

PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE KING SABATA DALINDYEBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (KSDLM), COFFEE BAY, EASTERN CAPE

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT PERIOD NO. 01 (16 November 2021 – 7 January 2022)

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Name	Organisation
David Malherbe	Interested and Affected Party
Margo Reilly	Interested and Affected Party
Godfrey Mchithakali	DFFE - Oceans and Coast Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring
Aletta Honiball	Interested and Affected Party
Jeff Brown	Interested and Affected Party
Alex Brett	Ocean View Hotel
Mandy Williams	Interested and Affected Party
Oscar Willemse	Pet Animal Safeline

Name and Date	Comment	Response
<p>Date: 17.11.2021 E Mail : D Malherbe</p>	<p>I hope that you are both well. Thanks for the updated report on the development in Coffee Bay. A few comments are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="454 304 1328 807">1. How are people going to access Coffee Bay beach? I am surprised this is not shown being the primary reason people are coming down to Coffee Bay. I personally think that there need to be at least 3 or 4 access routes through the dune forest, which should be fenced off with a low fence, to discourage/stop wandering into the dune forest. If there is not enough easy access, then people are just going to take a short cut, and walk through the dune forest, which is destructive, particularly with the numbers of people involved. I would also suggest, not raising the decking, but laying the planks (Plastic wood) directly on the sand, chained together. I am sure you have seen this method, used effectively in Cape Town and Europe, to cross dunes. The volumes of people that will be using the walkways to the beach is going to be very high, particularly in season and frequently many people at the same time. Raised deck are prone to breaking and there is no one here to repair or maintain it. If the decking is laid directly on the sand, it is virtually unbreakable. <li data-bbox="454 1038 1328 1094">2. What is the path leading off the bottom of the picnic area leading into the dune in Coffee Bay? <li data-bbox="454 1166 1328 1222">3. What is the clearvue securing the picnic area from, this seems a little extreme? And is it not prone to corrosion, which is a big problem here? <li data-bbox="454 1326 1328 1447">4. The plan seems to indicate Men's and ladies ablutions facilities are shared, sorry if I have misread the plan? There need do need to be separate men's and ladies ablution facilities, for safety, privacy and human decency. The current ablution plan seems to have a lot wasted 	<p>Thank you for your comments, please refer to our responses hereunder:</p> <p>The motivation for the proposed development at Coffee Bay is to promote beach and coastal access, whilst also considering the present environmental conditions. The dune and coastal environment at Coffee Bay is highly transgressive and the specialist has recommended that no formal infrastructure be positioned within these areas. The development will include three dedicated walkways, situated within the stable, disturbed portions along the dune, with walkways linking each viewing deck. Due to the transgressive nature of the area, it has been advised that any structures situated seaward of the viewing decks will be susceptible to high levels of erosion and degradation and therefore not feasible and sustainable. Due to the transgressive/ unstable nature of the dunes, the viewing decks will need to be established on concrete blocks to provide additional reinforcement. If available funds are made available by the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality (KSDLM), a fence may be erected to further protect informal access across the dune environment.</p> <p>Certain portions of the walkways will include handrails to further prevent beach goers from disturbing the surrounding dune vegetation. To address the issue regarding maintenance and repairs of infrastructure, poly-timber is being proposed as the main material for the development (as its characterised by its by its strength and non-corrosive properties).</p> <p>The path you are referring to is the existing, broken wooden staircase which is currently being used to access the beach. This will be replaced with a new poly-timber staircase.</p> <p>The purpose of the ClearVu fencing is to: 1) control access to the new facilities 2) promote the safety and security of children at the dedicated playground/ picnic areas and 3) demarcate the area and create a hospitable environment.</p> <p>The revised plans now include separate ablution facilities for men and women, each fitted with its own underground conservancy tank and above ground water storage.</p>

