

# Heritage Conservation

## Context

The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999, sometimes referred to simply as "Heritage", regulates and protects different forms of cultural and historical significance, including that which takes the form of architectural works. Buildings can therefore be categorised as Grade I, II or III with Grade I enjoying the highest form of protection due to special national significance and Grade III still being regarded as worthy of conservation due to local importance. The NHRA aims to limit any damage to the general character of protected resources and prescribes a consultation and approval process which must be carried out and approved independently of municipal approval processes in order to acquire a permit for alterations or demolitions of any kind to a protected building. Most notably, the act states that: "No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority."

In the Garden Route, as with the rest of the Western Cape Province, the appropriate overseeing body is known as Heritage Western Cape (HWC). This is a provincial governance body that needs to be dealt with directly as none of the municipalities in the Garden Route have been authorised to administer any of the functions of the provincial heritage body.

In addition to this, HWC coordinates with multiple conservation bodies throughout the province. These bodies, who are registered with HWC, do not have direct authority over heritage applications, but they advocate for certain specific conservation interests, so it is the policy of the HWC that any of the conservation bodies must be consulted and offer their comments on any applications which fall within their areas of interest. The relevant bodies which are active in the garden route are shown in the following table:

## Garden Route Heritage Bodies

Title	Categories of Heritage	Email	Contact Person
Stillbaai Heritage Conservation Trust	Argeologie, paleontologie, begrafnis terreine, openbare monument, gedenkstens, geskiedkundige geboue, lewende erfenis, natuurerfenis gebiede.	george.sabbagha@gmail.com	George Sabbagha
Agulhas Heritage Society	Buildings and cultural-historical structures archaeological sites, historical, cultural and natural landscapes, endangered vegetation within these landscapes, traditionally used vegetation from medicinal, culinary and other uses (e.g. building material)	agulhas.heritage@gmail.com	Emmerentia De Kock
Associated Bibbeys Hoek Conservancy (Knysna)		contact@futureheritage.org.za	Craig Bester
Great Brak River Museum	Great Brak river and surrounds, Glentama to Tergenet /Reebok/Little Brak River and Freimersheim but including Mossel Bay municipal area as and where necessary to complete existing templates	rene.museum@gmail.com	Rene De Kock
Heritage Mossel Bay	Municipal borders of Mossel bay and environs,	heritage@visitmosselbay.co.za	Carina Wiggill
Noetzie Conservancy Owners Association	Only world heritage sites within the Western Cape, Noetzie & Knysna	ejr.consult@gmail.com	Mr E J (Robby)
Oudshoorn Heritage	Greater Oudshoorn Municipal area including De Rust, Dysselsdorp, Volmoed & Schoemanshoek	spiesmarianne8@gmail.com	Marianne Spies
Simon Van Der Stel Foundation Southern Cape	Riversdale to Plettenberg Bay and Calitzdorp to Uniondale plus Prince Albert. The Simon Van De Stel Foundation Southern Cape does not comment within Dysselsdorp, De Rust, Volmoed and Matjiesriver	natiedes@gmail.com	Dr Natie De Swardt
The George Heritage Trust	All heritage resources considered part of the "National Estate" as defined in the NHRA Act 25 of 1999	info@georgeheritage.co.za	Henry Paine
Touws River Heritage and Conservation Society		christiaan@netandmail.com	Christiaan du Plessis

## Interactive Map

HWC maintains interactive maps which show registered heritage protected structures. They also highlight entire regions which are subject to the input of specific heritage bodies and by clicking on marked structures, additional information can be obtained. The interactive maps can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.hwc.org.za/conservation-bodies>

## Conservation Body Map Extract



The map alongside shows coloured overlays for the relevant heritage body to be consulted for the area while buildings marked by a "🎯" have registered heritage protection.

## Case Officer's Resources Map Extract



The map alongside shows coloured overlays for the relevant heritage body to be consulted for the area while buildings marked by a "📌" have registered heritage protection.

## Disclaimer

The above maps show only buildings with the highest level of heritage protection in the area. They do not show lower levels of protection which will need to be checked by an architect before a development project can be undertaken.