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in the Spatial Development Framework. It is also a highly utilized area during the summer holidays, over weekends and public holidays when the weather is good and with this the associated noise, vehicular and pedestrian traffic is to be expected during such periods.

From information that we have obtained from the Overstrand Municipality, they have indicated that Hermanus has as its prime focus to be an excellent tourist destination. Thus with the increasing growth of tourism in the area, increased affluence among a large sector of the Overstrand community and a younger population who requires amenities and activities according to their needs, the public utilization of areas such as the Grotto area has increased and will continue to increase in future. It is also one of the few areas in Hermanus where visitors and patrons can access the beach and have the opportunity to enjoy the restaurant and bar facilities that go with such public places.

The relevant answers to some of the points that you have raised that were received from the municipality are as follows.

RESPONSE TO POINT 1

What exactly is the idea behind the establishment of an Amphitheatre. I was under the impression that Hermanus has a site where such open air theatre functions can be held. Is that not so?

Answer: There is an increase in the growth of tourism in Hermanus as well as a younger population who requires amenities and activities according to their needs. The Forest Theatre is situated in the Hemel-and-Aarde valley within a rural area which caters for specific events such as single performances.

RESPONSE TO POINT 2

What alternative locations have been considered by the Municipality to cater for such events and what process was followed to proceed with the development in this location

Answer: There are no suitable sites available with existing facilities. The municipality is not looking for an area where an amphitheatre can be constructed, but is looking at the upgrading and rehabilitation of the Piet se Bos area. A feasible option that the municipality has come up with is an amphitheatre that will meet the requirement under the Integrated Coastal Management Act, which requires that coastal areas be made more accessible to the general public.

RESPONSE TO POINT 3

We note your comment regarding whether the proposed activity constitutes rehabilitation or not. Please note that the toilets will be behind a wall in a recess and not on top of the embankment. These will also be removable toilets that will be the responsibility of the events organizers, if required, and the decision on the necessity and control thereof will rest with the municipality, based on the request and plan to stage an event.

RESPONSE TO POINT 4

This proposed restaurant will be for leasehold and the successful tenderer will be the one to decide whether he can run the restaurant successfully or not. The design of the restaurant can be done in

such a way that a double storey wooden building can blend in with the surrounding environment. To say that a double storey building would not blend in is an individual judgement value. There are other comments received that welcome the proposal for a double storey restaurant. The idea behind the double storey is for a beach- style bottom section with a more up-market top section.

RESPONSE TO POINT 5

This was referred to the municipality for an answer and they indicated that the type of event would depend on what applications are received from promoters and this would be screened by the municipality and event specific rules and regulations laid down

Question:

To what specific type of event has the Municipality in mind to be staged in this proposed Amphitheatre. This will give an idea of the additional facilities that have to be provided for such events.

Answer: The municipality has in mind plays, classical performances or suitable musical events as per request, under strict conditions such as suitability, time limits and conditions of the temporary removable infrastructure that has to be put in place by the individual organisers

Question:

How often is it intended to be put to use (no of uses per month over each month of the full year)

Answer: This can only be determined once requests for use of the amphitheatre are submitted by individual organisers

Question:

What are the proposed operating times and on which days of the week will such events be staged

Answer: This will once again be dependent upon request, but all performances will end before 12:00 pm.

Question:

What loudspeaker and amplification system is envisaged – location, height and direction of loudspeakers and wattage

Answer: This is not known at the moment as it will be dependent on the individual event and organiser requirements, but will be approved by the municipality for each event.

Question:

What lighting system is envisaged – location, height and direction of all spot lights and their type and wattage

Answer: The municipal lighting will be flood lighting. The individual lighting is not known at the moment as it will be dependent on the individual-event and organiser requirements.

RESPONSE TO POINT 6

Question:

What is the MAXIMUM no of visitors that are to be accommodated (seated and standing) in this Amphitheatre.

Answer: An absolute maximum of 340 persons, both seated and standing, filled to maximum capacity.

Question:

How will such additional persons be accommodated in the existing parking areas, when such available parking as is currently there has already proven to be quite tight during the high season

Answer: The existing parking is deemed adequate and when necessary, Overstrand municipal traffic officials will deal with the traffic flow.