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Date: 18.11.2021 E Mail: M Reilly	<p>On further study of your communication I note that future plans for Hole in the Wall and Coffee bay areas are available for inspection at both above destinations.</p> <p>Please explain, are these the suggested plans which have not as yet been approved/sanctioned by a government department! This decision will then be made after all comments/suggestions by interested parties are taken into consideration?</p> <p>Who might the competent authority be to whom the plans/comments/suggestions are forwarded to</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Please note that the draft layout plans have been submitted to KSDLM for approval. Acer (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) was appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment and Water Use Licence application for the proposed developments and KSDLM will be responsible for the planning/implementation of the project.</p> <p>Any comments related to the contents of the Basic Assessments may be forwarded to ACER, any further comments regarding the layouts/proposals for future development may be forwarded to KSDLM for consideration.</p>
Date: 22.11.2021 E Mail Godfrey Mkhululi Mchithakali – DFFE O & C Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring	<p>Please include the following person on your database:</p> <p>Mrs Thandeka Mbambo XXXXXXXXXX</p> <p>She works for the section that does commenting in Department. I am from the Enforcement directorate Oceans & Coast and we don't do commenting on behalf of the Department as part of our job.</p>	<p>Thank you for your mail received , we will add her to the database.</p>
Date: 04.01.2022: E Mail: Aletta Honiball – I & AP	<p>Firstly, consider the dilapidated sanitation area, that were built below the sea level should be demolish, as it cannot be used and take up unnecessary space, in a proposed conserved area. The dune, wetland, Nenga estuary and ocean are part of nature conservation as it consists of mainly Milkwood trees which are protected under law.</p> <p>Secondly, the dune and forest need rehabilitation and protective measures to abstain from human pressure on it. Consistent damage of the already fragile ecosystem is ongoing and certain measures are needed to control and manage crowds before total collapsing of the sand dune forest ecosystem. This may lead to the detriment of the town if the dune collapse and flooding from the ocean. Only a sturdy fence around the forest adjacent to the road and as far as possible can help to protect the sand dune forest and Milkwood trees, and should please be considered seriously.</p>	<p>The proposed development at Coffee Bay will involve the decommissioning and relocation of the existing ablution facility. The purpose of the dedicated walkways will be to redirect pedestrian traffic away from the sensitive coastal vegetation.</p> <p>The beach and coastal specialist agreed that the beach at Coffee Bay is in a state of erosion and all attempts must be made to stabilise the current conditions. The placement of the viewing decks and walkways have been chosen to reinforce the existing dune conditions and with restricted, controlled access, it is envisaged that the levels of disturbance will decrease.</p>

