

Dear DEA&DP Appeals

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Western Cape recently granted an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed redevelopment of the River Club in Observatory in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This decision was issued to the applicant, the Liesbeek Leisure Properties Trust, on 20 August 2020.

I am a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and write to you in response to, and in strong support of, the appeal lodged by Two Rivers Urban Park Association (TRUPA) with reference to the Environmental Authorisation for the re-development of the River Club, Observatory for a Mixed Use development and associated infrastructure on the remainder of Erf 15326 and Erven 26169-26175, 26426-26427, 108936 and 151832, Observatory; DEA&DP Reference Number 16/3/3/1/A7/17/3001/20.

I received the appeal sent to me by the Two Rivers Urban Park Association.

I hereby indicate my strong support for their appeal.

In particular, I draw attention to the 15 grounds of their appeal, which include, amongst other points: non-compliance with the current planning framework; misrepresentation of the current planning policy framework; failure to examine applicant's evidence with any degree of verification; use of misleading terminology taken from the applicant's text; ignoring the long history of public participation and the significance of the site for First Nations, lack of attention to alternatives, non-compliance with S38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (act 25 of 1999) (the NHRA) in that the consenting authority has not ensured that the HIA has fulfilled the requirements of the competent heritage resources authority in this matter (HWC) and flawed assessments of Ecological and Fresh Water Impacts, Geotechnical Considerations and Surface Water Hydrology.

I also wish to note that contrary to the statement in the Environmental Authorisation that "All the concerns raised by I&APs were responded to and adequately addressed during the public participation process," I do not believe this to be the case as illustrated by the breadth and range of appeals submitted to the EA.

I would therefore like it noted that I am in strong support of the appeal by the Two Rivers Urban Park Association for the reasons outlined above.

Yours

[name, address]