



## ZEEKOEVLEI PENINSULA SRA “ZVPSRA” NEWSBRIEF JULY 2021

### From the Chair (Graeme Cann)

On Tuesday 13 July a security meeting with our neighbouring communities was convened by Sidney Jacobs (FoZR Chairperson) to discuss the unrest and looting that has been taking place in other parts of our country, and the effect it could potentially have on us here in Zeekoevlei, should it spill over into the Western Cape.

I have discussed the matter with Prosec and we have extra patrols and a more visible presence as well as the availability of their dog unit should it become necessary. The main area of concern is obviously from the direction of the weir.

If you have any concerns about security and ProSec, please contact me on 082-338-2839. I can also be contacted by e-mail at [graeme@betsport.co.za](mailto:graeme@betsport.co.za)

Let's all continue to be vigilant in our community and show care for our neighbours.

Smile and wave.

### Massive sewage spill into Zeekoevlei

Zeekoevlei, an internationally recognised Ramsar site, is under threat yet again from a large-scale sewage spill. This is the fourth major spill within a year. Raw sewage has been flowing into the Vlei from various sources since Thursday 1 July 2021. According to Tom Schwerdtfeger (FOZR Vice Chairman), four factors contributed to this massive spill:

1. Screw pumps at the CTWWTW (Strandfontein sewerage works) have been non-operational and could not keep up with the inflow.
2. The system was full of ground and rain water
3. The cut-off line at the Springfield Bypass was open allowing Lotus River water to also pour into the system
4. It is suspected that contractors working at the site damaged the cover of one of the manholes.

An estimated 225 to 250 million litres of untreated sewage has flowed into the Vlei between 1 July and 14 July – this is 20% of the volume of Zeekoevlei when it is full!

Representatives of FoZR and the PAAC have been meeting with City officials and the Green Scorpions has initiated an investigation. Residents are urged to contact the City of Cape Town officials below with requests for information and demands for immediate and effective action to stop the spill and to prevent further spills happening in the future, and to demand that the City rehabilitates damaged areas, such as the picnic site on the eastern shore.

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Michael John Webster [Michael.Webster@capetown.gov.za](mailto:Michael.Webster@capetown.gov.za)  
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For details and timelines on the sewage spill you can have a look here

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3ariyno5a4y1o83/Zeekoevlei%20threatened%20by%20sewage%20spills%20July%202021.pdf?dl=0>

Please also visit [www.zeekoevlei.co.za](http://www.zeekoevlei.co.za) for updates on the situation.

### **Closure of Zeekoevlei – 6 July 2021**

Please be advised that, as the Management Authority for False Bay Nature Reserve and according to R6(1)(d) and R20(2)(a)(iii) of the Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves (GNR 99 of 8 February 2012), we shall be CLOSING THE ZEEKOEVLEI WATERBODY for recreational purposes, including fishing, to all members of the public until further notice.

The purpose of this closure is as a precautionary approach to protect water users' health as the sewage spill reported on 1 July 2021 has deposited significant untreated effluent into the system.

Please see attached full notification from the City of Cape Town in this regard.

### **Weir drawup postponed indefinitely – 14 July 2021**

Please be advised that, due to the ongoing flow of sewage from the Cape Flats Waste Water Treatment works into Zeekoevlei; the present draw down will need to be extended. The draw down presently offers the best opportunity to mitigate the sewage impacts on Zeekoevlei in the short term and as a result the weir will need to remain open until the flow is contained. Once this has happened and water quality shows signs of improvement a closure date will be announced.

Please see attached full notification from the City of Cape Town in this regard.

### **Works at the weir**

For those wondering about the big yellow machinery down at the weir: The City's Catchment Management department is working to remove sediment and sand to create a better channel to improve draw downs. This will hopefully create a more efficient flow of water out the Vlei and improve flushing of the Vlei during draw downs.

### ***Zeekoevlei Peninsula SRA (ZVPSRA) Directors and Committee members***

Directors: Andy Plew-Chisholm, Stew Penney, John Day, Graeme Cann and Jenny Day.

Chairperson: Graeme Cann  
Security portfolio: Graeme Cann  
Environment portfolio: Dalton Gibbs , Jenny Day  
Maintenance and cleanliness: Helen Higson  
Liaison portfolio: Susanne Karcher  
Management: John Day  
Finance portfolio: Andy Plew-Chisholm  
Communications: Helen Lockhart  
Minutes: Lee Watson