

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

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**SUBJECT: RECOMMEND PERMANENT CLOSURE OF DOLPHIN PARK
(METRORAIL VIADUCT SUBWAY) PASSAGE**

1. DISCUSSION

We have received several complaints related to the passage (Jager Walk viaduct subway) between the Fish Hoek beach and Dolphin Park. Previously there was a bridge along Jager Walk that allowed the sea free tidal movement; see pictures of this subway on display in the Fish Hoek Library before the building of Jager Walk. Then the Jager Walk extension was built between 1976-79 as a solid wall and walkway along the top with a sea water pump placed in the passage. The City provided water pump, now on its third replacement, has not been working for a long time and the trapped sea water has gone green with algae. Large rocks have been placed in the passage to act as stepping stones. The sea level is progressively rising and will require even more pumping. Every time the wall is breached by the sea, even at some high tides now, it leaves high piles of sand that have to be manually removed. It does not seem to be a viable option to continuously replace broken pumps.

The pump connection box in the passage is open and electrical wires are exposed. This is dangerous.



Most mornings the passage is unhygienic, stinky (strong ammonia smell, probably from urine) and full of rubbish including shopping trolleys and enough plastic to clog any working pump. Vagrants / homeless people often sleep in this passage, perform criminal acts (alleged dagga trading / smoking, prostitution), launch violent attacks, escape quickly (by thieves preying on bathers) or pass through to their lodgings in Dolphin Park for the evening. Part of the Blue Flag status criteria includes safety and security by international tourism standards. We fail to see how this area can be considered safe.

Subsequent to an inspection of the beach and Jager Walk undertaken on 17 June 2015 by Councillors and officials, the then chair, Allen Rose-Innes, and Exco member, Lorraine Lemmon-Warde, presented at Sub-Council 19 on 15 February 2016, where, inter alia, they requested closing or opening this passage to the sea.

The City has recently said that it is preparing a business plan to present to the National Department of Transport to take over Metrorail. Meanwhile, Metrorail has said that this passage is already the City of Cape Town's responsibility, see Annexure A: email from Metrorail.

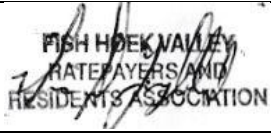
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2. RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, for the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that:

- The Dolphin Park Metrorail Viaduct Subway passage be publicly advertised for closure and then filled in permanently (backfilled, compacted, cemented, plastered) with a suitable drainage solution for any ground water removal;
- Alternatively, if public support so dictates, the conversion of the Jager Walk "wall" to become a bridge allowing free tidal movement of sea water through this passage – both options not requiring a pump that has failed three times to date.

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