



Publication: Cape Times - Main
Title: Weed harvesting boat coming to Zandvlei
Publish date: 27 Jun 2023
Page: 3

Reach: 10921
AVE:R 23802.24
Author: Staff Reporter



THE specialised weed harvesting machine operates like a boat on water with blades underneath to cut weeds

ENVIRONMENT

Weed harvesting boat coming to Zandvlei

STAFF WRITER

IN AN EFFORT to rid the Zandvlei Nature Reserve of weeds, a specialised weed harvesting boat is on track for delivery by the end of November.

The specialised machine that operates like a boat on water with blades underneath, is equipped to gather, transport and upload water plants.

It will be the first of three new vessels that will be delivered by the end of 2025.

The City said that in Zandvlei, the weed harvester would be used to cut pond weeds and also to remove algae build-up in the marina.

This was expected to improve the environmental health of the wetland and make the vlei more navigable and safer for watercrafts, boosting the local leisure economy around the vlei.

"This machine will help us keep the vlei cleaner and improve water quality over time. I can also confirm that a second mechanical weed harvester for Rietvlei will be delivered early in the new year if all goes as planned,

with a further vessel set for Zandvlei in 2024/25.

"In Cape Town we are building towards a vision of cleaner, environmentally healthy waterways with the firm belief that the best days for our vleis are ahead," said mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis.

The weed harvester for Zandvlei will be warranted for at least 24 months, with the maintenance service plan covering a period of 2 000 working hours.

Corporate Services mayco member Theresa Uys said the City's Environmental Management Department would also employ Expanded Public Works Programme teams to remove weeds by hand when the old weed harvester was unavailable or in for repairs.

"The City's Fleet Management Department is monitoring the project plan and timelines to ensure all remains on track for delivery.

"They've been doing regular site inspections and are keeping a close eye on everything."