour weeks of other programmes. Therefore, a medical student has a lot less available free time.</p>

<p>Similarly, Ngubane discusses traditional practices and burial systems (with special reference to Zulu practices), and points out that the need for respecting grave sites remains: "Traditionally, grave and cemeteries were respected in such a way that you could not walk about in a graveyard unless you were brought about by evil spirits. Respect for the deceased people was emphasized at all cost. For instance, when Africans bury their loved ones in the grave the main idea is that they plant that person (ukutshala umuntu) and therefore it is taboo to point at the grave; one would rather use a fist. Respect for the deceased people applies to most ethnic groups around the world."</p> <p>So, option 3 appears to me to be very disrespectful. Walking over a grave is particularly disrespectful in many local cultures. Demarcating the area for sports also repeats with this erf 4602 (if I understand correctly), what was done in the apartheid era with Erf 15348, namely to prioritise students' sports above communities' cultural and spiritual rights. Doing so again would not be an act of restitution as envisaged in the SU restitution statement.</p> <p>Instead, Option 2 can be amended to become Option 4: This option could allow for a combination of activities, so that the grave sites sacred parts of the grounds can be marked and maintained as such, with space for students and community members to run and practice sports in demarcated areas between. Alternatively, the rest of campus can be better optimised for sports and recreation for students.</p> <p>I am not an expert and not updated but I have heard discussion among other IAPs that such an option 4 is indeed possible. I believe a bit more creative brainstorming would assist.</p>	<p>The mental and physical health of medical students is therefore of great importance to the university and needs to be carefully considered alongside the public's wishes. As we well know, there is an overwhelming amount of research and information available regarding the connection between mental health and sport. Being active, especially through sports, can significantly boost mental wellbeing. Physical activity releases endorphins, which improves mood and reduces stress and anxiety. Playing sport also promotes social interaction, builds self-esteem, and provides a sense of purpose and routine. Being outdoors also has the added benefit of being exposed to sunlight which helps regulate sleep and improve moods.</p> <p>The demanding academic year and lack of free time also plays a role should students be required to undertake recreational activities elsewhere. In certain instances, they would simply not have the additional time to commute. Most importantly however, the safety of the students is the responsibility of Stellenbosch University and encouraging students to find recreational activities off campus, particularly in the early hours of the morning or late evening [majority of activities taking place between 4-7pm], is a major security liability which would be putting student's safety at risk [not even considering the lack of appropriate facilities and the logistics that this would entail].</p> <p>Furthermore, we must assume that even areas outside the extended buffer zone could contain burials. Considering the previously isolated nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and the historical precedent of graves found across South Africa, particularly during urban development, the risk of informal graves being found elsewhere (within the area but also across South Africa) is probable. There are several examples of unmarked graves/ burials scattered across South Africa over which we go about our day to day lives.</p> <p>However, at the same time the options put forward are by no means discrediting the wishes and beliefs of the community. Stellenbosch University acknowledges the role played by the University in South Africa's Apartheid legacy: <i>"As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land."</i> SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering</p>
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Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.

The Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book "Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery") as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.

After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.

		Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter.
I&AP: Chefferino Fortuin: Tiervlei Erfenis Gemeenskap – 13 November 2024		
2	<p>Thank you for your presentation to the community at the Ravensmead library. As you would have noted at the community public meeting, the community unanimously agreed that all the areas where graves were identified including the sportsfield must be memorialised. Burial spaces should be respected, and our loved ones last resting place should be handled with dignity irrespective of race, class, ethnicity or religion.</p> <p>The community also proposed that funds which would have been used towards the proposed sportsday be made available toward a Hardekraaltjie education or bursary initiative.</p> <p>The property and surrounding properties the Tygerberg Hospital, the Stellenbosch Medical faculty, the historic cemetery and parts of Transnet adjacent to this property has a deeply emotional historical connection and attachment with the Tiervlei-Ravensmead community decades before the fences arrived. This connection was traumatically disrupted and almost erased with the implementation of the Group Areas Act and apartheid spatial planning which has caused further traumatic challenges for the non-white/mixed race community and disrupted family relations due to the racial profiling of communities.</p> <p>As such this cultural heritage site carries profound cultural and spiritual significance for both the past, present and future communities. Playing sports would violate its sanctity and undermine its value as a significant heritage and historical landmark. New restrictions as to which parts are accessible including for memorialisation and which bodies are more sacred</p>	<p>Finding a balance between the needs of past generations and the needs of the present and future generations to come has been the most challenging aspect moving forward. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention. While we agree and sympathise, with this spiritual belief, this is not always considered the most sustainable option. Considering the location of the site within a built-up urban area where development pressure and densification is being encouraged, open spaces for recreational purposes are limited. Sterilizing land within a built-up area must be carefully considered and all factors need to be well-thought-out. Several examples can be found where exhumation was undertaken as development pressures were given precent over burials. However, we reiterate that exhumation is not considered as part of the preferred option in this instance for a grave is an individual's final resting place. Furthermore, other than spiritual beliefs, albeit significant, there is no other need to exhume the graves as the area within which the potential grave targets are located fall within the recreational space of the SU Campus and is not being considered for development of any other nature/use.</p> <p>As indicated, the Tygerberg Campus constitutes a community of approximately 2000 staff members and most importantly approximately 4500 students. Considering that the Tygerberg Campus constitutes the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences the academic year of the students are the most demanding across the SU Campuses considering students endure up to 42-hour weeks in comparison to the 26-28 hour weeks of other programmes. Therefore, a medical student has a lot less available free time.</p>

<p>or important than others will take us back to ethnic and spatial apartheid notions.</p> <p>The memorialisation should also not be a romanticized model forgetting the traumatic experiences. The challenges and struggles of the time period should be captured and visually displaced. We therefore proposed as previously communicated, close to the central symbol a desecrated gravesite, an open grave to represent the bones that were removed which are unaccounted for as articulated by members of the community. The hope should be captured or reflected in the central symbol returning the dignity of the people with the engraving of the names. This site should be educational in creating awareness as well as presenting a healing opportunity for the visitors.</p> <p>A CMP agreement should be a condition to the memorialisation process between the Erfenis [Heritage] community and the university. It should amongst other interventions allow the community or members with loved ones to play a direct role in the maintenance of the cemetery should they prefer.</p>	<p>The mental and physical health of medical students is therefore of great importance to the university and needs to be carefully considered alongside the public's wishes. As we well know, there is an overwhelming amount of research and information available regarding the connection between mental health and sport. Being active, especially through sports, can significantly boost mental wellbeing. Physical activity releases endorphins, which improves mood and reduces stress and anxiety. Playing sport also promotes social interaction, builds self-esteem, and provides a sense of purpose and routine. Being outdoors also has the added benefit of being exposed to sunlight which helps regulate sleep and improve moods.</p> <p>The demanding academic year and lack of free time also plays a role should students be required to undertake recreational activities elsewhere. In certain instances, they would simply not have the additional time to commute. Most importantly however, the safety of the students is the responsibility of Stellenbosch University and encouraging students to find recreational activities off campus, particularly in the early hours of the morning or late evening [majority of activities taking place between 4-7pm], is a major security liability which would be putting student's safety at risk [not even considering the lack of appropriate facilities and the logistics that this would entail].</p> <p>Furthermore, we must assume that even areas outside the extended buffer zone could contain burials. Considering the previously isolated nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and the historical precedent of graves found across South Africa, particularly during urban development, the risk of informal graves being found elsewhere (within the area but also across South Africa) is probable. There are several examples of unmarked graves/ burials scattered across South Africa over which we go about our day to day lives.</p> <p>However, at the same time the options put forward are by no means discrediting the wishes and beliefs of the community. Stellenbosch University acknowledges the role played by the University in South Africa's Apartheid legacy: <i>"As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land."</i> SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to</p>
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IAPs: William Charles (General Secretary, YMCA Ravensmead) – 14 November 2024		this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.	
3	<p>The YMCA Ravensmead would like to express our gratitude to your company for the research and final document produced regarding the Hardekraaltjie cemetery.</p> <p>With this letter we would, however, express our disappointment with the option that was proposed to the residence of Ravensmead. At the Ravensmead community public meeting, the community unanimously agreed that all the areas where graves were identified including the sportsfield area must be memorialised. They did not agree with a portion of the sportsfield to be used for sports while there is loved one's underneath as it is disrespectful to the beloved departed. Burial spaces should be respected, and the loved ones' last resting place should be respected and handled with dignity irrespective of race, class, ethnicity or religion.</p> <p>We appreciated the gesture of the annual sports day event but requested that our effort be directed toward a Hardekraaltjie education or bursary initiative. As a Youth and Community development organisation, we are aware of the lack of interest of our youth in their heritage and culture. This partly due to the Apartheid system conditioning our mindset to believing that we are a people without a culture or heritage and that education is not meant for us. Sports do play a role in the development and wellbeing of our youth and community and the US Tygerberg campus should make their sports facilities available to the public as part of Hardekraaltjie heritage.</p> <p>We therefore support the community's choice of Option 2 and that the community be a key stakeholder and decision maker in the memorialization and development of the site.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book "Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery") as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.</p> <p>After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>	
I&APs: Selvan Keuwa / William Charles / Carlton Carelse / Glynn Barry / Aldrin E Beneke / Henry Daniels / Nico & Shereen Beneke / Sarah Mecca / Deon Williams / Beraldine Barry / Daylin Edwards / Anne Adam's (Khoi San House – Cogokwa) / MP Valencia / Sylvanah Van. Dlamuka – 12 to 15 November 2024			
4	<p>The aforementioned I&APs all sent a variation of one of the paragraphs below:</p> <p>All the areas where graves have been identified, including the sports field area, should be commemorated. No sports may be played over the bodies of our loved ones. Option 2 is the best option to handle our loved ones' final resting place with dignity. The Tiervlei-Ravensmead Erfenis Committee must be a part of all decisions about the Hardekraaltjie, and our history and culture must be respected.</p> <p>OR</p>		

