

Before You Burn Waste – Take Note

With winter in full swing, Cape Winelands District Municipality’s (CWDM) Fire Services know that many farmers and landowners have collected a lot of waste over the summer months. Traditionally, this is done in late autumn and winter, when there is a much lower risk of the fire spreading to valuable areas.

Readers may not be aware of this, but there is no municipal garbage collection on farms, like one has in towns, farmers need to manage their own household and farming waste products. (Farming is not always rosy!). Non-recyclable household waste, such as used nappies and sanitary towels, pressurized cannisters, paint tins plastic wrappers etc. are collected and taken to the local landfill. While items such as agricultural off-cuts, poles, prunings etc. are burned.

But farmers and landowners may not just collect their garbage and burn it. A permit needs to be obtained. There are a few reasons that a permit is required.

The permit informs Fire Services where and when a burn will take place The permit allows Fire Officers to visit the burn site prior to the burning to ensure that the area is safe and that no dangerous items are being burnt.

The permit ensures that both farmers and fire services are informed of safety procedures

required before, during and after a burn. All rural Municipality’s have by-laws that in accordance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998) prohibit the setting of fires under certain conditions. For many years permits were available from the Winelands Fire Protection Association (WFPA), who serves as an interface between landowners and CWDM’s Fire Services.

However, this has now changed, as from 1 July 2026 all landowners need to apply for the Burn Permits via CWDM’s website, www.capewinelands.gov.za.This includes FPA members.

The following costs are applicable:

Non- member R632.50 excluding VAT FPA Members R316.25

For more information and assistance please contact the Winelands FPA on 079 6564 673 or Fire Officer, Jaco Thuynsma on 021 888 5824 or drop him an email at jst@capewinelands.gov.za You need to apply for the permit 10 – 14 days before you plan to burn, this is to allow time for the visit by the fire officer. Step one is getting your burn site ready, then you apply for a permit, once the fire officer has visited, a permit will be issued that will allow you to set fire to the burn site under certain conditions.



Smarter commute. Zero compromise.

South African commuters are rethinking how they get around. Fuel costs are eye-wateringly high, urban traffic is getting worse, and the gap between what a car costs to run and what a smart two-wheeler costs is widening every month. The TVS Ntorq 125 Race Edition is built for exactly these considerations - it’s a scooter with race-inspired character, connected technology, and the kind of running costs that make the numbers impossible to ignore.

Available in South Africa through The Nexus Collective, the Ntorq 125 RE is TVS’s flagship scooter. This is not a plain-Jane commuter dressed up in racing graphics, but a highly capable, connected machine that is one of the most practical daily transport choices on the market.

The specs that make sense

Fuel efficiency: The 124.79cc fuel-injected engine sips fuel, making every litre go further on your daily run. 5.8L Fuel Tank
Low running costs: Simpler mechanical package than a car or large bike means lower servicing cost and less maintenance time.
Beat the traffic: At 118kg with a 155mm ground clearance, the Ntorq moves where cars can’t - lanes, gaps, shortcuts.
Stay connected: Over 60 smart features via TVS SmartXconnect - navigation, call alerts, ride stats all on the dash.
The Ntorq 125 RE is powered by TVS’s 3-Valve 125 CVTI Revv engine - a single-cylinder, 4-stroke, air-cooled unit producing 6.9kW at 7,500rpm and 10.5Nm of torque at 5,500rpm. Those numbers on a scooter weighing just 118kg deliver a responsive, punchy performance in the urban environment where the Ntorq does its best work. Overtaking on the highway on-ramp, pulling away smartly at a robot, filtering through slow traffic, the Ntorq 125 RE handles all of it.

The under-bone frame provides a low, flat floorboard for comfortable all-day riding, while the 155mm ground clearance is more than adequate for South African road conditions - potholes, speed bumps, and badly maintained urban surfaces included. Suspension at both ends uses hydraulic dampers for a compliant,

composed ride, absorbing the daily punishment of urban commuting without transmitting it to the rider.

The front disc brake with Synchronised Braking Technology (SBT) distributes braking force between front and rear when you press the rear brake alone, reducing the risk of rear wheel lock-up and giving less experienced riders added confidence in emergency stops. The 5.8-litre fuel tank keeps range anxiety low, and the tubeless tyres on both wheels mean a puncture is a minor inconvenience rather than a roadside emergency.

Race Edition: more than a paint job

The Race Edition specification adds more than visual drama, though it delivers plenty of that too. Race-inspired chequered flag decals and the distinctive T-shaped daytime running light give the Ntorq RE a purposeful, premium look that stands out.

The Race Edition also adds LED lamp specification, upgrading visibility for both rider and other road users, particularly relevant on South Africa’s roads, where being seen is as important as being able to see. This is the scooter that makes you reconsider whether you actually need the second car.

Ride it once and the case for the Ntorq 125 RE becomes obvious. In a world where fuel prices are a monthly anxiety and traffic is an unavoidable part of life, the Ntorq RE reframes commuting as something you can actually look forward to, with urban agility its standout quality. The LED headlamp is genuinely bright, a meaningful upgrade over the halogen units common in this segment. And the SmartXconnect system provides navigation prompts on the dash precisely when you’re on a bike and can’t safely look at your phone.

If you ride primarily in town and want a two-wheeler that is smart, fun, and cost-effective, the Ntorq 125 Race Edition is the most tech-forward scooter in its class and one of the most complete propositions in the South African urban mobility market.

Drakenstein Municipality’s journey from 51st place in 2017 to one of South Africa’s five highest-scoring municipalities in 2025 has earned national recognition from Ratings Afrika, which singled out the Municipality for achieving the most significant improvement on its Municipal Financial Sustainability Index (MFSI) over the past six years.

