

Residents respond on Facebook to Oceana debate

Following the announcement by Oceana that the fishmeal factory will remain open, the Sentinel asked residents and local businesses on Facebook how the smell affected them and what they thought about the announcement.

Hout Bay resident Veronica Ron Moses said she could not see how the smell could affect any businesses in Hout Bay as visitors keep returning to the "beautiful valley".

"They even come when it smells. People just love this place," she said.

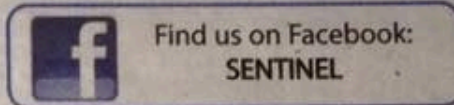
Resident Helen Hays said she was thrilled that the jobs have not been lost but not at the expense of the health and well-being of the community.

Melodie Diamond said her gut feel was that Oceana has received the message loud and clear and will do something about the smell that offends so many.

"I am personally thrilled that the factory is staying and I have heard from a reliable source that the whole operation will be changing, which will alleviate the smell.

"Let's wait and see and refrain from childish innuendo and insults.

"We are one community and it's time to work together for the ben-



efit of all," she said.

Tiffany Martin said the people complaining were only thinking about themselves and their businesses and tourists.

"We were born here and nothing has happened to us with the smell, we are still doing well. Oceana is here to stay," she said.

Candice Williams responded with "Viva Oceana viva!!!"

Volker Butow said the smell definitely impacts his marketing business.

"I have to hold client meetings outside the valley, hence extra travel expense that we incur as a business, because I would not invite my clients over to a local coffee shop if there is that smell.

"Nobody could hold a client meeting over such a stench," he said.

Byron Hendricks asked how the community could expect others to go unemployed simply as they were irritated by a smell.

"It has been here since forever, the ones complaining have not.

"The employees have families, to feed and here people want them to lose their income simply because the factory irritates their

nostrils #firstworldproblems," he said.

Lisa McCarthy said Oceana needs to sort out their "unconstitutional stench".

"They are the only ones linking jobs to stink and we're buying into their story.

"Just wait and see when the horrid stench comes back. Nobody will care about Oceana's stories about jobs then," she said.

Emma King said they bought a house in Northshore six years ago without any knowledge of the stink from the factory.

"With the news that the factory will up production, we are considering selling our house and possibly even leaving Hout Bay altogether.

"We certainly wouldn't live in any of the areas around here that are affected by it again.

"We have been very involved in supporting the local community – from NGOs to local business and employing local people – but will be moving on now," she said.

Judy Craxton Druiff suggested that the possible answer would be for the Hout Bay business community and residents who object to the smell to get together and offer alternative better paid jobs to the "very small number" of people in the community that are benefiting from the employment offered by Oceana.