<p>Al die gebiede waar grafte geïdentifiseer is, insluitend die sportveldarea, moet herdenk word. Geen sport mag oor die liggame van ons geliefdes gespeel word nie. Opsie 2 wat by die public meeting aangedui is, is die beste manier om ons geliefdes se laaste rusplek met respek te hanteer. Die Tiervlei-Ravensmead Erfenis-komitee moet indeel wees van alle besluite oor die Hardekraaltjie en ons geskiedenis en kultuur moet gerespekteer word. Die gemeenskap moet voordeel trek.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Al die areas waar liggame ontdek is, met die sportveld, moet herdenk word. Sport kan nie gespeel word terwyl daar geliefdes begrawe is nie. Opsie 2 is om die laaste rusplek te respekteer. Die Universiteit moet met die Erfenis committee besluite maak en n beursfonds op die been bring en die gemeenskap help om die Hardekraaltjie mooi te maak.</p>	<p>This Section 36 Permit Application would therefore involve a two-fold approach in terms of the way forward:</p> <p>Part 1: Memorialisation of the Core Area (defined by the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228) through HWCs approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which will be memorialised upon approval from HWC. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 8.3 “Do’s and Don’ts”; • Section 8.4 “Look and Feel”; • Appendix F: Landscaping Plan; • Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above. <p>Furthermore, as a recommendation of approval, the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects as indicated in Section 9 below including further consultation with stakeholders and neighbours around the management of the core memorialisation area as well as the spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.</p> <p>Physical implementation of the Landscaping Plan can therefore take place within the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228 so that the community can see something tangible resulting from the years of public consultation. Most importantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Appendix I).</p> <p>Part 2: Approval will also be sought to undertake test excavations within the extended buffer zone. It is important to note that no exhumation is being proposed, only the ground truthing of six potential burial targets. As requested, two community leaders will be present at the test excavations. Jayson Orton has been appointed to undertake the ground-truthing should HWC approve the permit.</p>
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		<p>As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date by SU to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage.</p> <p><u>The above mentioned 'two-part' approach would ensure that the elderly could visit a Memorial, remembering and celebrating the lives of those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (hopefully within their lifetime), while simultaneously providing critical information to assist with the future spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.</u></p> <p>Regarding the item of a bursary/ education fund. SU directly invests in the lives of many learners and students, through bursaries offered and administered, recruitment processes as well as its ongoing focus on student throughput success. It should be noted that this support has a particular impact on the lives of learners/students of colour and thus often also on economically deprived/challenged communities and schools. Although SU, like other universities and the various Departments of Education can do more, it is clear that ongoing partnerships and funding already translate to Higher Education participation opportunities for many learners/students within the greater surrounding communities.</p> <p>We note the community's request within the core memorial area for a symbolic representation of the possibility of bones being displaced or removed, which cannot be accounted for, being part of the memorialisation concept. The placement and type of symbol would need to be carefully thought out and regarded as one of the first tasks to be concluded by the new committee. This will be included in Section 8.3 "Do's and Don'ts".</p>

I&AP: Prof Elmi Muller – Stellenbosch University (Dean: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) – 15 November 2024	
5	<p>The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences was established 68 years ago on the premises of the Karl Bremer Hospital. In 1976, the Faculty was built on its current site. By this time the Hardekraaltjie cemetery had been closed for almost 30 years. The cemetery was lost to memory in the university as well as the community.</p> <p>However, recent efforts by faculty members have brought the history of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery back to light. Since the leadership of the faculty was made aware of the presence of the cemetery, we have undertaken initiatives to document the history of the cemetery and reflect on the impact its closure has had on both the campus community and the descendants of those buried there.</p> <p>As faculty leadership, we have considered the proposal from the Steering Committee for the memorialisation of the area where the cemetery was located as well as the surrounding parts of the area. The faculty is committed to respecting and preserving the historically significant land, while meeting the needs of our current students and staff. We believe that there could be good alignment between the Faculty and the Steering Committee's proposal for memorialization.</p> <p>Student and Campus Community Needs</p> <p>The faculty has a campus community of over 2000 staff as well as 4500 undergraduate and post graduate students. Our campus engagements were important processes to engage staff and students on the memorialisation of the cemetery. As a faculty, we welcome the proposal of the Steering Committee.</p> <p>We are also mindful of the additional possible remains outside the area designated for the cemetery, extending into the sports grounds.</p> <p>We have about 1300 students in residence on the campus. They are all training to be health professionals in programmes which are high paced and stressful. An international trend is that an increasing number of students experience mental health challenges.</p>
	<p>Noted. Please refer to the Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>

	<p>A recent paper on the mental health of students at South African universities by senior colleagues in our university¹ showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common mental disorders are highly prevalent in South African university students. • Prevalence is consistently highest in Historically White than other Institutions. • Prevalence is elevated among gender non-conforming and sexual minority students. • Black students had elevated prevalence only in Historically White Institutions. <p>As part of the student offerings at our university, we ensure wrap-around support for all students through a variety of academic, financial, psychological and social support. Sport is a key aspect especially for our residential students who unlike other students at the campus in Stellenbosch, have long academic years - up to 42 weeks compared to the ±26 - 28 weeks of other programmes. In addition, our faculty has seen an increase in the diversity of students from different ethnic backgrounds, gender non-conforming students as well as from different religious backgrounds. Thus, the need to be aware of the need for support of all students.</p> <p>With this in mind, we support the committee's recommendation to retain the sport fields while encouraging respectful engagement from users regarding the sensitive nature of the area. We are committed to continuing our work within the faculty and with community stakeholders to honour the memory of those interred at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.</p>	
I&AP: Pastor BA Basson (Chairperson – Ravensmead Ministers Forum) - 15 November 2024		
6	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery.</p> <p>We were represented by our chairperson at the open public meeting held at the Ravensmead Library on 26 October 2024. Verbally he indicated that the Ravensmead Ministers Forum are in favour of OPTION TWO, i.e. that all areas where graves were identified including the sports field be memorialised.</p> <p>We are clergy who more than often deal with death. This includes the burial of people. We consider the final resting place of a person as sacred, something that should not be disturbed because of the immense spiritual value it holds. Culturally it is also more than just significant. We are already concerned that thought was dispensed to disregard the sports field for memorialisation as per option three, an option advocated for by the Stellenbosch University.</p>	<p>Finding a balance between the needs of past generations and the needs of the present and future generations to come has been the most challenging aspect moving forward. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention. While we agree and sympathise, with this spiritual belief, this is not always considered the most sustainable option. Considering the location of the site within a built-up urban area where development pressure and densification is being encouraged, open spaces for recreational purposes are limited. Sterilizing land within a built-up area must be carefully considered and all factors need to be well-thought-out. Several examples can be found where exhumation was undertaken as development pressures were given precent over burials. However, we reiterate that exhumation is not considered as part of the preferred option in this instance for a grave is an individual's final resting place. Furthermore, other than spiritual beliefs, albeit significant, there is no other need to exhume the graves as the</p>

