

## COMMENTS BY KOSRA ON DUNE REHABILITATION PLAN

### BY THE KENTON SAND DUNE ASSOCIATION ("KSDA")

1. Dry Bones Valley ("DBV") was, for several millions of years, part of the sand bypass system which extends all along the southern and eastern coast of South Africa, by which sand is constantly moved eastwards along the coast by the prevailing westerly winds.
2. Several decades ago, this system was interfered with at the western end of DBV, when thorn bush was planted to screen a well sunk there from the blown sand. The bush gradually expanded so that it now covers most of DBV. This bush interfered with the flow of sand, which started to bank up west of DBV, eventually resulting in the huge dune ("the Dune") at the car park on Westbourne Road.
3. Over the past 5 or so years, several people in Kenton have done extensive studies on how best to remedy the problem. The obvious and most sustainable one would be to remove the sand from the Dune and deposit it on a site yet to be determined. Then all the vegetation should be removed from DBV and it should be restored to a sand bypass. This was supported by Estuary Care and KOSRA, but never got going because substantial funds would have been needed both for the necessary environmental approval process and for the actual procedure.
4. Robert Rose, who lives in Land's End, which is adjacent to DBV, has spent a large amount of money hiring consultants to do studies and prepare recommendations for a solution.
5. He has sent KOSRA a Newsletter, which summarises the recommendations of the consultant, and has asked KOSRA to support the proposals contained in it.
6. The essence of KSDA's proposals are:
  - To shave off the top of the Dune, mix this sand with sea water to form a slurry and pump it onto the beach between Shelly Bay and Middle Beach "and most of this sand would be taken away by the sea."
  - To plant the shaved Dune with indigenous vegetation, thus replicating the DBV/Dune situation, but westwards.
  - To sink a borehole near the Dune to irrigate the new vegetation.
  - To build a road through the vegetation on the shaved Dune to the new dune to the west. Sand would now accumulate on the new dune and would have to be removed, KSDA estimates, every quarter. The road would be to allow a front-end loader to access the new dune to remove sand. The idea is to try dumping this sand in the mouth of the Bushmans River. "There will be an experiment carried out to see if this sand can be successfully carried out to sea on the ebbing tide. Should this not be found to be satisfactory, it will be moved by a suitable truck to Middle Beach, periodically, in quantities of approx. 75 cu per day."
  - To build a new public toilet nearer the Bushmans River, to replace the one now swamped by the Dune.
  - KSDA alludes to the permanent solution of restoring DBV to a sand bypass, but merely states that "this solution would be unacceptable to the residents in Land's End Road". No reason is furnished as to why it would be unacceptable

KOSRA has given the proposal careful consideration, in the light of all the discussions, and information obtained, and recommendations which have been made over the last 5 or so years. The KOSRA committee has reached the conclusion that it cannot support KSDA proposal for the following reasons:

1. As the solution proposed by KSDA would involve considerable expense and would provide only a temporary solution requiring ongoing sand removal and consequent expense, we cannot see why the permanent solution is not preferable, unless KSDA can provide a cogent reason against it.
2. From our preliminary enquiries, we understand that at least some of the residents in Land's End do not support the KSDA's proposal but rather support restoring DBV.
3. Any proposal that a large amount of sand be dumped on to the beach between Shelly Bay and Middle Beach is ecologically unacceptable.
4. Even more ecologically unacceptable, is the proposal to dump the accumulated sand from the new western dune into the mouth of the Bushmans River. KSDA states that they will see if it can be carried out to sea on the ebbing tide. This is unlikely: KSDA has already stated that the silting of the river is caused by sand in the mouth being carried up to 3,5km upstream by the tide. It is more likely that the regular dumping of large quantities of sand into the mouth would merely permanently close the mouth of the Bushmans.
5. If this is found not to work then the alternative solution proposed is to move the sand by truck to Middle Beach, "where it will be readily dispersed by the tide." Presumably this is the same tide which brings sand inland from the sea at the mouth of the Bushmans River. Why would it suddenly reverse its action here?
6. KSDA estimates that 75 cubic meters of sand would be dumped on Middle Beach per day. This amounts to 12 tipper truck loads per day. They do not indicate for how many concurrent days this would be done, but estimate that it would be done quarterly. This proposal completely ignores the users of the beach and the rich marine life which exists on the rocks and in the pools at Middle Beach. We do not believe that the Department of the Environment would ever permit this.
7. We cannot see the point of, nor the reason for, moving the sand from the Dune westwards and then vegetating the Dune. Why not just remove the sand from the Dune on a regular basis as is suggested be done with the new western dune? This would obviate the need for vegetation, building of a road and sinking of a borehole. It still leaves the problem of where to dump the removed sand.
8. Apart from the cost and noise and diesel pollution all the steps in the proposal will cause, we have grave doubts that the Dept of Environment will permit any of:
  - Dumping of sand either on the beach between Shelly Bay and Middle Beach, or in the Bushmans River, or on Middle Beach
  - Vegetating a dune
  - Building a road across a dune
  - Sinking a borehole in this area.
  - Building a new toilet closer to the beach.

Furthermore, the various steps proposed by KSDA, instead of restoring the damage already done to the natural environment in this area by man, would exacerbate it several fold.