

Drive Out  
**TOPICAL**



# Over to you, Mr Minister

PHOTOGRAPH DRIVE OUT ARCHIVES

Phrases like “self-regulation”, “industry standards”, “compliance” and the like tend to make one’s eyes glaze over, but please read on – what follows is actually very important, and it will affect you, writes **Barnie Louw**.

**A**fter more than two years of toing and froing, the off-road community, represented by the National Off-road Workshop (NOW), is at last ready to present their final strategy for self-regulation to environment minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk at the end of February.

Should Van Schalkwyk give it the go-ahead, the self-regulation strategy will have a profound effect on the off-road community, that is you and me.

**Tread with respect.** If the off-road community’s strategy for self-regulation is accepted, the days of going off-road where and how you like might soon be numbered.

**No one wants self-regulation to fail, because that may result in the minister regulating the sector through legislation – the beach ban all over again ...**

### **“Here are the headlines...”**

OK, what will the strategy mean to us when we want to head off-road in our 4x4s, quads and off-road motorcycles?

Well, everything still has to be approved by Van Schalkwyk, but the following three key proposals will probably be implemented:

**1. Certain areas will be off limits to you.** Current legislation prohibits you from accessing certain eco-sensitive zones like forestry areas. NOW

proposes changes in this legislation that would enable you access to such areas – if you receive additional training.

In terms of this proposal, additional eco-sensitive areas may also be declared. This could mean that areas that you currently have access to could be off-limits unless you receive additional training.

These sensitive areas are yet to be defined and identified as part of a study currently being conducted by the department of environmental affairs and tourism (DEAT).