<p>We don't need to always look back at our historical past, but in this instance we should. Our community still suffer from past injustices wrought by the Apartheid system. The option proposed by you is still purporting to continue with such injustices caused by the then government. Playing sports where our forebears are laid to rest tantamount to the desecration of their memories and we consider it as an insult to the current and future generations. We ask the question, what benefit will this have for the community at large. We surmise nothing at all.</p> <p>We therefore propose the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That we support OPTION TWO similarly to what most participants indicated at the public meeting. 2. That a bursary fund/trust be jointly established and jointly administered by community interest groups and the university. This would better serve our children who will benefit from such educational support. The intended funds could be of use in this instance. 3. That the memorialised areas per option two be utilised in a manner beneficial for educational purposes. 4. That an annual memorial lecture/service be held at the venue. This will purpose a long-lasting effect for the memorialisation. <p>We deeply value your efforts. But these efforts will mean more to us when there is serious investment to the greater good of our community both from a financial and human resource perspective.</p>	<p>area within which the potential grave targets are located fall within the recreational space of the SU Campus and is not being considered for development of any other nature/use.</p> <p>As indicated, the Tygerberg Campus constitutes a community of approximately 2000 staff members and most importantly approximately 4500 students. Considering that the Tygerberg Campus constitutes the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences the academic year of the students are the most demanding across the SU Campuses considering students endure up to 42-hour weeks in comparison to the 26-28 hour weeks of other programmes. Therefore, a medical student has a lot less available free time.</p> <p>The mental and physical health of medical students is therefore of great importance to the university and needs to be carefully considered alongside the public's wishes. As we well know, there is an overwhelming amount of research and information available regarding the connection between mental health and sport. Being active, especially through sports, can significantly boost mental wellbeing. Physical activity releases endorphins, which improves mood and reduces stress and anxiety. Playing sport also promotes social interaction, builds self-esteem, and provides a sense of purpose and routine. Being outdoors also has the added benefit of being exposed to sunlight which helps regulate sleep and improve moods.</p> <p>The demanding academic year and lack of free time also plays a role should students be required to undertake recreational activities elsewhere. In certain instances, they would simply not have the additional time to commute. Most importantly however, the safety of the students is the responsibility of Stellenbosch University and encouraging students to find recreational activities off campus, particularly in the early hours of the morning or late evening [majority of activities taking place between 4-7pm], is a major security liability which would be putting student's safety at risk [not even considering the lack of appropriate facilities and the logistics that this would entail].</p> <p>Furthermore, we must assume that even areas outside the extended buffer zone could contain burials. Considering the previously isolated nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and the historical precedent of graves found across South Africa, particularly during urban development, the risk of informal graves being found elsewhere (within the area but also</p>
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	<p>across South African) is probable. There are several examples of unmarked graves/ burials scattered across South Africa over which we go about our day to day lives.</p> <p>However, at the same time the options put forward are by no means discrediting the wishes and beliefs of the community. Stellenbosch University acknowledges the role played by the University in South Africa's Apartheid legacy: <i>"As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land."</i> SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.</p> <p>The Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book "Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery") as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.</p> <p>After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to</p>
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confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.

This Section 36 Permit Application would therefore involve a two-fold approach in terms of the way forward:

Part 1: Memorialisation of the Core Area (defined by the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228) through the HWC approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which will be memorialised upon approval from HWC. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of:

- Section 8.3 "Do's and Don'ts";
- Section 8.4 "Look and Feel";
- **Appendix F:** Landscaping Plan;
- Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above.

Furthermore, as a recommendation of approval, the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects as indicated in Section 9 below including further consultation with stakeholders and neighbours around the management of the core memorialisation area as well as the spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.

Physical implementation of the Landscaping Plan can therefore take place within the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228 so that the community can see something tangible resulting from the years of public consultation. Most importantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (**Appendix I**).

Part 2: Approval will also be sought to undertake test excavations within the extended buffer zone. It is important to note that no exhumation is being proposed, only the ground truthing of six potential burial targets. As requested, two community leaders will be present at the test excavations. Jayson Orton has been appointed to undertake the ground-truthing should HWC approve the permit.

As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date by SU to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage.

The above mentioned 'two-part' approach would ensure that the elderly could visit a Memorial ASAP, remembering and celebrating the lives of those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (hopefully within their lifetime), while simultaneously providing critical information to assist with the future spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.

2. Regarding the item of a bursary/ education fund. SU directly invests in the lives of many learners and students, through bursaries offered and administered, recruitment processes as well as its ongoing focus on student throughput success. It should be noted that this support has a particular impact on the lives of learners/students of colour and thus often also on economically deprived/challenged communities and schools. Although SU, like other universities and the various Departments of Education can do more, it is clear that ongoing partnerships and funding already translate to Higher Education participation opportunities for many learners/students within the greater surrounding communities.

		<p>3. Noted and agreed.</p> <p>It is recommended that a bi-annual educational experience is available to students, staff, community members and schools within the vicinity to learn more about the memorialised space. This could be known as the: "The Hardekraaltjie Heritage Walk" or a "A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjie's Past". This would ensure that the Hardekraaltjie story is known and lives on in the memories of future students, staff and community members visiting the site.</p> <p>Furthermore, one of the recommendations to be made to HWC is the: <i>"Creation of a digital archive or "museum" by Stellenbosch University for future generations, summarising the extensive research undertaken to date. This information must be available to all."</i></p> <p>Furthermore, a book [<i>Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: Told by people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead</i>] has been published. Copies of the book were given to a number of public libraries and schools in close proximity to the SU Campus. Alternatively, the book is available for sale online.</p> <p>4. Future events linked to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery will be discussed in detail in the CMP and the newly established committee would provide input. The CMP will include the heading 'Events' and will address the management and responsibility aspects surrounding these events. These will take place, annually as a minimum, on the SU Campus sports fields or within the Memorialised space to ensure that the space is utilised and that the participants at the same time are educated and made aware of the existence of the Memorialised Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.</p>
I&AP: Pastor Romeo Lynders – 6 November 2024		
7	<p>I'm Pastor Romeo Lyners was employed at the University Stellenbosch for 33 years the last 11 as a pastoral consultant. This cemetery story was initiated by then Proff Ben Page, the two of us had a lot of discussions about what was to be done with this cemetery, he stopped sports activities on that piece of land had it scanned. I was given the task to go to the surrounding communities to go get info, u told Prof I reach some elderly people how knew if people from the community where u came from even</p>	<p>Thank you, your comment and offer to assist is noted.</p>

	<p>gave the undertaker's name a certain Mr Suker also drafted a letter for the community newspapers" Die Son , Voice and Die Sondag Son" Also told Prof Page have connections with community Radio stations CCFM Radio Tygerberg Voice if the Cape etc and lastly was too speak to Chris Nissen friend of mine whose a Human rights Commissioner but everything was put on hold tell I heard again from Prof that I was to go and see Theresa Fish at the Faculty and just last week again told of happenings around cemetery issue please will u let me know if there's something I can do to help?</p>	
I&AP: Senior Chief William Moses – 15 November 2024		
8	<p>1.The erection of a sanctuary to embrace our ancestral spiritual heritage. The space needed would be a square consisting of 20m per side.20m×4. More specific details available as soon as it is declared possible to erect on a portion of the proposed available site.</p> <p>2.The following slogan must be included on an entrance board with a piece of rock art-" <i>Toa Tama !Tams khè</i>"</p> <p>3.A educational trust can be established where descendants of the deceased can be offered bursaries to study at the University of Stellenbosch in certain degrees example, medicine and sports. Obviously certain criteria must be put in place to determine deserving students.</p> <p>4.The history pertaining to Hardekraaltjie and its links to Tiervlei must be cemented in historical archives. Books, brochures etc and be made available to the schools and scholars of Ravensmead.</p> <p>5.The proposal sports day can still happen. However, we propose it to happen at Florida park. It would attract the whole community of Ravensmead. We had a very successful athletics day at Florida park on the 8th of November 2024.There were more than 1500 people. We are actively busy with sporting programs in our schools for the last 10 years. Florida park is the ideal facility for all kinds of sporting activities.</p>	<p>7. Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p> <p>2. "<i>Toa Tama !Tams khè</i>" roughly translates to "Many Thanks! My Love goes to you" or "thank you very much! I love you." It is a warm heartfelt phrase for expressing deep gratitude</p>

		<p>and affection in Khoekhoe. This will be considered for including on the remembrance wall. This has been included in Section 8. 2 "Do's and Don'ts".</p> <p>3. Regarding the item of a bursary/ education fund. SU directly invests in the lives of many learners and students, through bursaries offered and administered, recruitment processes as well as its ongoing focus on student throughput success. It should be noted that this support has a particular impact on the lives of learners/students of colour and thus often also on economically deprived/challenged communities and schools. Although SU, like other universities and the various Departments of Education can do more, it is clear that ongoing partnerships and funding already translate to Higher Education participation opportunities for many learners/students within the greater surrounding communities.</p> <p>4. Noted. One of the recommendations to HWC is the: <i>"Creation of a digital archive or "museum" by Stellenbosch University for future generations, summarising the extensive research undertaken to date. This information must be available to all."</i> Furthermore, a book [<i>Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: Told by people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead</i>] has been published. Copies of the book were given to a number of public libraries and schools in close proximity to the SU Campus. Alternatively, the book is available for sale online.</p> <p>5. Future events linked to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery will be discussed in detail in the CMP and the new committee will consider this as part of the agenda. The CMP will include the heading 'Events' and will address the management and responsibility aspects surrounding these events. However, it would be preferred that these take place, annually as a minimum, on the SU Campus sports grounds or within the Memorialised area to ensure that the space is utilised and that the participants at the same time are educated and made aware of the existence of the Memorialised Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.</p>
I&AP: Phoshoko Nkeke Patience [TSC - Vice Chairperson (2024/2025)] – 15 November 2024		
9	Thank you for the email and for sharing the additional information in the attachment.	Noted. Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this

