



Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Ministerie van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning
I-Ofisi yoMphathiswa weMicimbi yeNdalo esiNgqongileyo noCwangciso loPhuhliso

3/8/2/3/1-129/04/2052/03

18 August 2004

REGISTERED MAIL

The City Manager
City of Cape Town: South Peninsula Administration
Directorate: Transport, Roads and Stormwater
Private Bag X5
PLUMSTEAD
7801



FOR ATTENTION: Mr. H. Gold

2004/09/07

Fax: (021) 710 8374

Dear Sir,

APPEAL AGAINST THE AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF HOU MOED AVENUE BETWEEN KOMMETJIE MAIN ROAD AND NOORDHOEK MAIN ROAD, CAPE TOWN.

The appeals received against the authorisation granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on 25 August 2003, for the proposed construction of Hou Moed Avenue between Kommetjie Main Road and Noordhoek Main Road, Cape Town, refer.

After considering all relevant facts and supportive documents, I wish to advise that, in terms of section 35(4) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), I have decided to uphold the appeal against the above authorisation for the following reasons:

- The appellant's objection related to the process of public participation, need and desirability, adequacy of information, cumulative impact, socio-economic impact has merit.
- Alternatives that would allow for the integration and access to wetlands by surrounding communities should be considered.

The above authorisation dated 25 August 2003 has therefore been set aside.

Kind regards


TASNEEM ESSOP
PROVINCIAL MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Copy to: (1) L. De Villiers (De Villiers Brownlie Associates)

Fax: (021) 674 4263

Halting of road plan along Noordhoek wetland hailed as 'eir

MELANIE GOSLING
Environment Writer

THE provincial authorities have halted plans to build a road along the wetland between Noordhoek and Kommetjie after residents and environmentalists lodged an appeal.

The move has been hailed as "a victory" for the environment. James Large, whose property was one of three that would have been expropriated to make way for the road, expressed his relief

yesterday. "I've lived here for 26 years and this road plan has been messing me around for the last 15.

"It would have gone through the middle of the house of one of my neighbours. The top end of my property goes into the wetland and that's where the road would have been," Large said.

The road, an extension of Houmoed Avenue, which runs behind Sun Valley shopping centre, would have linked Noordhoek Main Road with

Kommetjie Main Road. It was approved by the City of Cape Town and the provincial authorities later backed the environmental impact assessment report on the road.

In August last year several environmental organisations and residents' groups lodged appeals against the decision with the Western Cape's department of environment affairs and development planning.

Now Tashneem Essop, MEC for environment affairs and

development planning, has written to the appellants to say she had upheld their appeal.

Essop set aside the authorisation of the road in terms of Section 35 of the Environmental Conservation Act.

She said in her letter that the objections that had been raised had merit. These included the socio-economic impact of the road and the cumulative effect on the environment.

Large said yesterday the road had been planned to try to

reduce traffic congestion.

"But it wouldn't have worked anyway, because you would still get a bottleneck where it came out on Noordhoek and Kommetjie main roads.

"If they want to reduce congestion they need to widen Kommetjie Road," Large said.

Glenn Ashton of the Noordhoek Environmental Action Group said yesterday the wetland was already suffering from surrounding urbanisation. It is owned by the city and adjacent

Essop hopes people of Masiphumelele may be given a stake in environment

CJ 2004-09-09

MELANIE GOSLING
Environment Writer

MASIPHUMELELE residents could become part of a plan to make the Kommetjie-Noordhoek wetlands a gateway to the Table Mountain National Park.

Environment and Planning MEC Tashneem Essop said this was one of the reasons for her decision to uphold an appeal against the proposed Houmoed Road, which would have flanked one of the wetlands.

"The negative environmental impacts... were very clear. But what was critical in my decision-making was the (need not to cut) off Masiphumelele from the wetlands.

"SA National Parks... intend setting up one of the gateways to the Table Mountain National Park at the

wetlands. I'd like to see this linked to job opportunities and tourism spin-offs for Masiphumelele."

She would like to "pull together" the City of Cape Town, SA National Parks, the Wildlife and Environment Society and her department on the issue, Essop said. "This fits in with my budget speech, where I spoke of the need to break down the hedges."

Essop has established a ministerial environmental project, Nkululeko, to "remove the alienation so many in our communities feel in relation to the environment and to promote a deep love and passion for our natural and cultural heritage".

Table Mountain National Park wanted people living around protected areas to benefit from them, spokeswoman Fiona Kalk said.

'Environmental victory'

to the Noordhoek wetlands which form part of the Table Mountain National Park.

"It's great. It's so unusual to win anything in favour of the environment, so this is a real victory. The road would have made a hard edge on the wetland and would have gone through two strands of protected milkwoods," Ashton said.

Andy Gubb of the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA said yesterday they were delighted.

"We were worried that the

road was planned for the wrong reasons. A road right up against a wetland makes no sense and goes against planning principle.

There would have been runoff of pollutants, including heavy metals, from the road into the wetland, and the road would not have resolved the traffic problem," Gubb said.

Fiona Kalk of Table Mountain National Park said they were pleased that the road had been stopped and supported the decision wholeheartedly.

★ CAPE TIMES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

Taxi driver shot dead on notorious R300 highway

TAMLVYN JOHANNES

A MAN died and another was seriously wounded in a shooting on the R300 near Delft on Monday night.

Russel Heyns, 46, a taxi driver from Lentegaur, Mitchell's Plain, was killed when two men opened fire on another VW Kombi that was called to tow

Home's broken-down taxi.