

## Nicky Schmidt

April 26

A head's up to all who use Lower Tokai - felling of the pines will take place in June/July and will take a month to complete - this info directly from MTO. Thereafter land will be handed back to SANParks for conservation as per the lease agreement, and as per the already "fynbossed" section of Lower Tokai.

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**Kathy Fleming Laird** I know that we must move on from water invasive pines, but boy am I going to miss my doggy walks in the cool shade of the forest ): Thanks for the heads up [Nicky Schmidt](#)

Like · 2 Likes · April 26 at 12:32pm



**Lesley Roos** Do you know what reason MTO is giving for the early felling? The Tokai Celia Forest Management Framework allows for this area to be left to maturity and for transitional planting in other areas. If these trees come down so soon there will be no where I... [See More](#)

Like · 7 Likes · April 26 at 12:35pm



**Nicky Schmidt** They're coming down because it's basically no longer economically viable for them to remain in the area, given the fires of last March. As you say, they should have come down in 2025 and when they're gone - without any transitional planting having been done - there will be no safe place to walk and it will bring the risks of fire and crime right onto the urban edge.

Like · April 26 at 6:06pm



**Julia Dickson Nicholls** Poor squirrels 🥺

Like · 3 Likes · April 26 at 12:47pm



**Nicky Schmidt** I don't think the conservationists care about squirrels - they, like the pines, are seen as an invasive alien species. I suspect Tokai will end up with an increased population of them in local gardens!

Like · April 26 at 6:07pm



**Carlstein-Van Eeden Karen** I agree with Lesley, I am also devastated. All the birds and squirrels will have no homes, it's just so sad 🥺

Like · 2 Likes · April 26 at 12:50pm



**Nicky Schmidt** It's certainly an issue for the raptors and owls, the smaller birds like the chaffinches will probably move into Tokai itself.

Like · April 26 at 6:07pm



**Julia Dickson Nicholls** I sincerely hope they will proceed with caution and do the right thing in terms of conservation when it comes to nests of any kind.

Like · 2 Likes · April 26 at 12:55pm

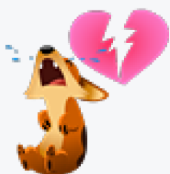


**Nicky Schmidt** Doubt it. They fell two hectares per day. Fortunately it's not nesting season.

Like · April 26 at 6:13pm · Edited



**Carlstein-Van Eeden Karen**



Like · April 26 at 1:13pm



**Moira Meiring Nolte** End of an era ....sad

Like · April 26 at 1:26pm



**Anne Makin** Unfortunately inevitable. The pine forest was always a commercial venture and i guess we knew this day would come. How we move on from here is the important thing. SAN parks the ball is in your court. Why not use this

enthusiastic community to really help make something special happen....

Like · April 26 at 1:37pm



**Lesley Roos** If you read the Tokai Cecilia Management Framework 2005-2025 a concession was made allowing phased cutting of remaining pines (obviously not applicable now to those affected by fires) and transitional planting. Future transitional planting was briefly mentioned by Parks at a recent meeting with Tokai Riders Association. This should not be forgotten by the community. Timing is everything.

Like · 1 Like · April 26 at 2:24pm



**Nicky Schmidt** The timing on getting SANParks to do the right thing is absolutely critical and the window of opportunity is timing. It will be extremely difficult to get indigenous saplings to grow without the shelter provided by the pines, as the poor things struggling along the edge of the path show.

Lesley, I will DM you, look out for a message in your "other" inbox.

Like · April 26 at 6:10pm



**Lesley Roos** Will do.

Like · April 26 at 6:18pm



**Cecelle Ebsworth** Where will all the squirrels go? Shame! Have always felt big indigenous trees would look far nicer and for the birds etc. Why are they SO hung up on Fynbos! Owls, etc can't live in Fynbos!

Like · 3 Likes · April 26 at 8:26pm · Edited



**Diana Napper** So so sad. The animals are going to suffer. I will really miss this section it creates such a special place for all the dogs and animals and birds.

Like · April 27 at 5:46am



**Trish Lane** Poor owls

Like · April 27 at 4:34pm



**Trish Lane** Rather than destroy this beautiful habitat spend the resources on removing port Jackson and rooikraans that are far more invasive - burn hotter and with more ease and drink more water than pines or gums - they also - pine needles assist with the growth of proteas and are home to owls and squirrels - just

Like · April 27 at 4:48pm



**Trish Lane**



Like · 1 Like · April 28 at 8:55am



**Ursula Forrest** Penny East - can you confirm this?

Like · April 28 at 9:50am



**Nicky Schmidt** I had a meeting with MTO this Monday, it is confirmed. We are trying to "do a deal" with MTO - watch this space.

Like · April 29 at 12:34pm



**Michelle Moozie Geel** I'm not sure if these pines are older ones that are related to the issue that arose in 2006 and the MTO tender which was at that time already : <https://www.sanparks.org/parks/karoo/news.php...>

Like · April 28 at 10:23am · Edited



**Nicky Schmidt** This article is in response to one I wrote a few weeks before this one. All the pines are going and will be replaced by fynbos. The trees in Lower Tokai are worth very little as they are too young for harvesting, but because all the plantations in the upper areas are being cleared - because of the fires - there is little point for MTO to remain in the area. See my comment on [Ursula Forrest's](#) point above.

Like · April 29 at 12:36pm