	<p>The Hardekraaltjie discussion I attended on behalf of the TSC was incredibly informative. I was particularly impressed by the team's thorough research and analysis of every aspect of the issue, which was evident in the detailed responses to the questions I raised about the policy.</p> <p>I fully support the option that was most voted for and deemed the safest. It reflects a well-thought-out approach that balances practicality and respect for the subject at hand. This is indeed a meaningful memorial, and I am eagerly looking forward to seeing the full review in the library.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.</p>	<p>would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>
<p>I&AP: Kirsten Tonya Links [Culture TSRC Portfolio Manager: Tygerberg Students' Representative Council] – 15 November 2024</p>		
10	<p>I hope all is well, and I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the time and effort involved in the Hardekraaltjie Memorialization.</p> <p>As a student, I am beyond proud to see the faculty taking the necessary steps to pay respects to the families of those who came before the establishment of the university. It is heartwarming to see how a tragic historical event is being transformed into a positive learning opportunity for us all, with direct action taking place. I believe the campus now has a newfound depth and richness in heritage and history.</p> <p>One recommendation I have is for the team to hold more open talks about the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery for students on campus. I'm not sure if this has been explored before, but I know that information about the cemetery is</p>	<p>Noted. SU have undertaken an extensive amount of public engagement to date including the surrounding community as well as the staff and students of the Tygerberg SU Campus. Numerous internal consultation processes were held between the students and staff members of the Tygerberg Campus. The SU community internal stakeholder engagement processes to date have been designed to a) ensure that campus community are informed about the proposed project and kept up to date on the restitution of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery processes; b) to provide opportunities for staff and students to discuss the context of the site – past and future; and c) to provide input into the possibilities for memorialisation of the site.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is recommended that a bi-annual educational experience is available to students, staff, community members and schools within the vicinity to learn more about the memorialised space. This could be known as the: "The Hardekraaltjie Heritage Walk" or a</p>

<p>limited, with only the leaders of various student communities familiar with its story. I believe that while disseminating information through these student leaders is helpful, it would be of greater benefit to provide education to the entire student body about the existence of this historical discrepancy.</p> <p>Though it may cause some discomfort for those learning about it for the first time, I believe that the transparency of the talks will help ease students' nerves and offer them a space to voice their concerns, aiding in decision-making around the issue.</p> <p>Having attended the talk about the cemetery, I took time to think and concluded that the best step forward, in my view, is to use the area allocated by the scans to build the memorial, even if it takes up some of the sports field or warm-up area. This is due to my understanding that the grounds at the back of the campus are used frequently but are not in the best condition. I hope that, if the memorial is created, the area can be better maintained and serve as a space where students can turn an activity dedicated to their health into a simultaneous learning experience.</p> <p>I hope this feedback proves useful for the team moving forward. I would like to thank you once again for your initiative and effort.</p>	<p>"A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjies Past". This would ensure that the Hardekraaltjie story is known and lives on in the memories of future students, staff and community members visiting the site.</p> <p>Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>
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Section B: Comments received after 15th November 2024, and responses provided by the Project Team.

No	COMMENT	RESPONSE
	<p>I&AP: Chefferino Fortuin – Tiervlei Erfinis Community (19 June 2025)</p>	

<p>11 <u>Dear Dr's Van Rooi and Fish</u></p> <p>I hope you are well. I am enquiring about the feedback session with the community regarding the Hardekraaltjie memorialisation process.</p> <p>Since our April steercom meeting, we had a feedback session with some community stakeholders including the youth, the pastors' forum, Khoi groups, and various individuals. The opinion is that the community's view as expressed in the public meeting and written feedback to the consultant of PHS consulting should be respected. The community supports the memorialisation of the entire area where the bodies of the deceased were identified (on the cemetery and sports field) in line with the option presented and selected in the consultant's proposal by the community.</p> <p>Any sports activities cannot and should not continue on land where human remains are buried, as it is disrespectful and a degradation of the sanctity of this spiritually significant space. It is not just disrespectful but a painful reminder of how little regard was shown for the marginalised communities in life and death in the past. The site holds cultural and historical significance for the Khoi, San, enslaved people and other marginalised groups who have already suffered and were dehumanised in the past.</p> <p>It is about dignity, restoring the dignity and respect to the deceased which must be a priority in the mandate of the university in addressing historical injustices. The process of memorialisation should reflect solemnity and a commitment to restitution, ensuring that the previously marginalised indigenous communities are honoured with the respect they deserve.</p> <p>Could you please confirm a potential date for the community feedback session and the next steps. Having attended the talk about the cemetery, I took time to think and concluded that the best step forward, in my view, is to use the area allocated by the scans to build the memorial, even if it takes up some of the sports field or warm-up area. This is due to my understanding that the grounds at the back of the campus are used frequently but are not in the best condition. I hope that, if the memorial is created, the area can be better maintained and serve as a space where</p>	<p>In response to this comment a focus group meeting was held between SU, PHS and the Tiervlei Erfenis Community representatives on the 20 August 2025.</p> <p>Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of identified stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>
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	<p>students can turn an activity dedicated to their health into a simultaneous learning experience.</p> <p>I hope this feedback proves useful for the team moving forward. I would like to thank you once again for your initiative and effort.</p>	
<p>I&AP: I&AP: Chefferino Fortuin – Tiervlei Erfinis Community (8 September 2025)</p>		
12	<p>Dear Stellenbosch community of Staff, Academics, Students and Alumni Stop Playing Sports on Our Ancestors' Graves at the Hardekraaltjie burial ground on the sportsfield and the cemetery and memorialise where all the bodies rest: A Call to Stellenbosch University</p> <p>At a ceremony held yesterday at the Hardekraaltjie burial site and cemetery, representatives of the descendants whose ancestors rest at the cemetery and on the adjacent sports field planted crosses during a Facebook Live event. During the ceremony, they called on Stellenbosch University to immediately stop playing sports on the bones of their ancestors and to memorialise where all the bodies rest. https://web.facebook.com/johannes.bastian.1/videos/2541227046226156</p> <p>The community has consistently appealed to the University during this live ceremony and through formal engagement to memorialise the Hardekraaltjie sports field and cemetery. They have urged the University not to perpetuate apartheid methodologies by deciding which graves are more sacred than others. Despite these appeals, Stellenbosch University has refused to halt sporting activities on the burial grounds.</p> <p>In the Facebook Live appeal, addressing Stellenbosch University staff, academics, students, and alumni, we asked them to support the call to stop playing sports on the burial grounds and to join the demand for proper memorialisation of the burial site on the sports field and the cemetery as it is one sacred space. Please share or forward the Facebook live recording, post on the Stellenbosch social media platforms our request and your support and tag us if possible. Write to the rector and copy this email 3569814@myuwc.ac.za</p>	<p>In response to this comment a focus group meeting was held between SU, PHS and representatives from the Tiervlei Erfinis Community on the 23 September 2025. At this meeting these letters were discussed and the way forward/ option 4 below was discussed. The image shows wooden crosses erected by the TEC at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery for Heritage Day. Minutes were taken in this regard and are included in Appendix G4B.</p> <p>After careful consideration it was therefore decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p>