Question:

What considerations have been given to the existing road system being able to handle the additional traffic

Answer: The existing road network is deemed adequate and the current parking at the Grotto area makes provision for all types of vehicles. The existing parking is deemed adequate and when necessary, Overstrand municipal traffic officials will deal with the traffic flow.

Question:

How will the sewerage be disposed – I hope not into the sea at Grotto beach!

Answer: It will be linked to the existing sewage reticulation system in the Grotto area and in addition removable portable toilet facilities may also be a condition in individual instances for organisers of events, depending on the requirement.

With regard to the other questions under point 6 we have received the following indications from the municipality. The maximum height of the amphitheatre will be the roof structure at the back which will be 5 metres above the present ground level. The kiosk will be operated by the event organizers if required for the specific event, the merchandise sold will also be contained in a condition laid down by the municipality for the specific event.

The NEMA legislation is not very specific about what constitutes a road and to be on the safe side these two activities (GNR 546/4 and GNR546/19) are included for authorization, should the relevant authority decide that the improvement of the area at the bottom of the existing access road around the present entrance to the recreational area constitutes a road. The existing access road will remain as is, but from the site plan that was included in the documentation it is obvious that present parking and tar area around Dutchies, the proposed restaurant and entrance area to the amphitheatre will be upgraded to include formal parking for buses and accommodate the event stage trucks.

RESPONSE TO POINTS 7, 8, 9-8-10

Please refer to the responses in the introduction and your points 1,2,4&5. The municipality has furthermore supplied the following information as well that would pertain as responses to these points.

Question:

Who is the target market to which these events will be directed. What is the proposed entrance fee for a typical event.

Answer: The broader community spectrum. The entrance fee will be determined by the individual organisers and dependent on the event.

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Question:

What is the budgeted cost of the Amphitheatre and what is the anticipated income that is to be generated from the staging of events.

Answer: The cost of the amphitheatre can only be determined when the tenders for the upgrading of the area have been finalised. The anticipated income to be generated will be dependent on the type of event and agreements reached between the municipality and individual organisers.

Question:

How often is it intended to be put to use (no of uses per month over each month of the full year)

Answer: This can only be determined once requests for use of the amphitheatre are submitted by individual organisers.

RESPONSE TO POINT 11

Please refer to the introductory section of this letter

Yours sincerely



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23 April 2013

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DEA&DP REF Nos. 16/3/1/1/E2/14/2026/13: PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE PIET SE BOS AND GROTTO BEACH AREA, HERMANUS

I hereby register myself as an *Affected Party*. I am affected in a personal way. I am female.

I was glad to begin reading the letter about upgrading of Piet se Bos. To rehabilitate the wetland and fynbos, making of boardwalks sound like a great improvement.

However, I have a number of comments and questions regarding statements made in the letter dated 15 March 2013 and the Draft Basic Assessment Report, March 2013:

Paragraph 8 of the Draft Basic Assessment Report makes the following statement about socio economic aspects:

"The communities surrounding the site consist of higher income group-retired persons that live there permanently or people that have holiday-houses in the area. The houses consists of older large architecturally designed-houses as well as very large modern houses that have been constructed after the old house has been knocked down" (quote from Draft Basic Assessment Report, March 2013)

Comment:

This statement is used as a justification in Section.D to questions 5, 15, 16 concerning the *need and desirability of this amphitheatre*.

What is the significance of the random information about the nature of the housing and the owners? In a few years' time the older people might have made room for younger people. Still, regardless of age of owner, size or design of the house, the residents of Voëlklip invested there to seek the kind of life that is offered now – quiet, peaceful, a holiday, rural atmosphere. How can an amphitheatre be compatible with the needs of the residents and a positive contribution of this neighbourhood?

Direct
and
indirect

Question 11 in Section D reads:

“How will the development impact on people’s health and wellbeing (e.g. in terms of noise, odours, visual character and sense of place, etc)?”

EnviroAfrica answers “no impact”.

