



For your information



Response requested



Urgent

The monthly minutes from the WCPDF Management Committee (ManComm) meeting have begun to read like a suspense novel, but always with the same cliff-hanger ending.

Will the month ahead be the one that finally sees provincial government break through its own red tape it has been promising to untangle for the past three years? Is this the month the City will finally understand that it is actually about service delivery and getting its staff back to the office – cutting down the hours the public spend in queues for car licences and getting on with processing development / investment applications? Will the 30 days ahead see a national draft bill on which we've delivered comment finally acknowledge our input and actually, maybe even, incorporate our suggestions?

I must admit that, by the time the City of Cape Town's [Draft Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy](#) came around for comment before 14 October, all I and a number of other ManComm members could do on our first reading was to close the document half way through.

In this document, the City stated it was very important for it to engage with the private sector, and yet again it had put out a draft strategy that had clearly failed to engage with the private sector in any way whatsoever. Nevertheless, despite our despondency, we still rallied ourselves to give input on behalf of our members, which you can read [here](#).

Further on in this newsletter, we've also included a reminder about the public comment being called for in terms of the City's draft Human Settlement Strategy – a document that leaves you cold when you realise that current public housing delivery needs to increase by a factor of 10 on a year-to-year basis if there is any hope of dealing with the housing backlog. The policy gives no clarity on how City proposes to get through its own land-release hurdles nor how it proposes to procure professional and construction services in a more efficient and pragmatic manner.

The most recent national bill on which we [commented](#) was the [Draft Public Procurement Bill](#), a bill which, at its very heart, could make or break the property development and construction sector's involvement with the public sector. This bill relates specifically, in terms of our industry, to the construction and maintenance of the country's much-needed infrastructure, from roads to schools and housing. In particular, it will be the new blueprint for how public sector facilitates calls for tenders and, most importantly, the adjudications thereof. And, of course, from there, how a new culture of co-operation does manage – or not – to filter down to other regional and local authorities.

To this end, the last in our popular online ["In Conversation"](#) webinar series will be held next week on Thursday 19 November on the topic: "Procurement – Impeder or Enabler in Infrastructure Delivery." If you have not yet [booked](#), please do so quickly to avoid missing this final (for now) two-hour session from 14h00 until 16h00.

Dr Ron Watermeyer (Visiting Adjunct Professor, School of Construction Economics and Management, University of the Witwatersrand) will set the background for this webinar. Dr Watermeyer is also the

author (together with Sean Philips) of the March 2020 [Draft Background Paper on Public Infrastructure Delivery and Construction Dynamism in the South African Economy](#). This was part of the National Planning Commission's Economy Series contributing towards the understanding of progress towards the [National Development Plan Vision 2030](#).

Alwyn Laubscher (COO of [AL&A](#)) will be the facilitator of the discussion that follows, with Dr Watermeyer being joined by Associate Professor Kathy Michell ([Head of Department: Construction Economics & Management](#), University of Cape Town) and Prof Geo Quinot (Department of Public Law, [Stellenbosch University](#).)

We were very proud to secure [Civils 2000](#) as the Gold Sponsor of this event, and we bring you more about this company later on in this release.

It has also been interesting to read what Civils 2000's COO, Chris Botha, had to say in a [press release](#) about his company's own experiences with public sector procurement, as well as the industry's expectations around the roll-out, management and delivery of the 276 projects which National Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Patricia De Lille, recently announced and which are hoped will bring a heart beat back to our failing industry.

We look forward to having you join us in discussion on the all-important subject of Procurement on 19 November, and to all further liaisons we will continue to have. As always, we'll keep you posted monthly.

Kind regards

Deon van Zyl
Chairperson

"IN CONVERSATION" WEBINAR #4: MORE ABOUT OUR GOLD SPONSOR, CIVILS 2000

[Civils 2000](#) was established in 1992 by two well-known names in the property development and construction field – Colin Shapiro and Rob Starke – who aimed to provide high-quality construction and engineering services to a developing market.

Initially focusing on developments and commissions within the private sector, it expanded this focus over the years into taking on major infrastructure and construction projects in the public sector as well.

As a result, over the past 28 years, Civils 2000 has become well known across the broadest spectrum of the South African civil engineering and building construction sectors. With its head office in Cape Town's Capricorn Park in Muizenberg, it operates today across a wide range of disciplines, from the construction and surfacing of roads, to building bridges, water and wastewater treatment works, reservoirs, dams, commercial and residential developments, commercial and industrial buildings, as well as infrastructure services to the renewable energy sector. In addition, Civils 2000 is a CIDB 9CE and 8GB registered contractor and a proud Level 1 B-BBEE company.

Civils 2000 Plant Hire division also offers the latest in high-performance plant and machinery to the local construction sector, while [Roadsmart Aspalting](#), the Group's road surfacing company, provides asphalt and surfacing solutions using cutting-edge paving machines and technologies.

HSRC SEMINAR SERIES: BACKYARD REAL ESTATE – HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The HSRC seminar series is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and on 18 November 2020, from 12h00 to 14h00, it will be hosting this seminar discussing the boom of backyard housing across South Africa, and how enterprising households and small-scale developers are investing in single and double-storey flats.

While boosting the supply of decent rental accommodation, not to mention jobs and the economy in general, the informal and unregulated nature of these developments creates risks for public infrastructure, neighbourhood stability and sustainable environments.

Issues to be debated at this seminar include: how can backyard real estate be leveraged to bolster township economic development? And how can backyard developments contribute to more liveable township environments?

Presenters include: Jak Koseff (Office of the Premier, Gauteng Provincial Government), Charles Rudman (City of Cape Town), Claire du Trevou (Bitprop), Zama Mgwatyu (Development Action Group), Paul Jackson (TUHF) and Neville Chaine (National Department of Human Settlements).

The seminar will be facilitated by Prof Ivan Turok, Dr Andreas Scheba and Dr Justin Visagie of the HSRC-UFS SARChI Chair collaboration.

There is no charge to attend. All interested parties can register beforehand by clicking [here](#), or for further information contact Arlene Grossberg at acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za.

REMINDER ABOUT CITY OF CAPE TOWN DISTRICT SIX LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The City of Cape Town's engagements with residents and interest groups around the local spatial development framework, or local neighbourhood plan, for District Six are now in full swing. Any members who have not yet joined the discussion but who would like to either join or be kept up to date, can access further information about the process, including documents and presentations, by clicking on this [link](#).

FINAL REMINDER: CITY OF CAPE TOWN'S CALLS FOR COMMENT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS STRATEGY

This is a final reminder that the City of Cape Town has invited members of the public as well as finance and development partners to comment on its draft Human Settlements Strategy. Information on the strategy, which focuses primarily on the housing needs of those earning less than R22 000 per month, as well as the way in which you can comment before 30 November 2020, can be found [here](#).

We would also like to remind all WCPDF members that we will be adding our own voice via a WCPDF submission on behalf of the industry. If you have comment you would wish to include, please email this to the WCPDF's administrator, [Kim Kilpatrick](#), by no later than this coming **Monday 16 November**.