<p>We also called on the Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture to intervene. It is concerning that while the Hardekraaltjie campsite along the main road has been granted heritage status, the old Coloured cemetery and burial ground have not been recognised. Worse, it continues to be desecrated by sports activities by the university.</p> <p>Below is the formal communication that has been shared with Stellenbosch University.</p> <p><u>Addressed to the Rector of the Stellenbosch University:</u></p> <p>Honor our heritage, restore our dignity, our cemetery, and the sports field graves. Justice, Dignity, and True Memorialisation</p> <p>Honor our cultural heritage by affording the Hardekraaltjie cemetery, and the graves of the indigenous marginalised beneath the sports field, the dignity and respect they deserve. This is a moral obligation and an act of justice long overdue. The University has benefited from historical injustices committed against the indigenous communities. During consultations, your appointed consultant advised that only the cemetery itself will be memorialised. The surrounding sports field, the burial grounds where you have always known bodies remain, the ones you have not removed, will continue to be used for sport. The audacity is staggering.</p> <p>By continuing to play sports on the graves of our ancestors, the Khoi, San, mix race and African, the university perpetuates the violence and dehumanisation. A process that began under colonialism, which was entrenched during apartheid and continues in the present. To separate those buried in the cemetery from those buried beneath the sports field is to extend the practice of spatial apartheid, even in death. Stop celebrating the destruction and erasure of our heritage. Playing sports on our ancestors' graves is insensitive, a continuation of apartheid-era dispossession, and a desecration of human dignity. The University's response, that it is acceptable to play sports on a known burial ground reveals the very racist ideology that led to this atrocity, which seemingly remains embedded in its institutional DNA.</p>	<p>This Section 36 Permit Application would therefore involve a two-fold approach in terms of the way forward:</p> <p>Part 1: Memorialisation of the Core Area (defined by the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228) through the HWC approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which will be memorialised upon approval from HWC. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 8.3 "Do's and Don'ts"; • Section 8.4 "Look and Feel"; • Appendix F: Landscaping Plan; • Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above. <p>Furthermore, as a recommendation of approval, the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects as indicated in Section 9 below including further consultation with stakeholders and neighbours around the management of the core memorialisation area as well as the spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.</p> <p>Physical implementation of the Landscaping Plan can therefore take place within the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228 so that the community can see something tangible resulting from the years of public consultation. Most importantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.</p> <p>Part 2: Approval will also be sought to undertake test excavations within the extended buffer zone. It is important to note that no exhumation is being proposed, only the ground truthing of six potential burial targets. As requested, two community leaders will be present at the test excavations. Jayson Orton has been appointed to undertake the ground-truthing should HWC approve the permit.</p>
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<p>The University, with its history of exclusion and dehumanisation, cannot ignore its painful legacy. It is inseparable from the colonial and apartheid project of dispossessing marginalised communities of land, dignity and cultural continuity. This is not about “random bones beneath the sports field.” It is about our right to mourn, to remember, to pass on traditions, and to enable social cohesion, healing, and reconciliation. The history is well documented; in 1971 the University knowingly purchased the cemetery of the Khoi, San, Coloured and African community to build a sports field for whites only. Despite claims and archival records that the bodies had been removed, multiple studies and findings have since confirmed that human remains are still present beneath the sports field and cemetery. Their rights were trampled in the University’s pursuit of sports culture and its dehumanisation of indigenous and marginalised communities.</p> <p>During the 1980’s your own respected academics among them Dr. Fred Mattheyse and Paul van Heiden objected “vociferously” when bones were unearthed. Also Prof. Ben Page raised concerns. They warned against this desecration, but the University ignored them and disregarded mandatory legal processes. Now, decades later, the University seeks to dictate memorialisation only for the cemetery, while continuing to trample the remains beneath the sports field. Would you allow sport to be played on the graves of your own loved ones, your parents and grandparents?</p> <p>The truth is unambiguous. Stellenbosch University erased us from the landscape, from your archives, and from your centenary publication celebrating Afrikaner nationalism, the cemetery is not mentioned once. You erased the cemetery character and our presence, heritage, traditions, culture and destroyed the pathways to the cemetery and surrounding graves in the name of a superior Afrikaner institution. The university provided a budget for this. Our grandparents and parents could not show our children the places of our presence, the crosses, the sacred burial and mourning practices. This was not always a whites-only space. As a producer of knowledge, what knowledge are you producing now if you refuse to acknowledge and repair the injustices you created and from which you benefitted?</p>	<p>As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date by SU to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage.</p> <p><u>The above mentioned ‘two-part’ approach would ensure that the elderly could visit a Memorial ASAP, remembering and celebrating the lives of those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (hopefully within their lifetime), while simultaneously providing critical information to assist with the future spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.</u></p> <p>Regarding the item of a bursary/ education fund. SU directly invests in the lives of many learners and students, through bursaries offered and administered, recruitment processes as well as its ongoing focus on student throughput success. It should be noted that this support has a particular impact on the lives of learners/students of colour and thus often also on economically deprived/challenged communities and schools. Although SU, like other universities and the various Departments of Education can do more, it is clear that ongoing partnerships and funding already translate to Higher Education participation opportunities for many learners/students within the greater surrounding communities.</p> <p>It is recommended that a bi-annual educational experience is available to students, staff, community members and schools within the vicinity to learn more about the memorialised space. This could be known as the: “The Hardekraaltjie Heritage Walk” or a “A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjie’s Past”. This would ensure that the Hardekraaltjie story is known and lives on in the memories of future students, staff and community members visiting the site.</p> <p>Furthermore, one of the recommendations to be made to HWC is the: <i>“Creation of a digital archive or “museum” by Stellenbosch University for future generations, summarising the extensive research undertaken to date. This information must be available to all.”</i></p>
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<p>You are creating spatial boundaries that segregate the dead, perpetuating apartheid-style divisions. You celebrate sport and “progress” over sacred burial practices. The University reduces memorialisation to a hollow symbolic gesture, rather than a holistic act of healing and redress, to suit its narrow interests and narrative. We cannot accept partial recognition of our ancestors’ humanity. All the bodies—whether buried within the cemetery or beneath the sports field—deserve equal dignity. We appreciate the engagement and what has been achieved thus far. However, in our consultations with the University, and in response to the consultant, we have consistently and strongly objected to sporting activities on the graves of our ancestors: the Khoi, San, mixed-race, Coloured, and African. Both the cemetery and the surrounding sports field, where bodies remain, must be preserved and honoured.</p> <p>The memorial must capture the pain, struggle, and resilience of our people. A desecrated gravesite, an open grave symbolising the bodies removed which is unaccounted for. The story must not be romanticised; it must acknowledge the trauma, erasure and injustice. The struggles of the time must be captured in its informal and minimalist interventions. The central symbol must reflect the dignity of the people, with the engraving of their names. The memorialisation must not be dictated by the University, but shaped by the voices of descendants and the broader community. A Hardekraaltjie Bursary Fund supporting descendants of the communities whose dignity was denied as an act of restitution and a living memorial.</p> <p>This is about memory, redress, and justice. It is about dismantling the arrogance of Stellenbosch University, which once deemed us “less than human” and continues, even now, to treat our ancestors’ resting places as secondary. The University has a choice: to continue erasing, dividing, and traumatising, or to choose healing, acknowledgement, and respect. By restoring dignity to Hardekraaltjie and the surrounding sports field, you do more than honor the dead. You acknowledge the pain of marginalised communities. You create a place of restoration, heritage, memory, learning, and cohesion that can stand as an example of what true transformation looks like.</p> <p>The descendants and community of the loved ones resting at Hardekraaltjie cemetery and the surrounding burial ground, the sports field.</p>	<p>Future events linked to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery will be discussed in detail in the CMP and the newly established committee would provide input. The CMP will include the heading ‘Events’ and will address the management and responsibility aspects surrounding these events. These will take place, annually as a minimum, on the SU Campus sports fields or within the Memorialised space to ensure that the space is utilised and that the participants at the same time are educated and made aware of the existence of the Memorialised Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.</p>
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**I&AP: Chefferino Fortuin – Tiervlei Erfinis Community
(6 October 2025)**

13 Dear Dr's Fish, Van Rooi and committee:

In response to the meeting of the 23rd of September, regarding a) the bodies on the sportsfield, ground truthing testing and inclusion in the memorialisation (no exhumation), b) the positioning of the crosses, the racial classification on the crosses and c) public meeting.

At the focus group meeting held between SU, PHS and representatives of the Tiervlei Erfinis Community (TEC) on the 23 September 2025, it was agreed that the two community leaders would provide feedback to the members of the TEC and would then provide PHS Consulting with additional feedback in this regard. Option 4 and the way forward (including ground-

<p>We have had some difficult discussions with our community. As stated before, our community represents the participants involved in the project as well as some of those who joined during the public participation process. We do not represent any unknown descendants or those who have refused to participate in this process since its inception, nor do we claim to represent other community members outside this group. With regards to the public meeting the majority is happy with the feedback received. However, since there were participants in the process not represented, we can only propose a public meeting for feedback with the consultant.</p> <p>The cemetery and surrounding space, the later sports field where the bodies rest, is a reclamation of space for the community. This space transcends the linear, imposed restrictions that did not exist when our forefathers traversed the area. It is a claim of presence predating Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg Hospital, and Transnet. We believe that all footprints in the landscape through time should be acknowledged and celebrated, including those of the university. The university's claim to rights is the same claim they used to tear our community from our spiritual and community spaces during apartheid. The Hardekraaltjie caravan park became a heritage resource for the white community but not the cemetery of the marginalised and first nations. We are painfully agreeing to the ground- truth testpit investigation to proof what is already known to the university. We do not agree to any exhumation. We do agree on the condition that this is done with the presence of at least two community representers who must be compensated for their time and expenses. Should it be confirmed that our ancestors rest there, the area must be included in the memorialisation. We cannot be forcefully removed and dispossessed again, as happened during the colonial and apartheid periods, this time possibly disguised as a development need.</p> <p>Since our public heritage event for the unveiling of the crosses, we have received various forms of feedback from celebration to criticism. Some asked why we waited so long; others felt that not enough crosses were erected. The crosses were intentional as well as the inscriptions, the labelling of race was not insensitive or ill-intended. Our ancestors were labelled to about 1911 as "European", "Kafir", "Hottentot, later "Malay" and "Fingo". It was only from about 1911 that Bantu, Native and Coloured were introduced. To avoid any controversy, we suggest the university add some</p>	<p>truthing) was discussed at this focus group meeting. The feedback from the TEC is captured in this comment dated 6 October.</p> <p>Please refer to Option 4 under Section 8.2 based on the formal public consultation undertaken (including a public meeting and feedback obtained) as well as focus group meetings undertaken thereafter. After careful consideration it was decided to put forward an Option 4 that entails a 'core' memorialisation area to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) will also be required. A permit is therefore also being required to undertake test excavations on 6 potential grave targets. It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place as part of this option. The outcome of the ground-truthing/test excavations will determine the future of the extended buffer area. Lastly, a Management Committee is in process of being established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.</p> <p>We are in the process of notifying all registered I&APs, of the way forward and our intention to submit to HWC. This notification will be two-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Provide registered stakeholders with feedback and a copy/ link to the updated Heritage Statement/ Heritage application documentation to be submitted to HWC. Link: https://phsconsulting.co.za/public-participation/ B) Invite registered community representatives/ stakeholders to a meeting. The intention of the meeting is to provide further feedback/ clarity, obtain additional
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	<p>context boards. The positioning of the crosses represents, in a spiritual sense, the community's return of presence above the ground in a space that had become sterile and devoid of solemnity, spirituality, or recognition of its historical depth. We cannot agree to the removal or repositioning of the crosses.</p> <p>We urge the university to truly address the historical imbalances and not to only rely on a colonial and afrikaner lens ignoring a decolonialised approach. The university generously supported the publication of the community's oral histories "die begraafplaas in die bos". Our presence cannot be overlooked or reduced in size or claims rooted in legalistic terms that are rooted in colonialism and apartheid urbanisation archaic claims. We are not invisible, the soil remembers. This is a site of dark heritage, a contested space and landscape between preserving white superiority vs honouring Khoi, San, Black African and slave memory, an opportunity for redress. An underutilised decolonialised lens vs a dominant european lens. Dark heritage premise upon the unpalatable, what do we do when the later heritage of the white settler (white sports) is set against the embedded spiritual heritage (the bodies) of the first nations the Khoi, San, Black African and arriving slaves who are jostling for recognition. We recognise as a heritage principle the preservation of white superiority. We reject the repurposing of this superiority into a form of "multiracial" sports development that continues to keep the Khoi, San and slave community and current descendants under foot. We contest this narrative.</p> <p>When the pasts collide with the present, we are not only challenging the Stellenbosch University belief of glossing over their past, refusing actual redress on a public space intended for the public good. We are challenging the University, Tygerberg hospital and Transnet spaces as public institutions where our first nation ancestors rest.</p>	<p>feedback from the community on the aspect of ground-truthing & memorialisation as well as initiating the formulation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee'.</p> <p>Meeting Date: Monday the 10 November at 2pm (Venue: Conference room 1004, Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI), SU Tygerberg Campus, Francie Van Zijl Dr, Tygerberg).</p>
	<p>I&AP: Johannes Bastian – Ravensmead Community Representative (6 November 2025 +)</p>	
14	Please refer to Appendix G4C which includes an email chain from Johannes Bastian and responses from PHS Consulting.	Please refer to Appendix G4C which includes an email chain from Johannes Bastian and responses from PHS Consulting.



