

## **Great Brak River Forum**

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**Ref F2006/025**

### **November Letter from the Great Brak River Forum.**

Dear Member,

Great Brak River is in crisis after the August flood damage. It has been estimated that the municipal replacement cost alone is in the region of more than R30 million. Grentana has suffered the most damage with the wash-away of the Glentana café, several houses and severe damage to Morrison Road. This amount is greater than the whole of the Mossel Bay's annual capital budget. The province has been asked to help out but from previous experiences this could take up to two years for moneys provided to be paid.

Therefore do not expect too much other than essential repair work to be done in the coming months. The municipality is nonetheless busy on a broad front with numerous existing projects having been put on hold as every available man and machine is in use on the reconstruction.

The fixing of Long street is on hold pending the drying out of the road sub structure.

Mossel Bay's consultants are very busy with the Great Brak Rivers storm water study due out before the end of November. Please make sure you see the proposed documents and if this effects your property, your comments and input are essential. You will be pleased to know that all further property developments and subdivisions in sensitive areas have been put on hold.

The full program of the three day Great Brak November Festival will soon be available. Should you wish to obtain the latest details, please contact Paula Grimbeek on 082-788-2461.

As previously mentioned the Mossel Bay municipality has given the green light for the Great Brak River Revival. This is a business project created to develop and market Great Brak River. Various proposals have been put forward and several companies have come forward with interesting proposals to establish new businesses or factories in the Great Brak River area. We already have a proposal for a local transport system, organic culture farming, a special bakery, an equestrian proposal, a cheese factory and other gourmet enterprises.. Tourism and street signs need upgrading and here we are at loggerheads with provincial authorities. Amongst many others Long street is still a provincial road and province is not interested in our proposed speed restrictions etc. The amount of monies provided by province for the street upkeep is totally inadequate especially taking into account the large increase in traffic. Our only solution is to apply for a change to the street status.

The proposed Mossel Bay Re-Zoning Scheme has been put on hold as there has been little public participation. *Unfolding of the "study" showed that the local population is very sensitive about "the preservation of Great Brak" and is often frustrated by decisions made "above their heads" if not "against their will". The recent period has shown headlines in regional news papers that must be considered as emerging signs of a growing dissatisfaction in the population.* The Forum has offered to assist with the correction of the zoning applicable to the Great Brak area and will be talking to local residents in the near future.

Do you know that there are several potential "Land Claims" in Great Brak River. The Forum have offered to create a suitable environment to help achieve a rapid settlement.

The next business bowls afternoon will be held at 3 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. See you there.

**Simon Potgieter (Chairman) (082-444-5957)**