

PR Councillor

Your ref:

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Date: 15 January 2024

Who deals with this:

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SANRAL

MR REGINALD DEMANA

PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Demana,

RE: FAILURE BY SANRAL TO MAINTAIN R75 IN NELSON MANDELA BAY

I refer to the aforementioned matter.

It is regrettable that I have to address this correspondence to you directly instead of your local representatives with whom we have been unable to make any progress herein.

I want to request your urgent intervention in the ongoing neglect and maintenance of the R75- one of the most strategic roads within Nelson Mandela Bay. Although the road is one of only two routes that connect NMB with Johannesburg and thus also serves as an entry point into the City, I specifically wish to highlight the decay and lack of maintenance on the portion of the R75 between Gqeberha/Port Elizabeth and Kariega/Uitenhage.

This stretch of road is of extreme importance to the economy of the Metro as big industry has continued to develop along this corridor over the past number of decades.

Unfortunately, over the last two years we have experienced an alarming lack of maintenance by SANRAL to the R75 that has started to compromise the safety of both motorists as well as pedestrians along this route.

There are currently no operational traffic lights, no safe pedestrian crossings and hundreds of meters of damaged guardrails are strewn along the route.

The non-functioning traffic lights not only cause chaos in especially peak traffic, it has also no doubt contributed to the number of accidents and fatalities we have seen on this stretch of road in recent times.

Even more concerning is the fact that accident damaged guardrails which are left unattended for months have become life threatening to motorists. Not only can the debris left on this road be the cause of accidents, the failure to reinstate said rails at strategic places can also be life threatening when accidents occur.

It is a fact that NMB has always had a collegial working relationship with SANRAL. I also believe that SANRAL has always done its absolute best in maintaining national routes in NMB to the best of their ability. That is why I am particularly taken aback by the lack of interest shown by SANRAL in maintaining the R75.

What the people of NMB require from SANRAL in respect of this road is just operational maintenance and repairs-no big capital investment on upgrades. As such I want to call upon you for your urgent intervention in this regard. I have attached a few pictures of the current state of the R75. More pictures can be forwarded to you upon request.

I trust you shall receive my advices favourably.

Sincerely,

RETIEF ODENDAAL

Leader of the Opposition - Nelson Mandela Bay

(Signed Electronically)

CC: Hon Xolile Nqatha MPL

Eastern Cape MEC for Transport