MINUTES:
Hardekraaltjie Check-In Meeting
Date: 23 September 2025
Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Present via MS Teams:	
Dr Therese Fish (Chair)	TF
Dr Leslie van Rooi	LBvR
Mr Johannes Bastian	JB
Ms Stacey Blows	SB
Mr Chefferino Fortuin	CF
Mr Paul Slabbert	PS
Ms Jenna Theron	JT
Dr Handri Walters	HW
Apologies:	
Ms Maggie Walters	MW
Secretariat:	
Carol Goss	CG

Discussion	Chair/ Presenter
Opening and Welcome: Dr Leslie van Rooi opened the meeting by welcoming all members.	LBvR
Points of discussion: 1. Meeting was held with the Rector in the past week with regards to the communication received from Mr Fortuin via email on 8 September 2025. Dr Fish requested the thoughts going forward from CF and JB, specifically clarification of the support of the Section 36 application in respect of the cemetery and buffer zone next to the cemetery, however excluding the sports field. 2. Discussion of the white crosses left in the area around the cemetery.	TF
Community Response Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memorialisation of the cemetery and buffer zone is accepted, but the community requires detail on the layout. - The main tension remains the sports field and the continuation of activities on the sports field. The community views the cemetery and the sports field as one integrated project, not two separate matters.	CF & JB

<p>Feedback: Meeting with the Rectorate:</p> <p>Based on the letter received from community, an engagement by TF, LBvR was held with the Rectorate to share the complexities of the matter including whether the process should be halted after receiving the letter from community partners as well as the crosses being placed at the site.</p> <p>Complexities were shared including the possible closure of the sport field and the uncertainty whether there are human remains under the field. The Rectorate was reminded that, should there indeed be human remains, it was agreed by the former Hardekraaltjie Steercom that exhumation should not be considered.</p> <p>The Rectorate were tested whether the sport field may be closed, possibly temporarily, and whether the University would consider excavating those areas of the field to determine if there are human remains. Up until now that has not been an option.</p> <p>Alternative options discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To pause or stop the heritage process - Not to have a full-size rugby/soccer field on the campus, however as per previous conversations, there is no other space that can accommodate a full-size field on campus <p>It was agreed during the meeting with the Rectorate that a conversation would be held with the community representatives to determine the expectation; why the crosses have been erected, and if it should be on site and what it means in terms of the process, based on this discussion a further recommendation will be made.</p>	LBvR
<p>Discussion on Crosses:</p> <p>Crosses were placed by community members during Heritage Month to symbolise community presence and racial diversity of those buried. The existing board was not sufficiently visible due to the grass being long.</p> <p>At the time of the visit, there was construction materials in the buffer zone. This was cleared; Crosses may have been relocated during this clearance but remain onsite. TF apologised for security staff interrupting the ceremony, noting no communication to institution in this regard and lack of prior notification of the intention.</p> <p>TF and LBvR Highlighted the sensitivity around inscriptions on the crosses. Context is understood internally by the members of this meeting, but raises questions externally with students and staff. Suggested prior consultation could have avoided misunderstandings.</p>	CF TF LBvR
<p>Sport Field Concerns & Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified previous proposal: continuation of sport was based on further studies questioning scan reliability. • Emphasis on a visible, centralised memorialisation of the cemetery and the section next to it. • Recognised community sentiment against sports on the field. 	PS

<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with memorialisation of the cemetery and the section next to it 2. Temporarily suspend sports activities. 3. Apply for a section 36 permit to conduct ground-truthing (non-invasive excavation to confirm presence of remains). 4. If remains are found, the Conservation Management Committee will address next steps (e.g., possible exhumation, permanent closure of field or alternatives). 5. A community representative may be present during ground-truthing process which would be done by a professional team of archaeologists. <p>Summary (PS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit one section 36 application covering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorialisation of the cemetery and the section next to it 2. Ground-truthing exercise, with archaeologist's work plan to be approved. 3. Development of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). • CMP requires public consultation and creation of a new committee (University, students, communities, consultants). • Engagement session had been planned with the community planned for October 2025. • Final memorial design to be placed in the centre of the cemetery still under discussion. 	
<p>Community Inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will communicate the ground-truthing exercise and temporary suspension of sports to the community by 30 September 2025. • Confirmed feedback to be based on PS's summary. • Requested alternative archaeologists (not Litha Webley) for ground-truthing. • Community requested suspension of sports during investigation. • If no human remains are found, sports would continue. 	CF & JB
<p>University Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback to Rectorate, reflecting "in principle" community support. • Chefferino and Johannes to formally confirm the proposal once feedback has been received from the community within 10 days. • Formal communication to follow Rectorate meeting in response to CF's letter. • LBvR to facilitate next Rectorate engagement. 	TF & LBvR

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crosses: Suggest relocation to cemetery area or conceptual integration; CF & JB to confirm preference in 10 days. 	
Crosses – Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will communicate repositioning of crosses within 10 days. Requested University assistance with a contextual information board if crosses were to remain. Requested community presence during the ground-truthing process. 	CF
3. Next meeting TBC	

AGENDA

Meeting of the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee

Wednesday 20 August 2025 | 16:30 to 18:00

Teams Meeting [Join the meeting now](#)

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| 1. Opening and welcoming | Chair |
| 2. Apologies | Chair |
| 3. Adoption of the agenda | Chair |
| 4. Rationale for our ad hoc meeting(s) | Chair |
| 5. Overview of our process and suggested way forward | Paul Slabbert |
| 6. List of Hardekraaltjie burials | Chair |
| 7. SU recruitment and bursary data | Leslie van Rooi |
| 8. Plotting the way forward | Chair |

AGENDA

Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, 04 April 2025 | 09h00 to 10h00

Teams Meeting / Committee Room 3 – Tygerberg Campus

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|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Opening and welcoming | Chair |
| 2. Apologies | Chair |
| 3. Adoption of the agenda | Chair |
| 4. Feedback from PHS Consulting | Paul |
| 5. Discussion | All |
| 6. Close | |

jt@phsconsulting.co.za

From: Paul Slabbert <paul@phsconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2025 09:40
To: 'johannes bastian'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON TRANSPARENT PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (HMMC)

Morning Johannes

The e-mail chain below refers.

Thank you for attending yesterday's open public meeting as representative of the Ravensmead/Tiervlei community and the transparent manner in which we could exchange dialogue and the mutual respect shown.

