

## HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE STATEMENT ON WUPPERTHAL

Members of Council of Heritage Western Cape extend sincere sympathies to the people of Wuppertal and those affected by the tragic fire last month. Council, committee members and management were part of the HWC team that visited the town to assess the damage. We discussed the situation with the church and townspeople, who have elected a representative Crisis Committee.

During the course of our site inspection, we noted that in general many of the structures which have burnt down could be restored: both public buildings and cottages. Contrary to reports that are out in the public realm, demolition is not the only option.

The general consensus of the members of the community who attended the meetings, indicated that their wish is for their cottages (in many instances the homes of their families for generations) to be restored, and not demolished. However, a heritage assessment of each building needs to be made by an engineer and conservation architect together, prior to arriving at any decision in respect of demolition or restoration.

Wuppertal was declared a Conservation Area by the National Monuments Council, and is therefore a protected heritage resource under section 31 of the National Heritage Resources Act. Council's Executive Committee will be meeting on 25 January 2019 to specifically discuss the observations of the team that visited Wuppertal and outline how heritage resources should be protected as required by the National Heritage Resources Act.



Mxolisi Dlamuka

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

DATE:

21 January 2019