

**Letters to the Editor**

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# Still no respect for Knysna Lagoon - the most unique in South Africa

I retired to Knysna 12 years ago but have been coming here before that for over 50 years. I have been secretary of the Leisure Isle Boat Club and produced and managed its comprehensive website [www.libcknysna.co.za](http://www.libcknysna.co.za).

I have a boat and spend much time on the lagoon, both by day and night. I therefore feel experienced to speak to your readers about the issues below.

Knysna Lagoon is managed by SANParks. In their management plan signed by the minister of Water Affairs and their Garden Route manager, it specifically calls for 'Stakeholder Involvement'. Without it, according to Section 3.4.6 on p28, it risks:

- An increase in external impacts such as pollution and poaching (without question this is a fact that would be acknowledged by everyone);

- Less support from powerful stakeholders that can lead to a decrease in business revenue (many lagoon users are not applying for boating, baiting and fishing licences as they see little input from SANParks, and very few fines).

So, in a nutshell, there is a negative, downward spiral. I have on many occasions tackled SANParks on this, by asking them what the fines are for speeding in a non-wake zone, or skiing in a no-ski area, or for selling illegally caught bait, for using oversized nets, for selling your catch, for pollution, etc.

There is no answer because no one has been fined for these offences. I am told that they have ceased training of their officers, but cannot verify this latter point.

So come to Knysna, folks, and once on our lagoon, you can do any speed and ski anywhere.

Buy as much bait as you want and you can use long lines with as many hooks as you like. There are no restrictions here. Take a good gamble on even having a boat licence and collect all the bait you like anywhere in our lagoon at night, because there are no night patrols.

By the way, most of our regulations have not been updated since 1987, despite a huge increase in population and number of boats. Thesen's alone

added 300 craft.

About five years ago I started working with SANParks and other lagoon users. I felt the only way to make a difference was to increase awareness and knowledge of the lagoon, since many users did not have the benefit of hindsight, i.e. just how productive, quiet and beautiful this lagoon used to be.

So I came up with a Voluntary Code of Conduct which I presented to about 18 different lagoon associations, comprising about 300 people. I had widespread acceptance, even by SANParks, but still need them to at least uphold our current and limited regulations.

Interestingly, Plett is controlled by CapeNature and has passed a law limiting speed below the bridge to a no-wake 5.5 knots.

I have never moaned about subsistence fishermen and personally would prefer 50 of them to one high speed boat with two 300hp motors causing

huge wakes and putting so much marine life through the mincing machine of their prop wash!

I also feel that the 18-million cubic metres coming through our Heads every tide does a good job of catering for pollution and we need to start with some easier 'can do' projects, to give people experiences of success.

I would really appreciate your assistance in helping to curb the degeneration of this precious resource, which is also a big tourist attraction and job creator.

*Arland Read, Knysna (Interested readers can email [wosi@iafrica.com](mailto:wosi@iafrica.com) to obtain copies of Arland's talk, copies of SANParks correspondence, petitions, etc. Also visit [www.cpress.co.za](http://www.cpress.co.za) to read Arland's letter 'Distressing lack of Knysna Estuary maintenance mars return to fishing grounds' on page 5 of the June 24 edition, and the response from SANParks on pages 7 of the July 1 edition. - Eds.)*

## Harsh sentences suggested for our country's corrupt, and tree hackers of Plett

Surely it is high time to reintroduce prison with hard labour for those convicted (?) of state capture and corruption?

We certainly need a real deterrent...

*S Murray, Plett*

Who can explain to me the thinking behind the most-recent annihilation of trees that served as nesting habitat of Plett's beautiful egrets?

First to go were the trees at Down to Earth, then those at the entrance to Beacon Island Hotel, and now there are only stumps left where hundreds of these birds made

nests to rear their young.

If anyone can answer this query with information on the whereabouts of these birds and the motivation behind hacking down these beautiful trees, I would be most interested to hear.

If we treat nature with such disdain in a place of such magnificent natural beauty, we may as well tar the entire town, or go live on a Las Vegas parking lot.

*Bird Blues, Plett (This letter was forwarded to CapeNature for possible insight on regulations allowing such actions. - Eds.)*

## Retraction of letter

*'Your unsightly blight on pathway is also a serious fire hazard'*

Based on discussions with those involved and new information to hand, CXPRESS and the Brick-pathfinders retract the letter to the editor published on January 15, 2020.

It has since been established that the allegations and criticisms made in the letter were based on misinformation and therefore unwarranted.

Although they are not

identified, the owner and his wife report that they have been unfairly criticised and their good standing in the community tarnished.

CXPRESS and the Brick-pathfinders apologise for any inconvenience and harm he and his wife may have experienced and retract the letter.

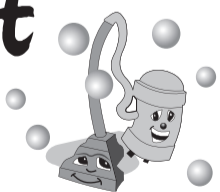
By mutual agreement, the topic is now closed.

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## ECO-ROUTE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

REGISTRATION NO. 1998/031976/23

## EIA PROCESS

### Notification of Public Participation:

#### Draft Basic Assessment Report

The Proposed Construction of an Access Road, Residential Dwelling and Farm Managers House on Portion 76 of the Farm 216 Uitzicht, Brenton, Knysna Local Municipality, Western Cape

Notice is hereby provided in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, the National Environmental Management Act: Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014 as amended of a Public Participation Process to be undertaken from 03/09/2020 – 03/10/2020 under the authority of the Department of Environmental Affairs/DEA.

The following EIA Listed Activities are applicable:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Government Notice No. R324: (Listing Notice 3 of 2014 as amended) | Activity 4: (i) ii(aa)<br>Activity 12 (a) i. ii. |
|---|--|

The Draft Basic Assessment Report may be reviewed for comment from 03/09/2020 – 03/10/2020 on Eco Route's website [www.ecoroute.co.za](http://www.ecoroute.co.za). Should you wish to gain further information regarding the project or wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (details below). Please provide written comments with your name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the development.

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