EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Office of the Democratic Alliance

Hon. Dr Malcolm Figg, MPL

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13 October 2026

To: **Hon Xolile Nqatha**
MEC for Transport
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Independence Avenue
Bhisho
5605

Dear MEC Nqatha

RE: REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION: DANGEROUS DETERIORATION OF THE DR1831 (ELANDSRIVER ROAD)

I write to request your urgent intervention regarding the dangerous deterioration of the DR1831, commonly known as the Elandsriver road, following severe flood damage.

The attached correspondence from Adam and Nele van der Westhuizen, dated 4 June 2026, details the initial damage and its consequences for the affected farming community. The bridge at Verkeerdedrif farm has since been repaired, and repairs to some bridges have enabled children to reach school, although some must still travel considerable distances via alternative routes.

The immediate concern is now the sections of road that are caving in and crumbling away. These sections are highly dangerous and present an imminent risk of a serious accident. Local farmers have attempted repairs using their own resources and erected warning signs at dangerous points, but professional intervention is urgently required to prevent further collapse and protect road users.

I therefore respectfully request that your office:

1. Engage the relevant authorities to arrange an urgent engineering assessment of the affected sections of the DR1831 and identify outstanding road and bridge repairs;

2. Ensure immediate safety measures are implemented at sections that are caving in or crumbling away, while maintaining safe access for the affected community; and

3. Secure a funded repair and rehabilitation plan, identifying the responsible implementing authority and clear commencement and completion dates.

The affected residents, schoolchildren, farm workers and agricultural operations require safe and reliable access. Intervention must take place before the continued deterioration results in a serious accident or loss of life.

I would appreciate a written response within 14 days outlining the action being taken, with immediate attention to the most dangerous sections.

Yours faithfully,



HON DR MALCOLM FIGG, MPL

Shadow MEC for Finance and for Public Works and Infrastructure
Constituency Leader: Blue Crane Route Municipality

CC: Hon K Mogatosi MPL, Shadow MEC for Transport
CC: Cllr Karen Smith, DA Caucus Leader

ANNEXURE "A"

Adam & Nele van Der Westhuizen
Farm Houtkloof
Elandsrivier 57

04 June 2026

Subject: Elandsriver road damage – URGENT

To: Roads Department

Dear Sir, Madam,

We are writing you with respect to the current state of the Elandsriver road and the extensive damage that was caused by the floods of 6-8 May and now again on 3 June 2026.

After the floods of 6-8 May, part of the bridge on the Elandsriver road at Verkeerdedrift farm broke and washed away. The low water bridges on the Elandsriver road at Weltevrede farm and at Houtkloof farm were also both extensively damaged. Pictures of this can be supplied and it was reported through our Farmers' Association. However, we have not seen anybody from the Roads Department / Municipality for any repairs or assistance after those events. The local farmers tried with their own equipment and people to fix the road / bridges as well as we can, but the damage is so severe that it requires engineering works and professional equipment.

The next wave of torrential rain on 3 June now completely washed away all the remaining land around the broken bridges and there is no way to still pass. This means that every farm from Verkeerdedrift onwards is cut off and not accessible. The damage is so severe that we cannot do anything about it ourselves; we are stuck on our farms.

We are pleading with you to please assist us with the repairs as soon as possible so that the farmers and their workers can get out. Our daughter is at the hostel at school and we cannot even go and fetch her. All the farm workers on this side have children that attend the Rose Cottage Primary school and there are currently unable to attend the school. You cannot even pass that area on foot. Unfortunately, if you do not come and assist us, we will remain stuck here. Several farms over an area of 10 km are affected and need your help.

We will highly appreciate your assistance and intervention.

Best regards,
Adam & Nele van der Westhuizen

ANNEXURE "B"























