



SEBCID Fire Risk Assessment

16 November 2020

Members of the CID Interim Board met last week with a representative from the Cape Peninsula Fire Prevention Association (CPFPA) to conduct an updated review of our area. The aim of this was firstly to reconfirm, as per the SEBCID business plan, which trees and vegetation should be removed to reduce the risk of fire, and secondly to generally assess compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act.

Key points are summarised below:

- It was reconfirmed that the two large pines trees at the top of Chilton Close should be removed - work is scheduled to commence there next week;
- It was reconfirmed that the cluster of pines on the right hand side as one walks up to the waterfall from the top of Baviaanskloof Road should be removed. This is budgeted to be executed in year two of the SEBCID business plan since they are not as close to residential properties as those at Chilton Close;
- It was reconfirmed that all non-indigenous trees along the Baviaans River corridor should be removed. SEBCID has budget set aside for this but the City of Cape Town's Invasive Species Department has scheduled to begin the programme of removing these in March 2021. SEBCID will continue to liaise closely with CCT on this and if necessary, will assist with the removal given the significant fire risk posed;
- As most of you have no doubt seen, two large sections of privately-owned mountainside above Scott Estate and Berg en Dal have been cleared for envisaged residential developments. A few blue gums remain on the boundary of erven 1556 and 1480, the latter being outside the SEBCID boundary. These are not only a fire risk but also impede the visibility of the cameras which will be installed at this location. With the assistance of CPFPA, SEBCID will engage with the owner of ERF 1480 to agree the best route forward to mitigating the risks.

With respect to compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, we were recommended to specifically focus our attention on the following:

- Point 12 (1) *Every owner on whose land a veldfire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must prepare and maintain a firebreak on his or her side of the boundary between his or her land and any adjoining land.*

- Point 16. *The right or duty to prepare and maintain a firebreak in terms of this Chapter prevails over any prohibition in any other law on the cutting, disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of any plant or tree, except that the owner must*

a) where possible, transplant any plant which is protected in terms of any law; or

b) where it is safe and feasible, position the firebreak so as to avoid such plant or tree.

Please consider your properties in the context of the above. Obviously, the implication is not for small residential erven but for larger erven, and particularly vacant land, where owners must be cognisant of their responsibility to ensure an appropriate firebreak is in place. For the full text of the act, please click [here](#).

Lastly, a reminder that all firebreaks must be trimmed by SanParks, or their delegated representative, by mid-December so we can expect all our firebreaks to be trimmed within the next month.

Kind regards

SEBCID Interim Board