

REPORT:
ON KRAALBAAI

1. Towards the end of December 2016 and beginning of January 2017, Sanparks issued a notice prohibiting overnight mooring in the West Coast National Park effective 30 June 2017.
2. There followed a public outcry leading to the formation of the Kraalbaai Langebaan Action Group (KLAG), with the purpose to have the prohibition set aside either by engaging with Sanparks or failing which, to institute legal proceedings.
3. KLAG retained the services of Bradley Conradie Halton Cheadle Attorneys (BCHC) whereafter correspondence was addressed to Sanparks challenging the prohibition.
4. Faced with the threat of High Court proceedings, Sanparks relented and first gave the undertaking not to implement the decision to ban overnight mooring pending negotiations between the parties.
5. Parallel to the prohibition and an issue which was similarly contentious, KLAG called on information regarding the granting of an operator's concession in Kraalbaai which was suspected of having been granted unlawfully and being the underlying reason for the prohibition.
6. A request for relevant information was delivered on Sanparks in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) to which Sanparks replied with all the requested information.
7. A meeting was called with Sanparks to discuss the prohibition and to seek avenues to arrive at an acceptable and negotiated settlement.
8. During attempts to arrange the meeting, Sanparks informed KLAG that it was reviewing the use zones on the entire lagoon which it anticipated would be completed before the end of 2017. Once the review was concluded, all affected parties would be briefed on the proposed changes (if any) and invited to present submissions. With this in mind, Sanparks replied that the requested meeting was unnecessary.

9. KLAG refused and insisted on having such a meeting which was held on 18 October 2017 at Sanparks Cape Regional Office, Mount Pleasant, Newlands.
10. It must be noted that prior to the meeting, “rumours” were circulating that Sanparks intended to rezone the use of the lagoon to such an extent that it would seriously restrict the enjoyment and use of the lagoon by the boating, yachting and angling fraternities. It would also have a severe impact on the local economy.
11. The intended meeting of 18 October 2017 was therefore all the more important to address these rumours and to inform Sanparks in no uncertain terms of KLAG’s mandate to oppose its implementation, if true.
12. The meeting was chaired by Norman Johnson, the Regional General Manager of the Cape Region and in attendance were:
 - 12.1 Pat Bopape, Park Manager WCNP;
 - 12.2 Marne van der Westhuizen, Regional Manager of Planning and Implementation;
 - 12.3 Nollies van der Merwe, representative of the Boatyard, Club Mykonos and chairperson of KLAG;
 - 12.4 Robbie Reddering, representing the Langebaan Yacht Club;
 - 12.5 Halton Cheadle and Lana Wolf BCHC the legal representatives of KLAG.
13. During the meeting:
 - 13.1 Sanparks confirmed that it was reviewing the use zones on the lagoon;
 - 13.2 **that the original prohibition should not have been issued and would not be implemented;**
 - 13.3 the concession was awarded and would proceed.
14. KLAG, the Boatyard and Langebaan Yacht Club made representations as to why the rumoured rezoning and prohibition should not be implemented. The meeting was adjourned to allow Sanparks to consider the representations and to finalize the review.
15. Sanparks arranged a meeting with “stakeholders” on 24 November 2017 at their offices in Langebaan to introduce the reviewed zoning.

16. To everyone's surprise, Sanparks presented its review of the use of the lagoon and measures it **intended** to implement in January or February 2018 after the season, and for allowing **further submissions by interested parties in response to the proposals.**
17. It is clear from the presentation and proposed implementation, that Sanparks had considered and gave due weight to the submissions made by KLAG and the LYC at the meeting held on 18 October 2017.
18. It appears that a large part of the review relates to the use of the lagoon by the kite boarding, board sailing and windsurfing fraternities which we all know has grown exceptionally over the last couple of years. This report shall not deal with the Sanparks presentation in this regard as it does not affect KLAG, the LYC or the sailing academies.
19. In short what Sanparks has now proposed, contrasts extensively from the original prohibition against overnight mooring on the whole lagoon.
20. A diagram released by Sanparks (and with its consent) setting out the proposals is attached hereto for ease of reference.
21. Sanparks wishes to implement the attached guidelines/measures in the Kraalbaai area (as defined) in January/February next year.
22. It is clear from the attached proposed guidelines that these **will only apply to the Kraalbaai area as defined (zones 1,2,3 &4) leaving the rest of the lagoon unchanged.**
23. It is important to note that Sanparks has extended an invitation to interested parties to make submission in response to the attached proposals.
24. Sanparks in particular invited KLAG and the LYC to make submissions with regards the reasonable conservation fee payable for overnight mooring.
25. Sanparks has also indicated that the maximum 10 vessels per night is open for reconsideration and it has been suggested that the overnight mooring demand over the upcoming festive season shall be recorded as a guideline to determine the maximum vessels allowed in future.

26. Sanparks further indicated that a special dispensation will be created for sailing academies to utilize the overnight mooring facilities in Kraalbaai

Members who wish to comment or make representations may address these to the LYC manager, via email.