The PHS team had the opportunity to publicly respond to your objections below, whereby it was clarified how the venue was selected including the notification timeframe. The venue selection proven to be fruitful considering we had an opportunity to walk with you after the meeting, directly to the cemetery to show interested I&AP's the site. In particular members from the Khoi interest group benefitted who haven't visited the site before. They were truly grateful for the opportunity and what the future holds for their culture in relation to the proposed memorial site. We explained to you that as practitioners we strive to maintain a balance between all I&AP needs and considering the widely diverse I&AP group all meetings cannot be held at the Ravensmead library. Yesterday we recorded I&AP's who benefited from the selected venue. The Ravensmead/Tiervlei community have been engaged with for many years and we have held the 1st public meeting there. Fortunately they have you and Chefferino including other attendees from Ravensmead to provide feedback after yesterday.

I also believe we have clarified the procedural fairness and transparency of the establishment of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC). It was made clear in our presentations and during the open public discussion that it will be a democratic process, and that all identified groupings will have representation. The HMMC is needed in order for transparent decisions regarding the Part 2 ground-truthing, design detail in Part 1, the content of the Conservation Management Plan etc. In conclusion yesterday it was clear that you were satisfied how the HMMC will be formed and what its role will be and that yesterday was merely the first step in the formation.

Yesterday we clarified the PPP followed to date and that there was a pre-application PPP from 2020 to 2023, then the in-application PPP (2024 to date) where we initially widely advertised (well published as you say) in order to get I&AP's registered. This resulted in seventy I&AP's being formally on record. As a PPP norm further consultation is directly with interest groups and the registered I&AP's who were all invited to yesterdays, 2nd public meeting. Since your 7 March 2025 e-mail (mentioned below) to PHS we held three meetings (4 April, 20 August & 23 September) with you and Chefferino to clarify progress and the a way forward that was fed back to the Ravensmead/Tiervlei community, that resulted in feedback on 6 October 2025 regarding the proposal. Soon after we notified all I&AP's of the, 2nd public meeting held yesterday. Unfortunately, not all of your community could attend as per your protest, but as explained we selected the venue with good reason, and we noted that your community was well represented yesterday in order to provide feedback to those who could not attend.

Johannes can you pls for the record confirm your current sentiment regarding the Option 4: Part 1 & Part 2 proposal to be submitted to HWC for consideration. Your remarks below unfortunately depicts a different sentiment compared to the way we departed after our meeting and site visit yesterday. HWC would most certainly take note about the content below, which could affect decision making on the 3rd of December 2025. If you could respond to this e-mail it will surely clarify matters and assist with positive progress.

Groete
Paul Slabbert
0827408046

From: johannes bastian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2025 10:38
To: paul@phsconsulting.co.za
Co: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON TRANSPARENT PROCESS
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (HMMC)

[REDACTED]
_Hardekraaltjie meeting at Library October 2024.mp4

[REDACTED]
_DON'T PLAY ON THE BONES OF OUR ANCESTORS - September 2025.mp4

Heritage Western Cape

Att: CEO / Director: Built environment and Heritage Resources

FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON TRANSPARENT PROCESS
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (HMMC)

Dear Director,

Thank you very much for your time and for your earlier commitment to revert this week, knowing how busy your schedule is. I would like to bring to your urgent attention that the meeting regarding the establishment of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) is scheduled for today at 14:00.

It is important to note that the process leading to this meeting has been unfair and non-transparent, and the community has serious concerns about how this committee will be constituted.

For context, i have included a short video clip from the public meeting held at the Ravensmead Library etc, a meeting that was very well advertised by PHS Consulting in the following public notice (excerpted for reference):

> OPENBARE KENNISGEWING

> AANSOEK IN TERME VAN DIE WET OP NASIONALE ERFENISHULPBRONNE, 1999, WET 25 VAN 1999 ("WNEH"): GEDENKING VAN DIE HARDEKRAALTJIE-BEGRAAFPLAAS.

> 'n Aansoek is gedoen deur die Universiteit van Stellenbosch om die Hardekraaltjie-begraafplaas op Erf 15349, Erf 18228 en Erf 24602, Parow, te gedenk ingevolge Artikel 36 van die WNEH.

> Die Universiteit van Stellenbosch het die verantwoordelikheid aanvaar om 'n herstelproses te bestuur om 'n gedeelte van die Tygerbergkampusgebied te gedenk, ter nagedagtenis aan diegene wat by die Hardekraaltjie-begraafplaas begrawe is.

> 'n Openbare vergadering is gehou op Saterdag 26 Oktober 2024 om 10:30 in die Ravensmead-openbare biblioteek. Enige persoon wat beswaar wou maak of kommentaar wou lewer, moes dit skriftelik doen op of voor Vrydag 15 November 2024.

Following that well-publicised meeting, there has been no communication or public feedback regarding the outcomes, decisions, or progress of the memorialisation process.

In my email of 7 March 2025, I formally requested an update from PHS Consulting, as nearly six months had passed since the October 2024 meeting without any progress shared with the community. The message read as follows:

(Good Day, PHS Consulting,

Today marks almost six months since the public meeting held at the Ravensmead Library regarding the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. Since October 2024, we have not received any updates on the status of this important project.

We kindly request an update regarding the progress and current status of the memorialisation. The reference for this matter is Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, HWC ref no. HWC24091815.

Your feedback would be greatly appreciated, as the community remains eager to hear about the next steps.

Looking forward to your response.

Kind Regards

Johannes Bastian

Ravensmead Community Representative)

Given these circumstances, we respectfully appeal to Heritage Western Cape to urgently review and intervene in the procedural and transparency issues surrounding the establishment of the HMMC, to ensure that the process reflects fairness, inclusivity, and genuine community participation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

God Bless

Johannes Bastian

Ravensmead Community Representative

On Fri, Nov 7, 2025 at 7:53 AM Paul Slabbert <paul@phsconsulting.co.za> wrote:

Morning Stephanie

I hereby attach background to the mail chain below.

Kind Regard

Paul Slabbert

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephanie Barnardt

Sent: Friday, 07 November 2025 07:27

To: johannes bastian

Subject: RE: FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON

TRANSPARENT PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (HMMC)

Good day Johannes

Thank you for informing HWC, HWC will investigate the matter and be in contact with you.

I will need to investigate the matter carefully as this is important and very sensitive heritage resource in question.

I will be in contact with you early next week.

Kind regards,

Important notices:

SAHRIS NID FEES INCREASE 1 JULY 2025

HWC FEE INCREASE 1 JULY 2025

HWC SAHRIS Migration: May 2025

NHRA Section 34 Exemption CoCT_April 2025

Unauthorized work: S51 letters

2025 Calendar

Application forms 2024: Applications Link

Notice

Stephanie-Anne Barnardt-Delport
Specialist Heritage Officer (Archaeologist)(Professional ASAPA Member: 745)
Heritage Western CapeTel: (+27) 021 829 3315

Heritage Resource Management Services
Protea Assurance Building Greenmarket Square, Cape Town

Website: www.hwc.org.za / www.westerncape.gov.za

-----Original Message-----

From: johannes bastian [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 7:20 AM

To: Stephanie Barnardt [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON
TRANSPARENT PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE (HMMC)

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] learn why this
is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Heritage Western Cape

Att: CEO / Director: Built environment and Heritage Resources

FORMAL APPEAL AGAINST UNFAIR PROCEDURAL PROCESSES AND NON TRANSPARENT
PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(HMMC)

Dear Director,

We write as the Ravensmead & Tiervlei Erfenis Community to express our
concern regarding the procedural fairness and transparency of the
establishment of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC),
currently facilitated by PHS Consulting and the University of Stellenbosch.

The notice period provided - merely twelve days (12) days falls short of the
standard outlined in the HWC Public Consultation Guidelines (June 2019),
which emphasise adequate notice, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and
accessibility for affected communities.

Moreover, the venue selected, on the premises of Stellenbosch University is
geographically and symbolically distant from the affected community who are
a poor (Unemployed) and high crime area, directly undermining accessibility
for residents, elders, families who lack transportation or means to attend.
Prior engagements were held at the Ravensmead Library, very easily
accessible to the elders and families. This abrupt change, without
justification, contravenes the principles of inclusivity and participatory
Heritage management.

We therefore request that HWC:

1. Intervene immediately to ensure compliance with consultation guidelines.
2. Suspend or postpone the current meeting until a fair, community process
is restored.

Because Heritage is not merely about preservation; it is about justice and

giving voice to those silenced by history and ensuring that their descendants are heard today.

We trust in HWC's integrity to uphold its mandate and prevent a process that risks alienating the very communities whose heritage it seeks to honour.

GOD BLESS

Johannes Bastian

Ravensmead Community Representative

"All views or opinions expressed in this electronic message and its attachments are the view of the sender and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Western Cape Government (the WCG). No employee of the WCG is entitled to conclude a binding contract on behalf of the WCG unless he/she is an accounting officer of the WCG, or his or her authorised representative.

The information contained in this message and its attachments may be confidential or privileged and is for the use of the named recipient only, except where the sender specifically states otherwise.

If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone."

From: Paul Slabbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 06 November 2025 16:47
To: 'johannes bastian' [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: HERITAGE NOTICE: MEMORIALISATION OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY

Afternoon Johannes

Thanks for your e-mail.

