Richard Donaldson. Rainfall, Flooding & Infrastructure Damage in the Breede River Winelands Municipality: A Focus on Cut-off Low Events 2003 – 2008. (Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2009)

The BRWM is extremely at risk of flood events caused by cut-off lows. These cut-off lows are predicted to increase in severity and frequency due to climate change and natural variation. The Breede River flows through this area and due to the mountainous topography many tributary rivers flow from the mountains to the Breede River. The roads and bridges in the area are therefore increasingly vulnerable to flood events. The environmental vulnerability caused by increased anthropogenic forcing (Aliens, water consumption, agriculture and urban development) and climate change contribute to the increasing vulnerability of infrastructure in the catchments of tributary rivers. The management of the Breede River catchment has a large body of research to draw on and current strategies are competent and could solve many of the issues leading to environmental and infrastructural vulnerability. However, challenges develop in the implementation of these strategies and in the cooperation between departments in the municipality to mitigate the effects of flooding.