**RATIONALE FOR ALL OF ROOIELS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE HPOZ**

Purpose of Rooiels HPOZ: To ensure that any land use application resulting in additional rights complies with the existing character and contextual significance to enhance the visual spatial threshold at the point of entry to the Overstrand Municipality and adjacent to the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Furthermore, together with the coastal HPOZ that applies to the first line of erven along the shore and the scenic corridor HPOZ, the HPOZ overlays are established to protect the natural, environmental, scenic and social values of enhancing the green linkages between the mountains and the sea.

Reasons for applying for all of Rooiels to be included in the Heritage Protection Overlay Zones:

1. Currently the designation of Rooiels HPOZ applies only to the sections that can be seen from the R44 together with all erven along the sea front which are included in the Coastal HPOZ. The residents of Rooiels would like to apply for HPOZ status for the entire village in order to ensure that we maintain the natural fynbos and the aesthetic and environmental value of this entrance to the Overstrand.

2. The Rooiels Residents’ Vision reflects the values articulated in the HPOZ but applies to our entire village. The Vision is also in line with our support for Rooiels to be active as a buffer to the protected area of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. The well attended stakeholders meeting in 2018 reaffirmed the commitment of residents for Rooiels to apply to be formally incorporated as a Buffer zone into the KBR. Rooiels is proud of its heritage as a community that lives closely with nature and helps to enhance the value of the environment for the future. The residents would like to ensure that it continues this legacy.

3. The sections of Rooiels currently designated as HPOZ are only certain areas that can be seen from the R44. They are so designated because of the important scenic and aesthetic role that the corridor plays in the Overstrand economy. However Rooiels in its entirety adds real value to the attraction because of the way it reflects people living in harmony with nature. Most of the village is open and retains indigenous fynbos along the roadsides and many of the Erfs. Wildlife can be seen foraging naturally in the village and visitors to the Overstrand often incorporate a drive through Rooiels as part of their visitor experience. To retain this, we do need all of Rooiels to be incorporated into the HPOZ designation. Thus the rationale that was applied by the Overstrand Municipality, for the designation of parts of Rooiels as an important HPOZ along the scenic corridor, is also relevant to the entire village.

4. In addition to its role in the aesthetics and attraction of the Overstrand, Rooiels also currently plays an important role in mitigating the risks of the loss of diversity through climate change. Rooiels still retains much of its natural fynbos and thus acts as a seed bank and also as a host for insects and all animal life. Rooiels is also currently exploring the options of actively engaging in providing opportunities and support for Western Cape universities, including Hermanus, to carry out research on sustainable living in ways that promote natural ecological systems. The importance of climate risk mitigation and adaptation is increasingly recognised as essential to the future in South Africa.

5. Rooiels with its widespread locally indigenous flora is an important buffer to the neighbouring protected area. Rooiels residents have invested considerable time and money over many years to remove invasive alien plants. What was once a forest of rooikrans (Acacia cyclops) is now naturally seeded fynbos. This provides habitat and food for insects and animals and the natural areas are an important seedbank. Thus Rooiels helps to sustain the biodiversity of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. If all of Rooiels is part of the HPOZ it will be easier to safeguard the indigenous road reserves, the narrow untarred roads, no pavements and other protection measures. This will help to ensure that Rooiels continues to play its important biodiversity refuge role, retains its natural appeal to visitors entering the Overstrand and its character and property values.

6. Rooiels is unique in the Western Cape as a community committed to finding ways of supporting efforts to ensure that the village remains open to wildlife, including baboons.  The majority of Rooiels residents take deliberate measures to reduce baboon access to human food and enjoy seeing them foraging naturally in the abundant fynbos and along the shoreline.  This is important to reduce the costs of artificial protection measures of human monitors, fences or other costly interventions to reduce human/baboon conflict.  It is perhaps more important to provide the baboons with access to coastal fynbos which is increasingly limited and is a necessary part of their feeding regimes.  This commitment clearly demonstrates the unique attitude of Rooiels towards nature.  Ensuring that residents and visitors understand and comply with additional measures to reduce conflict is one of the reasons why it is important that all of Rooiels is included in the HPOZ.

7. The Rooiels residents and the ratepayers association would find it easier to achieve the objectives of the HPOZ and maintain the scenic corridor and ensure compliance, if the same conditions applied to all of Rooiels. Public participation, information sharing and joint decisions would be more easily achieved if the entire village is designated as part of the Heritage Overlay Protection zones.

 8. We would, therefore, as a community, appeal that all of Rooiels be recognised as part of the HPOZ and that Plan 4 be changed to reflect this. There is no change required to the wording of the documentation.

