



Ulrike Irlich of the City's Invasive Species Unit, based at Westlake.

New regulations to guide invasive species

KAREN WATKINS

Homeowners selling their property must notify potential buyers of any listed invasive species on their properties. This will take the same form as getting a beetle or plumbing certificate.

Also, anyone owning mallard ducks, iguanas, boa-constrictors, rose-ringed parakeets, slider terrapins, small and large mouth bass, Nile tilapia and blue gill sunfish will either require control or a permit, depending on the category they are placed under.

These restrictions are part of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) alien and invasive species (AIS) regulations. It was published in July 2013 followed by a public participation process in February 2014, and it became law on 1 October 1 2014.

"The good news is the new regulations include 106 of the 198 invasive plants listed in the 2001 declared invader weeds legislation known as CARA. It also include invasive invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants," said Louise Stafford of the City's Invasive Species Unit, based at Westlake.

She said invasive alien species compete for the same

resources and, in many instances, completely displace indigenous plants. If left unchecked, they could wipe out the country's indigenous species and negatively affect animal communities that rely on indigenous vegetation for food and shelter.

Project manager of Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) Ulrike Irlich, based at the environmental facility in Westlake, said landowners were not clearing invasive plants resulting in the need for rules to protect our environment.

NEMBA regulations require landowners, including government departments, to manage invasive species on their land. This need seen recently in the form of veld fires on Table Mountain National Park. SANParks had spent a fortune clearing its land while its neighbours had not and that created a huge fire hazard.

The national list includes 559 invaders in four categories of which 383 are plants, 41 mammals, 24 birds, 35 reptiles, seven amphibians, 15 freshwater fish, 23 terrestrial invertebrates, eight freshwater invertebrates, 16 marine invertebrates and seven microbial species.

Ms Irlich said they are divided into four categories:

Category 1a: Usually a small infestation that can be contained quickly and easily. These invasive species require compulsory control and any form of trade or planting is strictly prohibited.

Category 1b: Invasive species that must be controlled and wherever possible, removed and destroyed. Any form or trade or planting is strictly prohibited.

Category 2: Invasive species or species deemed to be potentially invasive, for which a permit is required to carry out restricted activity. This category includes commercially important species such as pine, wattle and gum trees. It also includes mallard ducks but they must be contained and if they escape, you could be prosecuted.

Category 3: Invasive species that may remain in prescribed areas or provinces. Further planting, propagation or trade is, however, prohibited.

In this category, Ms Irlich spoke of Brazilian pepper and syringa trees in urban areas.

"They are not allowed to be propagated or sold commercially, however, we don't want to clear every exotic tree."

But the category changes should they spread into a water body.

Continued on facing page

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. YOU CAN ASSOCIATE WITH WHOMEVER YOU WANT TO.

CAPE TOWN AGAINST RACISM.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Making progress possible. Together.

HEARING AIDS

Michael Fourie B. Pharm Dip. HAA
Registered with HPCSA

HEARING TESTS HEARING AIDS If you are interested sms "HEAR" to 34007

Bergvliet Medical and Dental Centre, Bergvliet Rd
Contacted into Medical Aids

By appointment only

Cell: 083 272 3112 • Call Toll-Free 0800 166 947

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Required for full time employment in the South Peninsula five days per week (08h30 - 17h00) and half days on Saturdays.

Must be a team player with excellent administrative experience and people skills.

Computer literacy is essential.

Must be fluent in both spoken and written English and Afrikaans. Previous medical experience will be an advantage.

Reply to:
**The Advertiser, P O Box 993,
Sun Valley, 7975**