



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 16/2/7/A210/N11/X1

**By Email:** [willemsnyman@gmail.com](mailto:willemsnyman@gmail.com)

Mr Willem Snyman

Hennops River representative of Crocodile River Reserve

Dear Mr Snyman

### **KAALSPRUIT POLLUTION- A PLEA TO SAVE THE HENNOPS**

Your email dated 10 May 2018 regarding the above mentioned subject matter refers.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (the Department) is aware of the pollution problem in the Kaalspruit and the Hennops River. The problem relates to solid waste, siltation and sewer pollution emanating from the upstream catchments area also by the growing population within the area and upstream. The major problem however is the sewage leakages from the neighboring municipalities, namely, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality and City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

The problem of sewerage pollution in the Kaalspruit and Hennops River is caused by number of dynamic factors. These factors includes aging infrastructure in the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) including the reticulation, pump stations, growing population upstream of the River, vandalism, misuse of the sewage network and rapid increase of informal settlements, many of which are within the 1:100 year flood line.

The Department has been and is continuously engaging with the three municipalities (including City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality) which are in the Hennops sub-catchment. These three municipalities have been requested to come up with and submit action plans with time frames to address the sewage pollution affecting the Hennops River and sub-catchment at large. The municipalities have submitted these action plans; however there are challenges in achieving the desired outcomes and some of which have been mentioned above.

Johannesburg Water has also been actively involved in repairing of failing sewer infrastructure, conducting preventative maintenance and engaging in educational awareness programs in the Ivory Park area over the past three financial years to inform them on the correct use of the sewer infrastructure.



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The East Rand Water Care Company has been issued with a Section 19 directive in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) with regards to pollution emanating from the Olifantsfontein WWTW due to non-compliance to operating standards and malfunctioning of equipment. East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT) as the operator and responsible for management of the plant is constantly being engaged to make representations to the Directive and other pollution incidents that may emanate from the WWTW and come up with concrete plans to address the problem. The Department will keep in contact in order to keep you abreast of the various initiatives.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Ms W Ralekoa, the Director: Institutional Oversight on 082 857 4158 or by email at [ralekoaw@dws.gov.za](mailto:ralekoaw@dws.gov.za).

Yours sincerely



**MC LOBAKENG**  
**PROVINCIAL HEAD: NORTH WEST**

DATE: 28/05/2018