



# Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref: 11/4/1/2/16

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

*Tuesday, 15 May 2018 (at 08:30), Committee Room 1, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 7 Wale Street, Cape Town*

#### **PRESENT**

##### **Members**

##### **Democratic Alliance**

Mackenzie, RD  
Schäfer, BA  
Simmers, TA (Chairperson)

##### **African National Congress**

Beerwinkel, CF  
Dijana, TM

#### **The following persons were in attendance:**

##### **Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning**

Mr P van Zyl: Head of Department  
Mr G Arendse - Chief Director: Environmental Quality  
Ms M Laros - Director: Biodiversity and Coastal Management  
Ms W Kloppers – Director: Pollution and Chemicals Management  
Mr J Mingo - Task Manager: Berg River Improvement Project

##### **CapeNature**

Dr R Omar: Chief Executive Officer  
Dr E Baard - Executive Director: Biodiversity Support

#### **1. Opening and Welcome**

The Chairperson opened the meeting and allowed members of the Committee and the Departmental officials to introduce themselves.

#### **2. Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature on the rehabilitation of wetland areas**

The Department and CapeNature proceeded to brief the Committee on the rehabilitation of wetlands in order to improve the ecological conditions thereof, including that of water retention

and infiltration within catchment areas. The presentation included the strategic context, the types, services provided (and its value), threats to, conservation and restoration of wetlands. The presentation concluded with the Berg River Improvement Plan and Breede Environmental Resources Protection Plan.

The Committee noted the Upper Breede River Stewardship Project whereby 531 hectares of land was cleared and employment opportunities were provided. The new initiatives related to Biochar and the Water Hub in Franschhoek were deliberated upon. The Water Hub was instituted as a project to address the existing challenges in an increasingly volatile and uncertain environment through the application of new ideas, new technology and improved skills. The Department hopes that the Water Hub will be the catalyst to drive a new paradigm in water management and to develop a water technology cluster.

The Committee posed questions to which the Department and CapeNature responded.


### **3. Resolutions/Actions**

The Committee RESOLVED to visit the Water Hub in Franschhoek and a wetland as part of the Cluster B visit week in August 2018.

### **4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes**

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 10 April 2018 that were considered and adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26.



-----

**MR TA SIMMERS, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING**

Date: 29 May 2018