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	<p>choose a large enough and environmentally viable area for sanitation with controlled facilities and managers to facilitate thousands of people coming to visit our town at once, during peak times on Christmas and New Year's day. We happily would love to facilitate all people, however not to the detriment of businesses, oceans, and structural support of dunes and our pristine environment.</p> <p>The eight point we would like to you to consider is public transport such as taxi drivers, day visitors, and occupants of Coffee bay village are in desperate need for recycling and rubbish collecting services. Please facilitate us with the necessary facilities and bill boards to educate all people, the youth and holiday goers to safely dispose of rubbish without impairing our precious wetland ecosystem and estuary: in turn our ocean. (Which is the main reason people visit our village.) Pollutants kill of organisms who once thrived in their original clean and safe environment, but since everyone uses a lot more packaging, people do not realise that litter does not disappear by itself, and remains in the ground and systems forever more. Most importantly, abstaining from glass on beaches for a family friendly environment.</p> <p>The last point is relevant to sustain ecotourism and health and safety, is to supply the town with safe drinking water, as the water crisis's we experience is not only during peak times but also at stages right through the year. Being a secluded town, it is extremely difficult to accommodate guests and is massively expensive and almost impossible for small business in the town to be successful not even to speak of normal households. It will be such an advancement if people can be made aware of how precious clean drinking water is, and have it supplied to Coffee bay without interruptions.</p>	<p>floodline levels and also out of the estuarine functional zone. The facility will also be positioned at least 3 m away from the heel of the dune and will now include additional conservancy tanks for the collection of organic waste. The municipality has been requested to ensure that there is enough funds available for the routine cleaning and maintenance of these facilities.</p> <p>During the construction phase of the development, the appointed ECO for the project will be responsible for conducting environmental awareness training. The contents of the training should include the protection of the environment and the importance of recycling. The ECO will be requested to make these training manuals available to the public for future training programmes within the area.</p> <p>As part of the proposed development, the new ablution facilities will be fitted with above ground water storage tanks (Jojo tanks). These tanks will harvest rainwater for the operational use of the ablution facilities. The municipality has been requested to ensure that water is always available to operate these facilities and the importance of sanitation has further been reiterated.</p> <p>The municipality is aware of the ongoing water problems within the town and have indicated that they are trying their best to resolve the issues.</p>
<p>Date: 26.11.2021: PPP meeting: Alex Brett, Jeff Brown, Mandy Williams & Oscar Willemse – I & AP</p>	<p>A public participation meeting was held on 26 November 2021, I&APs raised the following concerns:</p> <p>Position of the new ablution facilities (near the heel of the dune) – the position of the new ablution facility seems to be encroaching on a portion of the dune environment. The project team is requested to address this concern.</p>	<p>A site meeting was undertaken by the project team on 27 January 2022 to address the concern about the placement of the new ablution facilities in relation to the adjacent dunes. The appointed specialists confirmed that the position was too close to the heel of the dune and these facilities have now been repositioned closer to the road. The revised layout was therefore amended to remove some of the additional parking bays, to ensure that there is a buffer (3 m) between the heel of</p>

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	<p>Storm water management within the floodline – the stormwater management at the existing ablution site was noted. I&APs requested that the project team advise how they plan to mitigate this issue and prevent further flooding in the area.</p> <p>I&APs suggested that the existing artificial wetland be infilled to create additional space for development.</p> <p>In an attempt to prevent further flooding within the area, I&APs suggested that the banks of the Nenga estuary be reinforced to cater for increased flood levels.</p> <p>I&APs expressed their concern on the availability of parking within the area and requested that the project team address the issue.</p> <p>The I&APs raised their concern on the importance of maintaining the condition of the dune environment and requested that the destruction or disturbance of vegetation be kept to a minimum.</p>	<p>the dune and the ablution facilities.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 27 January 2022, the design engineer confirmed that the area within the floodline would be infilled and shaped to accommodate the increased surface runoff. The stabilisation of the existing area would be sufficient in addressing any flooding and stormwater concerns.</p> <p>During the site meeting held on 27 January 2022, the specialists advised that the artificial wetland currently provides water to the surrounding dune habitats. Further, it was suggested by the Eastern Cape DEDEAT that the artificial wetland be demarcated and maintained as a sensitive area. Therefore, the proposed development at Coffee Bay will include the stabilisation and demarcation of the artificial wetland.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 27 January 2022 and as advised by the specialists, the characteristics of the estuary should not be altered and the existing conditioned should be maintained. Alternatively, in order to address the flooding and stormwater concerns within the current site, the area will be infilled and shaped to accommodate natural dissipation into the receiving environment and the Nenga estuary.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 27 January 2022, the project team discussed the issues concerning the availability of parking associated with the proposed development. It was highlighted that the proposed development at Coffee Bay is aimed at addressing and promoting coastal access. Currently, the area does not cater for the increased traffic volumes, but the proposed development aims to regulate some traffic (given the available space) through the provision of a dedicated parking area and additional parking bays. The Eastern Cape DEDEAT has advised that the regulation and management of traffic volumes is an operational concern and should be the responsibility of the KSDLM.</p> <p>The proposed development does not intend to remove or damage any existing vegetation. The dedicated walkways will be integrated within the existing dune environment and only minor pruning is expected to take place. The destruction of coastal/ dune vegetation will be monitored by the KSDLM during the construction and operation phase of the</p>

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		development.