

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

P.O. Box 22125, Fish Hoek 7974

Web : <https://www.fishhoekratepayers.com/> Facebook : www.facebook.com/FHVRRA/

Heritage Western Cape: Conservation Body

**TO: DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF) MS THOKO DIDIZA,
fshaik@environment.gov.za
MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH, DR ZWELINI MKHIZE, SethoM@health.gov.za
MINISTER OF HEALTH, WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT, MBOMBO
Unathi.Mayinje@westerncape.gov.za**

**SUBJECT: BAN THE 67 PESTICIDES OUTLAWED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND
ENFORCE COMPLIANCE**

1. DISCUSSION

You may wonder why a ratepayers organisation is urging the banning of pesticides. According to our constitution (ratepayers), it is our mandate to promote the welfare of our members. Although none of our members work within a meter from where pesticides are being sprayed like the recent media reports of farm workers with no issued protective clothing (73%)^{1,2,3}, we are concerned that our health is also probably affected. When well resourced developed countries ban 457 active ingredients, of which South Africa allows 67 pesticides containing some of these same active ingredients, then it is a major concern to us regarding our health. Our farmers are known for spraying just before harvesting to help dry out the crops. This residue must surely exceed the minimum levels from run-off into our dam surface waters, allowed as set by Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008⁴ whose aim is to progressively reduce pollution from priority substances and ceasing or phasing out emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances. We wish that our responsible ministers felt the same about our health. Who is to say unequivocally that our members with breathing problems, disproportionate incidents of asthma, eye problems and skin infections⁵ are not also affected by these same pesticides in our foodstuff and water. After all, if farm animals drinking water over-sprayed by these pesticides ended up dying, who is to say that our farmers aren't shortening our lifespans.⁶ The South African Constitution's Section 24 says that "everyone has the right (a.) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and (b.) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that (i.) prevent pollution and ecological degradation".⁷ Surely our Constitutional rights are being infringed upon by the allowed usage of said chemicals.

1 <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-08-30-ban-them-now-farm-workers-want-67-pesticides-outlawed/>

2 <https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/news/women-march-to-parliament-for-banning-of-harmful-pesticides-31466952>

3 <https://www.groundup.org.za/article/farmworkers-want-67-pesticides-banned/>

4 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/105/oj>

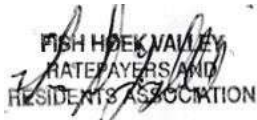
5 <http://www.702.co.za/articles/359394/farmworkers-call-for-67-pesticides-to-be-banned-in-sa>

6 https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-08-30-women-farmworkers-demand-an-end-to-use-of-harmful-pesticides/?fbclid=IwAR1B9NaI3rgPI5iC2k0He8Ha79tEtcNJYZrcdAfcgjYoIOiK_LxXPbII0Bk

7 <https://www.gov.za/documents/constitution/chapter-2-bill-rights#24>

2. OBJECTION

Therefore, for the reasons set out above, we propose the banning of these 67 pesticides as outlawed by the European Union (EU) and that compliance is enforced.

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