I understand that Chefferino and yourselves are representatives of the Ravensmead Community and the Tiervlei Erfenis Community. You have been part of the process since the establishment of the Steering Committee post-2020, engagement sessions between the Ravensmead Community and SU, the formal public consultation process, the public meeting held and focused group meetings to date. Hereby some background to address your request for postponement and proper consultation.

After a focus group meeting held on 23 September 2025, Chefferino and yourself agreed to go back to the community you represent with the proposed two-part approach. Part One: Memorialisation approval of the core area as soon as possible that includes the formation of a new committee. Part two: to do further investigation (ground-truthing) in the buffer area. We received feedback on 6 October 2025 which stated "We do not represent any unknown descendants or those who have refused to participate in this process since its inception, nor do we claim to represent other community members outside this group. With regards to the public meeting the majority is happy with the feedback received. However, since there were participants in the process not represented, we can only propose a public meeting for feedback with the consultant." It was further stated that "We are painfully agreeing to the ground- truth test pit investigation to proof what is already known to the university. We do not agree to any exhumation. We do agree on the condition that this is done with the presence of at least two community representers who must be compensated for their time and expenses. Should it be confirmed that our ancestors rest there, the area must be included in the memorialisation."

Your request for postponement is based on the following points:

- Sudden short notice, less than two weeks and not in line with HWC guidelines;
- Inaccessible venue away from the affected community;
- Community feeling excluded;
- PHS consulting commitments regarding consultation not honoured; and
- HMMC lack of terms of reference communicated prior to meeting.

Hereby our responses:

- I would like to draw your attention to our first public meeting that was held in the Ravensmead Public Library on 26 October 2024, the identified I&APs received notice on the 15 October 2024, 12 days prior to the meeting. As a start we recorded no objection to the 12-day notice period, neither did you oppose various short notices for meetings in which you have represented the Ravensmead community. With reference to the Public Consultation Guidelines (June 2019), I assume you refer to the guideline available on the HWC website, there is no stipulation of the amount of days' notice required leading up to a public meeting. In this case the notice of the meeting on 10 November at 2pm went out on 27 October at 10h38, this is 14 day's notice, not less, as stated. Generally, in any process a two weeks' notice period is regarded as sufficient, we haven't had any other complaints regarding the notice period.

- The research conducted to date indicated that the cemetery was used for various cultural groups wider than the original Tiervlei/Ravensmead area and therefore the feedback statement of 6 Oct quoted above that you don't represent everyone. Not all Interested and Affected Parties reside in Ravensmead. The meeting venue is adjacent to

the Ravensmead neighbourhood and a mere 2.5km from the Ravensmead Library. The Hardekraaljie cemetery is on the Tygerberg campus and within walking distance from the venue selected for the meeting. We thought it prudent that some invitees would find it helpful to visit the actual site before or after the meeting to familiarise and contextualise themselves with the site. Meeting at the site of interest will become the norm considering the future committee (HMMC) will be dealing with practical on-site aspects. The university venue is central with easy access to all with ample parking (we could not find parking at the Ravensmead library previously) and it has the required facilities to accommodate a wider audience.

- Based on the history of consultation to date and the above quoted section we believe that yourself and those you represent are well informed considering your long involvement in this case and the most recent information exchanges with direct feedback from the community on 6 October 2025. The community you represent are the most well represented group to date who have been extensively consulted with.

- PHS Consulting has been and continues to be transparent to date, we consulted by advertising wide and distributing the project over a large geographical area, we held a public meeting and focus group meetings with yourselves as representatives on many occasions, you have been part of the way forward since day one. Considering the time it has taken to date, we have definitely not just tried to do the basics, we have gone above and beyond trying to find amenable solutions between the communities and the Applicant.

- With reference to "a lack of terms of reference for HMMC", we can confirm that the intent of the meeting is exactly that, to communicate and discuss the formation of a HMMC and the terms of reference to be considered. We invited all registered I&APs, Heritage Conservation Bodies, Organs of State, Neighbours, etc. therefore a wide as possible audience to ensure a wide representation. The process going forward, the purpose and future membership structure will be discussed at the meeting.

The meeting will continue to be held on 10 November at 2pm at the Tygerberg Campus considering that almost 70 people, identified during our process, were invited. Out of respect for other groups who diarised this and all the arrangements made we urge you to please participate as representative of the community. Each and every member of the community does not have to be present, representatives like yourself will suffice and will be able to provide input like you've done to date.

You are welcome to give me a call.

Kind Regards
Paul Slabbert
0827408046

-----Original Message-----

From: johannes bastian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 06 November 2025 11:15
To: jt@phsconsulting.co.za

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: HERITAGE NOTICE: MEMORIALISATION OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY

Request for Postponement and Proper Consultation – Excavations/ Ground-Truthing of 6 potential graves,
Establishment of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC)

Dear PHS Consulting

I write to you on behalf of the Ravensmead Community and also part of the Tiervlei Erfenis Community, with respect and concern, respect for agreeing to temporarily stop playing sports for further research & test excavations of 6 identified potential grave targets. As you know the Hardekraaltjie cemetery, situated in the heart of our heritage landscape, is not simply a piece of land; it is sacred ground.

Families from Tiervlei and Ravensmead have fought to protect this space and now the sudden notice and manner in which the meeting for the establishing of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) was announced. While we appreciate your continued involvement in heritage matters, the very short notice, lack of consultation and selection of an inaccessible venue: have left the affected community feeling disregarded and excluded from a process that directly concerns our ancestral history and dignity.

We were notified of this meeting less than two weeks before the proposed date. As per your own Public Consultation Guidelines (June 2019), heritage-related meetings must allow reasonable time for public participation, typically no less than 30 working days where elections or nominations are involved. Reducing this to merely Fourteen (14) days is not just impractical; it is inconsistent with both the principle of fairness and transparent consultation.

Additionally, you choose a venue within the University of Stellenbosch premises that lies outside of the affected community, which is a poor and high crime area, directly undermines accessibility for residents, elders, families who lack transportation or the means to attend. The Hardekraaltjie cemeteries and surrounding heritage are deeply rooted in Ravensmead and Tiervlei community; thus, all community consultations should take place within the community itself, such as the Ravensmead Library where past meetings were successfully hosted. Not behind institutional walls, the memory of the Hardekraaltjie belongs to the descendants of those buried there and not to the students or academic administration.

This deviation from prior commitments, including assurances by PHS Consulting that future consultations would occur locally and with adequate notice has eroded trust. Our community was neither given the opportunity to review proposed terms of reference for the HMMC, nor to discuss representation or stakeholder inclusion.

Questions now arise that deserve clear answers:

1. Who will represent the Ravensmead & Tiervlei communities on the HMMC?
2. How will fair and inclusive representation be ensured?
3. Were all potential stakeholders properly informed, including elders, faith leaders, cultural custodians, political parties, and local organisations?
4. Why was the process expedited without full disclosure?

As community representatives, we are not opposed to collaboration; we are merely asking for due process, transparency, and respect.

Therefore, we formally request the postponement of the current meeting, and the a new schedule be issued with:

1. At least 30 days' notice in compliance with public consultation standards.
2. A venue within Ravensmead/Tiervlei, accessible to the affected residents.
3. A clear agenda outlining the structure, purpose, and membership process for the HMMC.

The Hardekraaltjie site carries centuries of cultural and spiritual weight. It is a resting place of our ancestors, a living testimony of displacement, resilience, and identity. Any process relating to its memorialisation must honour not only the law but also the dignity of those whose stories rest in that soil.

We trust that PHS Consulting will act with integrity and fairness; we know you are not employed by the community but by the University of Stellenbosch, but still trust you ensuring that heritage management remains a shared journey not a procedural formality.

God Bless

Johannes Bastian

Ravensmead Community Representative

On Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 10:38 AM <jt@phsconsulting.co.za> wrote:

>

> MEMORIALISATION OF THE HARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY

>

>

>

> HWC REF NO. HWC24091815

>

>

>

> An application is being made by Stellenbosch University (SU), in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, (Act 25 of 1999), to: 1) Memorialise the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349 & Erf 18228) and 2) Ground-truthing of 6 potential grave targets (Erf 24602) (Parow, City of Cape Town Municipality).

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> Please see the attached notice.

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> GEDENKWAARDIGHEIDSVERKLARING VAN DIE HARDEKRAALTJIE-BEGRAAFPLAAS

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> HWC REF NO. HWC24091815

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>

> 'n Aansoek word deur die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) ingedien ingevolge artikel 36 van die Wet op Nasionale Erfenishulpbronne (Wet 25 van 1999), vir die volgende: 1) Gedenkwaardigheidsverklaring van die Hardekraaltjie-begraafplaas (erf 15349 en erf 18228) en 2) grondwaarheidsbevestiging van 6 potensiele grafteikens (erf 24602) (Parow, Stad Kaapstad Munisipaliteit).

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> Sien asseblief die aangehegte kennisgewing.

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> Kind Regards,

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> Jenna Theron

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> Environmental Consultant

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> BA, MPhil

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> Associate member APHP, Member IAIAAsa

>
> Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Number 2022/5926
> (EAPASA)
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>
>
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