

## **Alien Invasive Species and Fire plan for Knorhoek**

The purpose of this report is to provide clear management guidelines for the control of alien invasive plant species and fire management at Portions 830/32, 830/33 and 830/36, Knorhoek, Somerset West. This management plan must be seen as a dynamic document that will be revised in 2016. The revision will need to be moved forward in the event of an uncontrolled fire occurring on the property prior to this revision date.

In addressing the control of alien invasive plants the strategies and management guidelines focus on, the legal requirements; the current situation on Knorhoek relating to invasive plant species; species distribution; species densities; species age classes, planning for clearing, scheduling; prioritization; budgeting and the final implementation of clearing operations.

CARA, (Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No. 43 of 1983) is the relevant piece of legislation that compels landowners to control declared alien invasive plants on the property. It is critical that landowners show intent to do so in fulfilling the requirements of this legislation. The creation of a control programme and its implementation will serve to demonstrate to the authorities that landowners not only have the best intentions of controlling aliens on their property, but are following a structured course of action to achieve this objective.

The same rationale is applicable to fire management at Knorhoek in terms of the duties and responsibilities imposed upon all landowners by the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998 (NVFFA). The increasing density of alien invasive species, high fuel loads left after cutting down aliens post the fire of 2009, and the lack of mutual aid agreements and non-compliance pose a significant fire risk for Knorhoek as well as for neighbouring properties. This will increase over time.

An integrated fire management approach is therefore necessary and should not only focus on Knorhoek but should include adjacent properties such as Casa Maris, Knorhoek, Vergelegen, Wedderwill and the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve.

Client:

Contact details: