

V&A CRUISELINER ROW

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Following a meeting between the South African Ministers of the Departments of Home Affairs and Public Enterprises, a decision has been taken to no longer allow cruiseliners to dock at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. The matter of free public access at the V&A was raised as a security risk and as an activity that was occurring irregularly outside of the designate official Port of Entry as declared by the Minister of Home Affairs. Passenger vessels must in future only dock in the secured Duncan Dock area without free public access. The Ministers say a dedicated passenger liner terminal must also be established. This controversial decision has not been well received by the management of the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town harbour authorities and other interested parties, who have accused the Ministers of not consulting sufficiently with stakeholders who for years have been mooting for a “proper” cruiseline passenger terminal. Cruiseliners have been berthing at the V&A since 1993, adding to its attraction of a working harbour and recreational facility.