The MFSI is widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive assessments of municipal financial sustainability in South Africa. The index evaluates municipalities across six key areas: operating performance, liquidity management, debt governance, budget practices, affordability and infrastructure development.

The 2025 MFSI ranks Drakenstein among the country’s five highest-scoring municipalities and recognises its sustained commitment to strengthening governance, financial management and service delivery.

Ratings Afrika noted that the Municipality’s remarkable improvement reflects highly on its leadership and management.“Being recognised among South Africa’s top five municipalities for financial sustainability is a significant achievement for Drakenstein. It reflects years of hard work, responsible financial management and a shared commitment to excellence,” says Councillor Stephen Korabie, Executive Mayor of Drakenstein Municipality.

In 2017, Drakenstein Municipality achieved a score of 45 out of 100 and was ranked 51st. Following the implementation of a financial turnaround plan, the Municipality steadily improved its performance, climbing to 34th position by 2021 and ultimately securing a place among South Africa’s top five municipalities in the latest index.

“Being in the top five has exceeded all expectations after years of hard work. We are reaping the rewards of continued fiscal discipline after successfully implementing a financial turnaround plan, which kicked off in 2019,” says Dr Johan Leibbrandt, City Manager of Drakenstein Municipality.

Dr Leibbrandt emphasised that sound financial

management is ultimately a means to improve the lives of residents. “It’s all good and well to have money in the bank, but what is as important, if not more important, is what you do with it. Once you achieve the point of financial sustainability, you must use that money to deliver on your mandate, which is providing basic services to your residents. The rating ultimately means that we are better positioned than ever to continue delivering quality services,investing in infrastructure and creating opportunities for our communities.”

The 2025 MFSI reaffirms Drakenstein Municipality’s position as one of South Africa’s best-governed municipalities. The Municipality is recognised as the Best Municipality in the Western Cape after winning the Gold Award at the 2025 Western Cape Government Service Excellence Awards.

At the end of last year, the Auditor-General of South Africa awarded Drakenstein Municipality its 11th clean audit for the 2024/2025 financial year, underscoring the Municipality’s strong governance and management practices. The Auditor-General’s assessment considers not only financial management, but also operational processes aimed at delivering quality services to residents. Drakenstein Municipality is also rated the number one secondary city for good governance in South Africa by the research and advocacy non-profit organisation Good Governance Africa in the latest Governance Performance Index (2024).

Dr Leibbrandt attributes the progress in Drakenstein Municipality’s financial sustainability journey to his entire management team and all officials. “While we are enjoying our success, we remain humble and we do not forget where we came from.”

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Cape Winelands Hosts First-Ever Farmworkers Sport Awards



The Cape Winelands Farmworkers Sport Recreation and Association, in collaboration with the Cape Winelands District Municipality (CWD), Western Cape Department of Agriculture, and the Cape Winelands Sport Council, proudly hosted the first-ever Cape Winelands Farmworkers Sport Awards on 13 June 2026 at the Hugenote Community Hall in Paarl.

This landmark event brought together 180 athletes, farmworkers, partners, and community members to celebrate and showcase the rich sporting talent within farmworker communities across the region.

The awards ceremony was dedicated to recognising active participation in sport while providing a platform to identify and nurture emerging talent. It highlighted the critical role of sport in community development and personal growth.

The event featured six key sporting codes, namely Football, Netball, Rugby, Cross Country, Dominoes, and Tug of

War, highlighting a diverse range of athletic participation across the region.

The programme also ensured inclusive participation, with representation from sportsmen and women living with disabilities.

With a vision to become the leading sporting organisation in the Cape Winelands region, the Cape Winelands Farmworkers Sport Recreation and Association is committed to empowering farm and rural sportspeople. Its goal is to uncover and develop talent within farmworker communities, thereby strengthening the overall sports development pipeline across the region.

2026 Award Winners
Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the following partners and stakeholders: the CWD, Stellenbosch Municipality, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Stellenbosch Landbougenootskap, SATI, and Deon Carinus (Late Councillor – In Memoriam).

We mourn the loss of a young life: Jayden Adams



The Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of Bafana Bafana player Jayden Adams.

Adams, 25, started his football career at the academy and later the team at Stellenbosch FC, before moving to Mamelodi Sundowns in 2025. He was chosen to represent South Africa as part of Team Bafana Bafana at the 2026 Football World Cup.

Head of Department, Guy Redman, said:

“Jayden was a dedicated young footballer, with a bright future ahead. His death is a sad moment for the football fraternity, as well as for the broader sporting community across our country. Jayden had so much to give to his sport. His path was tragically cut short and we are shocked at his sudden passing. He did a lot for sport in our country in his short lifetime – as a sportsman and role-model for young aspiring footballers.”

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jayden’s family, friends and football family. May the memories he made on and off the field, keep



Flood repairs update 10 July 2026, 10:00

BAINSKLOOF PASS: REOPENED

- MR 201 (Bainskloof Pass section) sustained significant flood damage and had to be fully closed.
- Thanks to the hard work by the Department of Infrastructure's Transport Infrastructure Branch and their partners the repairs have reached a stage where it can be partially reopened.
- Bainskloof Pass has been **reopened** to traffic on **Friday, 10 July 2026 under traffic accommodation.**
- Please factor in additional travel time.
- All existing restrictions on the pass with regards to heavy motor vehicles remain in place.



Issued on 10 July 2026 at 10:00 by:

- Mr Teruis Simmers, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure
- Adv Chantal Smith, Head of Department, Department of Infrastructure

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