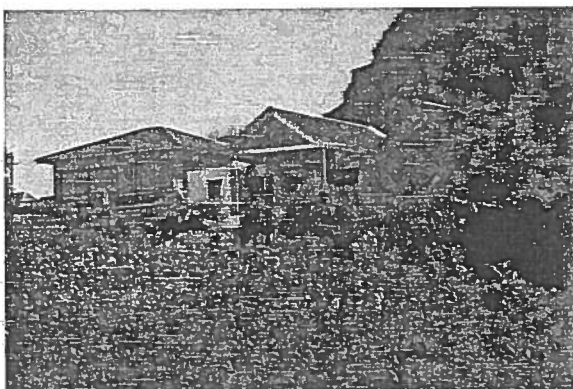
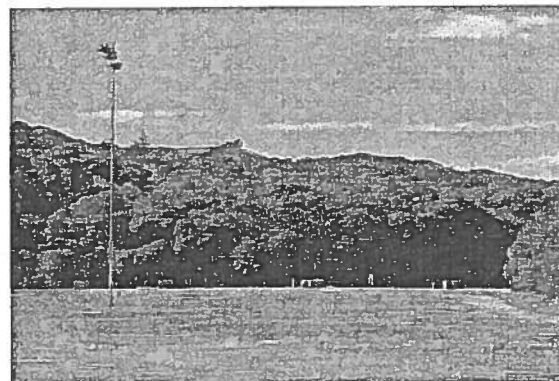
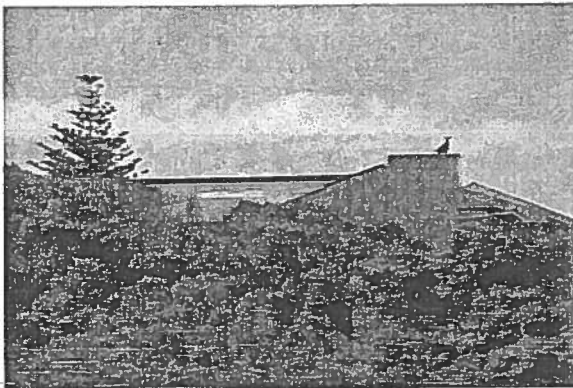
Was this answer researched at all? On what ground is this answer based? As far as I know Affected Parties only now have the opportunity to give comments about the planned projects. Thus this answer is premature.

Years ago when music came from this area, it was unbearable and after numerous complaints the Municipality came to the rescue of the problem with great success.

It might be possible to think of an argument supporting the development being grounded on the premise that shows hosted in the amphitheatre will be of good quality. The content of the shows is not relevant to the fact that people living in the vicinity will be forced to hear the shows without any choice about it.

Paragraph 7 of the Draft Basic Assessment Report, March 2013 EnviroAfrica states that:

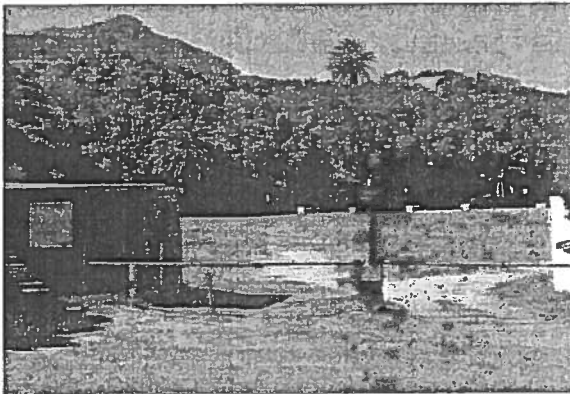
“The nearest residential area is located immediately above the picnic area but is not visible from the existing picnic area.* The houses are occupied by mainly retired residents and expensive and exclusive holiday residences.**



*One can see the houses. The photos were taken from the picnic area without being elevated.

** This fact is of no significance in relation to the building of an amphitheatre.

A few additional comments and questions:



