



Gariep Watch

P.O. Box 2536, Upington, 8801

22 September 2020

EnviroAfrica CC
P.O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

ATTENTION: MR. CLINTON GEYSER

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT: TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT 2627 AND ERF 131 GROOTDRINK !KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The July 2020 EnviroAfrica draft Scoping Report and Plan of Study for the above-mentioned development at Grootdrink has reference.

Thank you for registering Gariep Watch as an Interested and Affected Party and incorporating our correspondence of 17 June 2020 into the draft Scoping Report. This letter highlighted our concerns that pertain to the lack of wastewater infrastructure and maintenance of existing wastewater infrastructure at the !Kheis local municipality.

We agree that housing is necessary to promote socioeconomic development and to provide the basic needs of the Groblershoop community.

Our comments pertaining to this application for Grootdrink are as follows:

1. The proposed extension of the Grootdrink settlement will interfere with two well-defined drainage lines that flow directly into the Orange River. Although the identification of site alternatives may not be feasible as noted in the Scoping Report, layout alternatives should be considered especially since the development will be within a Critical Biodiversity Area.

The drainage line to the north of Grootdrink on Erf 2627 could be avoided completely without the loss of much development potential. We therefore believe that the layout could be tailored to exclude sensitive drainage lines, corridors or riparian zones.

2. The system of oxidation dams just west of Grootdrink was recently investigated by Gariep Watch. The infrastructure is in disrepair with fences removed, buildings vandalized, and oxidation dam linings stolen. These oxidation dams have been fitted with an impermeable lining for a reason, which is to prevent sub-surface seepage of sewerage water from polluting groundwater resources and the Orange River.



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The development of 370 new erven on 36 hectares at Grootdrink will increase the potential for surface and groundwater pollution if appropriate wastewater infrastructure is not professionally designed, constructed and maintained.

Aspects pertaining to solid waste, stormwater, groundwater and wastewater management should be key components of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Please feel free to contact Gariep Watch if there are any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely

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