



Quaker Community Western Cape
2 Rye Road Mowbray
email: quakerscwmm@gmail.com

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TO: Observatory Civic Association and the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoin Traditional Indigenous Council.

QCWC COMMENTS ON THE RIVER CLUB LAND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The Quaker Community of the Western Cape (QCWC) has been asked by the Observatory Civic Association (OCA), in collaboration with the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoin Traditional Indigenous Council, to provide a letter of support as regards their objections to the proposed River Club Development Plan.

We are aware of the high level interactions between many roleplayers in this proposed project, and the importance of achieving the correct decision for this crucially located and valuable part of Cape Town. Many and varied technical, financial, political, social, heritage, environmental, and economic arguments and analyses have been advanced both for and against the proposed development, with strong opinions expressed on both sides.

Our view is that, first and foremost, the proposed use of the land has to be considered from a principle and strategic standpoint, before any detailed discussions are undertaken. It is common knowledge that the threats of climate change are imminent, and the city of Cape Town is likely to experience the consequences of this – which has already been manifested in the recent water crisis. This threat brings with it a great deal of uncertainty, with unknown and unquantifiable impacts for current and future generations of the citizens of Cape Town. Management of water resources must be at centre stage in whatever follows. The river system that is included in the proposed development is an important strategic environmental asset for the city, and must be protected in its present state (with limited improvements such as a restaurant and heritage centre) to the fullest extent possible. Once developed, the area has no hope of returning to its present state. Furthermore, we are aware that perfectly adequate alternative sites are available in Capetown for the Amazon development, for example the Old Mutual site in Pinelands

As a high level planning principle, the conservation of the ecology of the wetlands and rivers in this part of the city must be assured for the long term, and high density development of this remaining area of land with its wetlands and contained river systems must on no account be undertaken. The proposed high density development cannot be supported.

It should rather be developed as part of a Two Rivers Urban Park based on sound river management and conservation principles, providing a valuable amenity to urban residents in general, and a protected heritage site for Khoi people in particular.

We support the application to the High Court to open the way for further public consultation in support of Heritage Western Cape's rejection of the proposed development

From the QCWC Social Concerns Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

George Ellis, co-Clerk