

9/10 Jet Park  
Caravelle Street, Walmer  
3066, Port Elizabeth

Tel: 041 366 1254  
email: [info@periexpo.co.za](mailto:info@periexpo.co.za)

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Motivation : Whale Heritage Site

The World Cetacean Alliance,

By way of introduction let me say that I am currently a resident and business owner in Nelson Mandela Bay and through my passion for our unique natural environment I feel compelled to write this motivation.

Through my business dealings and my ongoing support of our region's tourism offerings I have been informed of an application to have our bay declared a Whale Heritage Site and would like to make the following comments in favour of the application.

I have attended the annual "Welcome the Whales" festival organised by Lloyd Edwards of Raggy Charters since its inception and taken an interest in the many lectures and talks given by Lloyd and others regarding the increasing number of whales that appear in our waters every year.

Living in the suburb of Schoenmakerskop, overlooking the ocean on what we refer to as the "wild side", I am very fortunate to spend hours observing the whales from the clifftops and have seen what appears to be increased activity every year with regard to whale sightings. My proximity to the ocean and the interest it has awakened within me has led to me to appreciate the value that such rich marine life can offer our city.

There is no doubt that by declaring Port Elizabeth a Whale Heritage Site, it would contribute massively to our tourism offerings both nationally and internationally. We are situated in an area where one can view the "Big Five" land animals on our doorstep and would benefit greatly by the addition of being able to view whales from land and sea. The economic benefit to our region would be significant and it would be a very positive development in terms of reducing unemployment and related social problems.

I give my full support to the application to have Port Elizabeth declared a Whale Heritage Site.

Yours Sincerely

*Andrew Stewart*

Tel: 041 581 3733 / 082 578 5987  
Email: [andrew@periexpo.co.za](mailto:andrew@periexpo.co.za)