

PETITION TO THE MAYOR OF CAPE TOWN

STOP SEWERAGE POLLUTION IN THE SILVERMINE RIVER WETLANDS CAUSED BY LOADSHEDDING

The ongoing sewerage pollution of the Silvermine River wetlands, a biodiversity agreement area, between Clovelly and Fish Hoek due to electricity outages at the Vallyland pump station constitutes both a health hazard and an environmental disaster. Following load shedding, anyone visiting the river will see and smell the brown effluent issuing from the storm water drain outflow pipe near the so-called 'pipe bridge'. This toxic effluent then moves slowly through the wetland, compromising flora and fauna until it flows into the sea polluting Clovelly Beach.

Residents were informed by City officials at the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association meeting of 27 February 2020, that this situation arises during load shedding due to the fact that Vallyland does not have a backup electricity supply to keep sewerage moving through the system. The pump station sump over-fills and decants into a storm water drain that flows into the wetland. We were further informed that the current City Budget does not make provision for a backup electricity supply.

It is common knowledge that load shedding will continue for years to come and unless the pump station problem is addressed through provision of an electricity supply that is not affected by load shedding, pollution will be ongoing. This situation is simply not acceptable and constitutes a violation of the Constitutional rights of citizens.

The South African Constitution Bill of Rights (Act 108 of 1996, s 24) states that everyone has the right to:

- (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- (b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –
 - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - (ii) promote conservation; and
 - (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

We submit that by its failure to resolve this long-standing problem, the City of Cape Town is in breach of the Constitution and is failing in its responsibility to the residents of the Fish Hoek valley and Clovelly.

We the undersigned local residents demand the following of the City of Cape Town:

1. Immediate allocation of funds to solve the ongoing problem of the Vallyland pump station to prevent sewerage contamination of the Silvermine River Wetlands.
2. Provide quarterly progress reports on concrete actions taken to all residents through the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Respondents are residents of the Fish Hoek Valley including Clovelly.

Dear resident, due to COVID-19, we have decided to not conduct a door-to-door survey. This petition has rather been sent to all paid up members of the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association who have email addresses.

You will have read the petition.

- If you support the petition, reply to FishHoekRRA@gmail.com with the words **WETLANDS PETITION SUPPORTED** and your physical home address. That is all.
- If you do not support the petition, reply to FishHoekRRA@gmail.com with the words **WETLANDS PETITION NOT SUPPORTED** and your physical home address. That is all.
- Deadline is 31 March 2020.

This is a really important issue. We must obtain as many signatures as possible.

On behalf of the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association and other concerned residents, we thank you for your support.

NAME	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS