

January 2018

## **FAR SOUTH RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT**

For several months a Far South action group, made up of interested individuals and organizations, including KRRRA, have been meeting and collecting detailed data about the drought in the Far South. We had a community report back meeting just before Christmas where the following points were discussed.

### **City-wide information**

In the long term, good quality rain for 3 years in a row is needed for the City dams to catch up. Climate change factors are exacerbating the crisis with heat increases and accelerated wind speeds.

Ironically rain days lead to spike in consumption making day zero a moving target for city and risk assessment (currently 22 April).

Desalination plant projects have slowed down because of the CoCT cost analysis. There is a better deal from aquifers though these are not necessarily permanently reliable as has been demonstrated in other global cities like Djakarta.

66,000 farming, food, commercial and industrial jobs have already been lost. Political factors and disinformation are complicating the challenge in addition to spectacular lack of central government help.

### **CoCT plans for the Far South**

Because of its infrastructure, dams (like Lewis Gay and Kleinplasia which have 1500 ML capacity), boreholes, springs, water treatment capacity and professional skills (including geohydrology), the Far South of over 80,000 residents has the potential to manage its own water area.

The Far South currently uses about 10 ML a day (2 ML needed for drinking), down by 50% pre-crisis.

The Brooklands purification plant provides 6 ML per day leaving a shortfall of 4ML per day which could be made up with other sources.

While looking after ourselves it is still important to continue exerting pressure on government. It will be better to deliver emergency supplies through pipes than by trucks, so it's important to maintain infrastructure and guard against vandalism.

Of the 200 planned CoCT collection points for emergency water, at least three will be in the Far South - Kommetjie school, Fish Hoek sports fields and Buller Louw Ave. Around 7000 people per point can be expected unless better street-based delivery systems are developed and a minimum of 15 litres per person per day is guaranteed. There are the practicalities of collection, such as the need for portable containers, security and integrating with work and education commitments.

Churches and faith-based institutions have an important role to play in minimising problems and helping those at risk.

Masiphumelele will not be shut off because of the numbers of informal dwellings.  
Some existing boreholes in the Red Hill area have some lead contamination.  
False Bay Hospital has a borehole and is fundraising for a purification plant: the Province is prioritising hospitals and clinics.

Wildevollei waste water treatment works is using 8 ML of its 14 ML capacity and the plan is to have this water recycled eventually

### **Far South responses to CoCT**

Environmental processes should not be circumvented in ensuring supplies.  
Disaster planning including fire-fighting capacity should cover longer-term plans for avoidance and mitigation.

The Navy is willing and able to help physically and strategically, but needs to follow official chain of command process.

Large users have been identified, but only City officials can communicate with them! Civil society could help.

### **Role of Far South civil society**

With tools and training, we can help with local leaks and pipe bursts.

We can provide credible communication (not fear mongering and rumours) – using FB pages, websites, social media and the printed press and radio responsibly.

We will encourage domestic solutions like use porta pools and tanks to collect water for non-potable water and grey water reuse.

We will offer dry sanitation workshops.