

Images and comments of the sewage pollution in the Blougat Spruit on the 2nd June 2023

Although the problem has been ongoing for quite a number of years already and the situation has been up and down during that time. But now we have the case that it has been constantly deteriorating for quite a number of months.

On the last page is a satellite image of the immediate area, with red letters **A, B, C, D and E** to indicate the actual locations.

On the 16th May 2023 a member of the community identified raw sewage running down the side of the ravine into the Blougat Spruit. Red B on the satellite image.

On Tuesday the 23rd May 2023 we were able to identify a specific manhole on the main sewer line going to Percy Stewart that was overflowing, with a pin drop added. Whilst standing there the colour of the outflow would change from greenish to black and back to greenish. It isn't possible to describe the stench that was present there.

These details were sent to the Mogale Whatsapp complaint number. There was a response that the complaint had been passed to the water department.

Red B on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=-26.079256057739258%2C27.737205505371094&z=17&hl=en>



On Friday the 26th May 2023 a follow up was done to find the same manhole still overflowing, and flowing down the side of the ravine. No indication of anybody even having attempting to correct the problem. These details were again sent to the Mogale Whatsapp complaint number, this time there was a response with a reference number MCLM Ref: 72794.



On the 2nd June 2023 I did a more detailed inspection of the area and what I found is as follows:

I started upstream from Percy Stewart close to Robert Broom and observed that the water in the Blougat Spruit was quite clear (a little discolouration present) and was easy to see the river bed and rubbish on the river bed as per the following photo with pin drop. This was taken from a bridge crossing the Blougat Spruit at 12h24.

Red A on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=-26.08414649963379%2C27.747089385986328&z=17&hl=en>



The next stop was the location in Delpontan where the sewage trucks empty their loads into a manhole which carries the waste into the main sewer line to Percy Stewart. This site has been problematic since it was started a number of years ago as the construction work has never been completed which results in any overflow or splatter from the trucks ending up flowing down the ravine into the Blougat. From my information at other similar sites there is a better designed funnel arrangement with a barrier wall so that all the waste goes into the sewer line.

What I noticed today is that Mogale seems to have scraped a trench at the back of the manhole to the perimeter fence so that the waste can more easily flow away from where it should be and out to the ravine and the Blougat.

One can see the mess from behind the truck busy emptying into the manhole. From the markings on the ground it can be seen that this was done very recently. Possibly earlier today.

Red B on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=-26.079713821411133%2C27.738574981689453&z=17&hl=en>



Going to the entrance to the unloading area and looking in the direction of Percy Stewart there is a newly scraped road done to get to the main sewer line as well as some trucks and a TLB. Following the new road past the trucks I came across a manhole partially dismantled and sewage flowing down the side of the ravine.



Carrying on along the line I came to the manhole originally identified as overflowing, which although not currently overflowing was very wet around it and seemed to have been overflowing shortly before my check.



Moving I went Past Percy Stewart where none of the rotating arms are rotating, and on to the north west perimeter fence. There is waste trickling out from Percy Stewart onto the perimeter road. Percy Stewart is on the right hand side of the photo.

Red C on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=-26.074424743652344%2C27.726608276367188&z=17&hl=en>



Moving on downstream to a point I regularly use one can see the extreme discolouration of the water in the Blougat. At this point there is a stench close to the river that I can best describe as that of a rotten fish market. At this point the visibility is so poor that the rocks above the water are completely hidden below the surface. Today not much foam present.

Red D on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps/search/Krugersdorp/@-26.065595626831055,27.72222137451172,17z?hl=en>



My last stop was at the point where the Blougat goes under the N14. At this point there is quite a lot of foam, some of which has a grey discolouration (bottom left of photo). And from here onwards into the Cradle Of Humankind, past restaurants and various tourist facilities.

Red E on the satellite image.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=-26.039772033691406%2C27.72106170654297&z=17&hl=en>



