

Circular 19-2017

Evergreen Muizenberg
Sunrise Boulevard
Muizenberg,
7945

8 December 2017

Dear Resident,

WATER RESPONSE PLAN - WATER CRISIS

The Western Cape is in the grips of the worst drought in the last 50 years, possibly even longer. Management and understandably residents alike are extremely concerned about the risks and implications. We have read a lot in the media about 'day zero'

The Muizenberg Village has been one of the hardest hit – with regular disruptions already occurring in 'peak' demand times with municipal water supply.

We have and are implementing a number of additional water saving initiatives and have come up with a **5 Step Water Response Plan**.

Step 1: We all need to try and reduce the amount of municipal water we are using.

- Installation of water restrictors on all showers are being done.
- Installation of waterless urinals in all common areas.
- Isolate all external and garden taps linked to municipal water supply.
- Reduced water flow on all common area wash hand basin taps.
- Using the short flush button and not full flush button on all toilets.
- Monitor individual water consumption and consult with all parties who are exceeding the 87 litres per person per day.

Step 2: Installation of **Water Storage Tanks** in the basement:

Plans are underway to install 20,000l worth of municipal water in these buffer tanks, along with a booster pump. This will ensure that the apartments and common areas can survive up to 36 hrs without municipal water and will also alleviate the pressure reduction issue at 'peak' times.

Step 3: Promote the use of non-potable water from the existing underground water facility.

To assist, we are setting up a service where residents can collect non-potable water from our existing well point near the boardwalk. This water can be used, instead of drinking water, for non-essential activities – like flushing toilets, watering plants or washing clothes. Remember this water is from the well point, although it is good quality, so it should not be drunk. This is a voluntary programme for those

who want to help make a difference. Muizenberg is also currently having more irrigation points installed around the village which might be used for getting non-potable water closer to the houses.

Step 4: Install an emergency treatment plant to make sure we can supply our own water if “day zero” arrives

The village has a good quality source of water from the existing well point. A treatment plant is being commissioned, so that that water can be treated to drinking water quality. In the case of an emergency, we can supply all residents with at least 20l of water a day. Some of you might have seen the delivery of 2 x 5,000l which will be used for this purpose.

Step 5: Start working on a long term plan

The executive mayor has stressed that water shortages are the “new normal”. Although the current drought is an extreme event, it should be assumed that the risk will not go away. As part of the expansion of the village, we will also be looking at a more extensive plan to supply treated groundwater into the network.

Frequently asked questions:

1. Why doesn't the village just pipe the well water into our taps?

Connecting alternate water supplies into the reticulation network is very expensive

- A much larger treatment plant is needed.
- Planning permission is required, very strict municipal bylaws are being implemented.
- There is no way to control how much “emergency” water each person gets.
- There is a possible risk of treated water damaging water reticulation system, geysers, ancillary fittings, taps and fittings. There are various levels of treatment required, depending on use and depending on minerals and properties of the water. This also impacts installation cost, long term maintenance and sustainability of installation.

Our current plan allows us to put emergency measures in place immediately, while giving us time to look at more extensive treatment plants.

2. What is this going to cost?

Naturally there will be significant costs associated with adding the buffer capacity and the emergency plant. However, these are assets that will last for many years and amortized over the lifespan, the costs don't represent a significant increase in running costs.

Once again, thank you to all those residents who are making a significant contribution towards water saving.

Kind regards,



Derek Drew

Managing Director – Operations