



06th June 2008

Dear Sir

To whom it may concern

While it is noted that a R1, 6 billion developments will boost the economy of Kimberley it must also be noted that inappropriate development within Kimberley could potentially do more harm than good.

1. Kamfers Dam supports the largest permanent population of Lesser Flamingos in Southern Africa, and is one of only four breeding sites for the species in Africa. Consequently the proposed development is of concern for the residents of Kimberley but also for South Africa and the international community.
2. Kamfers Dam and its flamingos form an integral part of the Diamond Route, an initiative which aims to promote tourism at various De Beers, Oppenheimer and other sites in South Africa.
3. A great deal of effort, money and expertise has gone into developing the pan and promoting the breeding of the flamingos that are on the red data list. The previously unheard of scientific achievement of getting these threatened birds to breed has put Kimberley on the map again. Kamfers Dam and its flamingos have become a symbol for Kimberley much like the diamond and the "Big Hole" which are synonymous with Kimberley.
4. Ensuring the protection and survival of the flamingos and the breeding programme *must* be seen as the priority for Kimberley.

5. Kamfers Dam's flamingos have become a major tourism attraction and could contribute significantly to Kimberley's economy if and only if the project is managed responsibly by the Sol Plaatje Municipality, all potential developers and the population of Kimberley.
6. A housing development located to the north-west of Kamfers Dam would
 - (a) result in disturbance for the wetland's population of flamingos,
 - (b) result in additional pollution of the wetland through the inflow of additional sewage and pollutants from the catchment area and
 - (c) be the precursor for other developments to the north of the city which could result in Kamfers Dam being far less attractive to flamingos.
7. The issue surrounding the controversy of developing next to Kamfers Dam is not one of stopping development in Kimberley but merely of ensuring that development in Kimberley is done on a sustainable and environmentally responsible basis has a limited impact on the environment. The recommendation is that the housing development be located at another less sensitive site.
8. The ecology within Kimberley itself and its immediate surrounds has been sacrificed in order to develop the mineral wealth of South Africa. The success of the artificial breeding island and pan can be seen as a major victory for off-setting the environmentally destructive activities that have driven Kimberley's economy and a means of giving back something for what been taken from the environment.
9. It is inconceivable that the only suitable development area within Kimberley is right next to these threatened flamingos and that the only way a housing development will be successful within Kimberley is to place it in an area that is seen as the most environmentally sensitive in Kimberley.

We at E Oppenheimer & Son would like to voice our objection to the Northgate development for all the above mentioned reason.

Yours sincerely



Duncan MacFadyen

Manager: Research and
Conservation

Tel: +27 11 274 2184
Fax: +27 11 274 2185
Cell: +27 83 379 2139

E OPPENHEIMER & SON (PTY) LIMITED
6 ST ANDREW'S ROAD PARKTOWN 2193
PO BOX 61631 MARSHALLTOWN 2107
TEL: +27 (0) 11 274 2000 • FAX: +27 (0) 11 274 2001
