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## CITY OF CAPE TOWN

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### MEDIA RELEASE

## Theft and vandalism compromise water security

***The City of Cape Town has been informed that theft from aquifer drilling sites is making it difficult for contractors to bring more water online timeously. Furthermore, theft of other City infrastructure often results in water running to waste. The City is calling on residents to keep an eye out for any suspicious activities. Read more below:***

The City of Cape Town notes with concern the reports from our contractors of theft from aquifer drilling sites. This is resulting in delays of weeks at a time, which the population can ill afford. Tools, batteries, vehicles and any materials which could be perceived to have scrap value are being targeted.

'It is incredibly frustrating that even such crucial work is not immune from these destructive elements in our society. We are calling on any residents that may have information on these activities to please come forward with any information that could assist with investigations,' said Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Cllr Xanthea Limberg.

Theft of the City's water supply infrastructure is still worryingly common. In cases where fire hydrants, water meters, and valves are damaged by thieves and vandals the result is often water running to waste. Since July 2017 more than R5 million worth of hydrants, meters and valves have been stolen or damaged.

'It is not possible to reliably say how much water has been lost, but in this time of scarcity any water lost due to theft and vandalism is too much,' said Cllr Limberg.

Residents can report vandalism of City infrastructure to the City's Call Centre on 0860 103 089. Members of the public can report metal theft or provide tip-offs to the Metal Theft Unit control room on 0800 222 771 or 021 400 2828. Theft can also be reported to the South African Police Service on 10111, or the Public Emergency Call Centre by calling 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cellphone.

'When communities are vigilant and report vandalism of infrastructure, the infrastructure Capetonians are paying for via rates and tariffs, it not only ensures that more criminals are apprehended but also creates a climate in which it is more difficult for criminals to operate. We need the assistance of the public to address this issue,' said Cllr Limberg

**End**

**Issued by: Media Office, City of Cape Town**

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