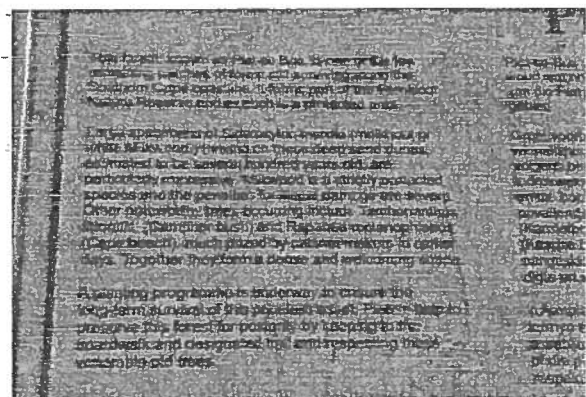
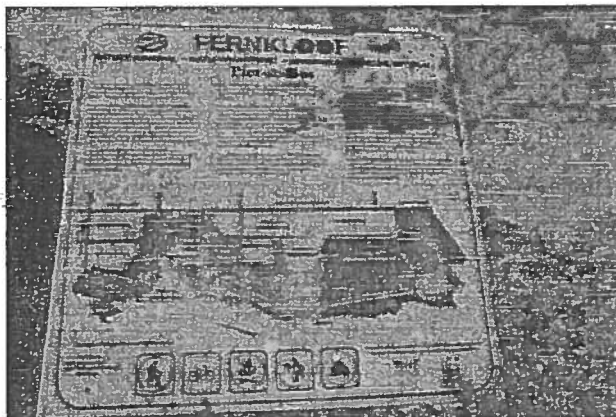
1. Any construction will change or block out the view of the forest for ever.
2. Removing the palm trees will really be of great aesthetic value.
3. An **events stage truck** (as per Site Development Plan) on the grassed "Common" is irreconcilable with the supposed **upgrading** of Piet se Bos and the Grotto site.
4. If this was originally a wetland, how is it defensible to change it into a landscape created by the **movement of extraneous fill** to create an amphitheatre? It will convert the site into a man-made, built up, transformed once again, landscape even further removed from its original state. Added to this, the construction of seats, kiosks, pergola, stage will bring in even **more extraneous material**.
5. The **extraneous** fill material removed in the upgrading, can simply be taken away from the site.
6. Imagine planting fynbos that is specifically suited for a wetland environment on this site instead. This will be an extension of the fine and commendable plan to upgrade the vegetation as described in the Site Development Plan.
7. Even though the notice board/sign may be within the prescribed size, I really think it would have been helpful to erect a bigger, more conspicuous notice.

In paragraph 7(b) of the Draft Basic Assessment Report, March 2013 EnviroAfrica make the following statement:

"The area immediately surrounding the site and to the east consists of a dense milkwood forest in good condition and this area is at present in the process of being incorporated into the Fernkloof Nature Reserve by the Overstrand Municipality."

The photographs below contradict the above. According to the notice Piet se Bos is already part of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve .

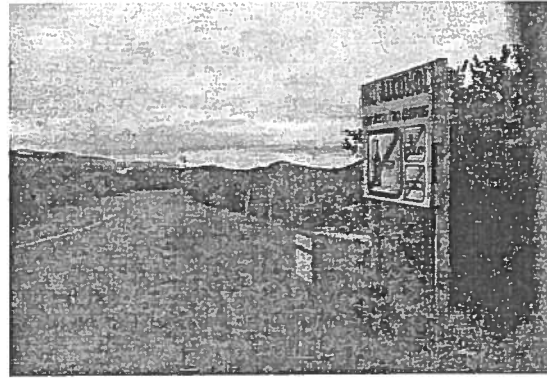
There are many more species of trees than Milkwood in the forest.



The text of the above notice board on the right, speaks for itself: " A planting programme is underway to ensure the long-term survival of this priceless asset. Please help to preserve...". I cannot agree more with this request from the Municipality.

