

Enquiries: Hanneljie du Preez
Tel: 021 483 9507
Email: Hdupreez@pgwc.gov.za
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MEDIA RELEASE: ROCKLANDS VILLA, ROODEBLOEM ROAD, WOODSTOCK, CAPE TOWN

After careful consideration of reports from two independent structural engineering consultants, the Executive Committee of Heritage Western Cape has decided to approve the demolition of the remains of the walls of the historic Rocklands Villa in Rodebloem Road, Woodstock, based on the findings and recommendations of their reports. Both reports addressed the structural integrity of the remaining walls of the old villa and found them to be unsafe after earlier demolition.

The approval of Heritage Western Cape was issued today in the form of a record of decision that is subject to a number of conditions.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 199) provides that if any appeals against the decision of Heritage Western Cape are received by the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport within 14 working days from the date that the record of decision has been communicated to Oasis, these appeals will have to be heard by an independent tribunal appointed by the Minister. Pending the outcome of a decision by the Minister, a formal permit can be issued should the appeal be dismissed. No demolition of any of the remaining walls can take place until this process has been completed. If no appeal is received within 14 working days after the date of the record of decision, a permit will be issued. Only then will the stop works order issued by Heritage Western Cape be lifted.

In the meantime, heritage consultants, who were appointed at the request of the City of Cape Town to assist with the undertaking by Oasis to reconstruct the villa, have submitted plans for reconstruction of the building utilizing all the existing historical fabric apparently salvaged during the demolition by Oasis. They must also furnish the Built Environment and Landscape Committee of Heritage Western Cape with specifications for the finishes.

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For further enquiries please contact Heritage Western Cape on 021-483-9507.

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Street Address: Protea Assurance Building, Green Market Square, Cape Town, 8000 • **Postal Address:** Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8001 • **Tel:** +27 (0)86 142 142 • **Fax:** +27 (0)21 483 9842 • **E-mail:** hwc@pgwc.gov.za

Straatadres: Protea Assuransie-gebou, Groentemarkplein, Kaapstad, 8000 • **Posadres:** Privaatsak X9067, Kaapstad, 8001 • **Tel:** +27 (0)86 142 142 • **Fax:** +27 (0)21 483 9842 • **E-pos:** hwc@pgwc.gov.za