



PROTECTED AREAS VARIATION NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 6 OF THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN: NATURE RESERVE BY-LAW (2020)

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES AT WITZANDS AQUIFER NATURE RESERVE

The Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve (the WANR) is a Protected Area in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 57 of 2003 (the NEM: PAA). The City of Cape Town (the City) has been designated as the Management Authority of the WANR. Permitted activities in the WANR are subject to compliance with the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law of 2020 (Provincial Extraordinary Gazette 8387 of 18 February 2021), hereafter referred to as the By-law, and the NEM: PAA Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves (GNR. 99 of 8 February 2012).

The Codes of Conduct for Permissible Activities at the WANR came into effect on 1 July 2025. The Codes of Conduct stipulate interventions and measures in the interests of safety, security, and well-being of visitors and staff, to limit overcrowding, and in the interest of the continued conservation of this unique natural asset.

In terms of section 6(2) of the By-law, a Protected Areas Notice may impose conditions in relation to the participation in or undertaking of any activity in a nature reserve and the City may vary or revoke a notice at any time by a subsequent notice.

The City has taken a decision to **vary** the Protected Area Notice issued on 5 December 2025 by issuing this Variation Notice. The purpose of this Variation Notice is to extend the validity of the daily gate limits prescribed in the 5 December Notice to **30 June 2027** as follows:

The daily gate limits

- A daily limit of 100 permits for off-road vehicles from 1 July 2026 to 30 November 2026 (off-peak season), 150 permits for off-road vehicles from 1 December 2026 to 31 January 2027 (peak season) and 100 permits for off-road vehicles from 1 February 2027 to 30 June 2027 (off-peak season).
- A daily limit of 100 permits for sandboarding from 1 July 2026 to 30 November 2026 (off-peak season), 150 permits for sandboarding from 1 December 2026 to 31 January 2027 (peak season) and 100 permits for sandboarding from 1 February 2027 to 30 June 2027 (off-peak season).
- A daily limit of 600 permits for quad bikes and off-road motorcycles from 1 July 2026 to 30 November 2026 (off-peak season), 900 permits for quad bikes and off-road motorcycles from 1 December 2026 to 31 January 2027 (peak season) and 600 permits for quad bikes and off-road motorcycles from 1 February 2027 to 30 June 2027 (off-peak season).

The following conditions remain in effect as per the Protected Area Notice issued on 5 December 2025:

Daily permits

- No individual/organisation may purchase more than 10% of all daily quad bike permits and all permits will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Permits may not be resold without the prior written consent from the City.

Commercial closure day

- No commercial tours shall be permitted to the WANR on Wednesdays (except where the Wednesday falls on a Public Holiday). These days are reserved for non-commercial off-roading, sandboarding and quad biking, as well as for walking, bird watching, environmental education and filming.

Indemnity and Waiver of Liability

- Access to the WANR is subject to the NEM: PAA, Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves (Regulation No. R. 99, 8 February 2012), City of Cape Town By-laws and applicable Codes of Conduct. All visitors, service providers and their clients will be required to complete, sign and submit a copy of the City's indemnity and waiver of liability for the WANR. No visitors, service providers and their clients will be allowed access to the WANR without having submitted a signed copy of the City's indemnity and waiver of liability.

This Protected Areas Variation Notice is issued in terms of Section 6(2) of the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law, 2020 with effect from 1 July 2026 and is enforceable in terms of the City of Cape Town Nature Reserve By-law.

Delegated Authority:

Julia Wood

Digitally signed
by Julia Wood
Date: 2026.06.12
16:54:35 +02'00'

Julia Wood
Branch Manager
Biodiversity Management Branch
Environmental Management Department