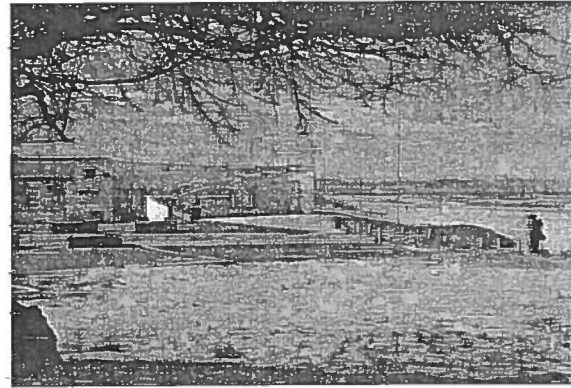
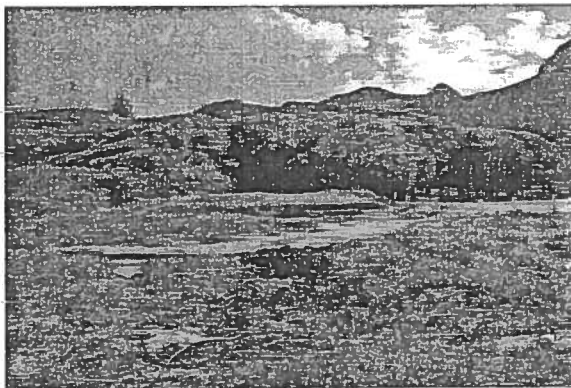
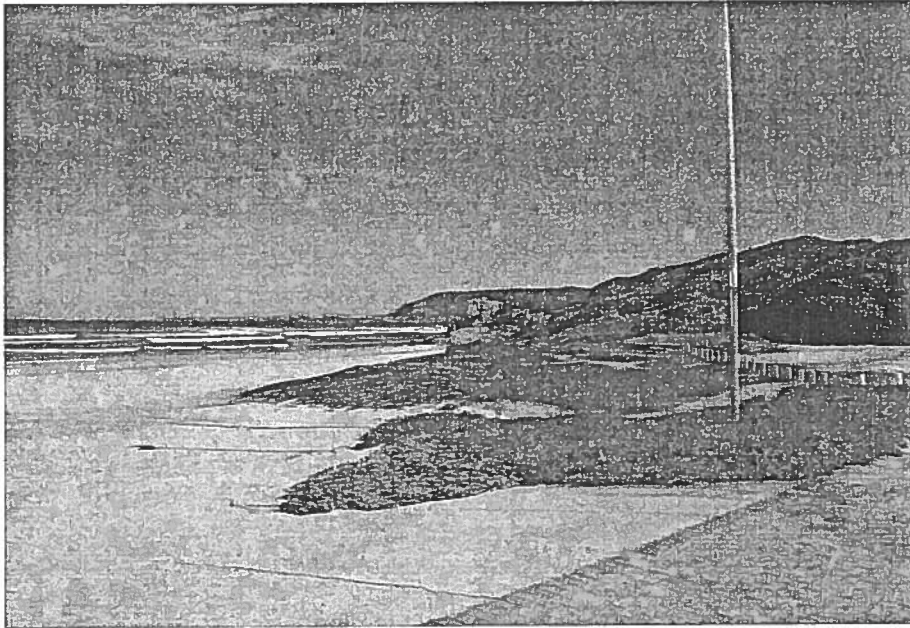
A Nature Reserve draws people to experience nature and not to experience loud music and crowds.

8. No bicycles are allowed in the forest. All the more reason not to attract traffic and crowds to this sensitive area. An amphitheatre will by definition attract traffic and more people.
9. Voëlkliip has the forest and the footpaths in Piet se Bos as an unique, rare and sensitive core. The town of Hermanus offers activities of entertainment to visitors and residents. What is the rationale behind considering to change this area into public entertainment area which will destroy the essence of this place?



10. These signs (above) affirm the success the Municipality had to stop loud music and the consuming of alcohol in this area. Do they really want to go back on this successful management of this sensitive area? If the planned amphitheatre creates noise and owners should rightfully complain, how can the Municipality rectify this again after having built a permanent structure which *per se* will be used to create noise?
11. The sound being created at the planned amphitheatre will have to be amplified considerably to compete with the sound of the ocean. I fail to see how amplified sounds created at this site can contribute to the upgrading of Piet se Bos or the Grotto Beach area.

12. On the Site Development Plan I notice *Kiosks*. It is not mentioned anywhere how many and for what purpose these will be applied. Can you please explain?
13. Three busses are plotted on the Site Development Plan. In the past busses were not allowed to enter the area. This diverting of heavy traffic was also successfully implemented by the Municipality. Why change this to an area of heavy traffic with the accompanying large concentrations of people?
14. Four (4) mobile toilets (as per Site Development Plan) will also bring more traffic to the area because these unattractive units will have to be service on a regular basis. The odours of these units concern me.



These photos show the terrain of the planned restaurant building as well as the existing ablution building. The scale of the existing building is pleasing in the surroundings. I agree with the choice of single storey for the planned restaurant as stated as an option in Section A: Activity Information, Atmospheric emission activities in terms of the NEM: AQA (Government Gazette No 33064) (d) – buildings.

Earlier on in the same document it is mentioned as double story as the only choice (1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (B))

I hope that the architect will reconsider the idea of a double storey on this beautiful site where the milkwood trees are in a sense “single storey” like the ablution building. A double storey will dwarf the environment.