



# DECUS NOSTRUM





# In this Issue...

<b>Karwyderskraal Landfill Expansion .....</b>	<b>6</b>
First project to move through infrastructure pipeline	
<b>WCG Releases First Findings of Overberg Rail Business Case .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Revitalising rail as a key component of its broader economic and transport strategy	
<b>ODM Showcases Regional Excellence at Annual Diplomatic Engagement ....</b>	<b>10</b>
Promoting the Overberg as a region of opportunity, innovation, and distinctive experiences	
<b>Voter Registration Weekend for 2026 Elections .....</b>	<b>12</b>
IEC announces special registration weekend for upcoming Local Government Elections	
<b>Blitz Operations Strengthen Public Health Compliance Across the region ....</b>	<b>14</b>
Municipal Health Services collaborates with key enforcement partners	
<b>ODM Reaffirms its Commitment to Ethical Governance .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Reinforcing Ethical Governance during National Ethics Awareness Month	
<b>Recap of the Overberg Fire Season 2025/2026 .....</b>	<b>18</b>
December 2025 to January 2026 - A Season of Record Wildfire Activity	



# MUNICIPAL NOTICE

## OVERSIGHT REPORT ON 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 129(3) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA), read with section 21A of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), that an Oversight Report on the 2024/2025 Annual Report was adopted by Council on 30 March 2026.

## DRAFT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) REVIEW FOR 2026/2027

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 25 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), that the Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review for 2026/2027 of the Overberg District Municipality, was adopted by Council on 30 March 2026.

## DRAFT THREE-YEAR BUDGET/MEDIUM-TERM REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK 2026/2027 TO 2028/2029

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA), that the Draft Three-year Budget for 2026/2027 to 2028/2029 of the Overberg District Municipality was adopted by Council on 30 March 2026.

**The above documents can be viewed on the municipal website at [www.odm.org.za](http://www.odm.org.za).**

Hard copies of the Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review for 2026/2027 will be made available for inspection at:

- Overberg District Municipality (ODM) Head Office
- ODM district offices across the region
- ODM resorts
- Local municipalities in the Overberg
- Libraries in the Overberg
- Thusong Centres in the Overberg.

Comments, inputs or representation on the draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review and draft three-year budget should be submitted by **no later than 25 April 2026** to:

Draft IDP                      Mr Franco Ruiters                      [fruiters@odm.org.za](mailto:fruiters@odm.org.za)

Draft budget                      Mr S Stanley                      [sstanley@odm.org.za](mailto:sstanley@odm.org.za)

*Persons who cannot read or write may visit Mr K Theunissen at the head office for assistance in compiling their comments, inputs or representations.*

**E PHILLIPS**  
**MUNICIPAL MANAGER (ACTING)**

30 March 2026



# 5-YEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2022/23 - 2026/27

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- STRATEGIC GOAL 1**  
To ensure the well-being of all in the Overberg through the provision of efficient basic services and infrastructure.
- STRATEGIC GOAL 2**  
To promote regional economic development by supporting initiatives in the District for the development of a sustainable district economy.
- STRATEGIC GOAL 3**  
To ensure municipal transformation and institutional development by creating a staff structure that would adhere to the principles of employment equity and promote skills development.
- STRATEGIC GOAL 4**  
To attain and maintain financial viability and sustainability by executing accounting services in accordance with National policy and guidelines.
- STRATEGIC GOAL 5**  
To ensure good governance practices by providing a democratic and pro-active accountable government and ensuring community participation through IGR structures.

## VISION

Overberg – the opportunity gateway to Africa through sustainable services.

## MISSION

To render sustainable, customer-directed services and to be the preferred Provider of Shared Services within the Overberg, by:

- Promoting social and economic development;
- Utilising all available resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- Ensuring the provision of optimal and quality services delivery; and
- Enhancing effective stakeholder relations

## CORE VALUES

- CARING**  
A total belief in collective caring principles – “Ubuntu”.
- INTEGRITY**  
Higher levels of courtesy and professionalism in the workplace; behaving in a manner that reflects ODMs commitment to honesty, trust, transparency and ethical business operations.
- COMMITMENT**  
To the development of people; regular consultation with customers on the level and quality of services.
- TRANSFORMATION**  
Transformational leadership - corporate transformation begins with a shift in the values and behaviours of leadership; corporations do not transform, people do.

- TRANSPARENCY**  
In accounting for our actions; responsible spending and utilisation of municipal assets.
- EXCELLENCE**  
Setting quality standards for service delivery, measurement thereof to improve productivity and the discipline to take action to address the situation.
- HONESTY**  
Contributes to a positive mind-set and facilitates morally acceptable behaviour.
- RESPECT**  
For our natural resources and celebrating diversity.

HEAD OFFICE:  
028 425 1157

info@odm.org.za



/OverbergDM



26 Long Street  
Private Bag X22  
Bredasdorp  
7280

EMERGENCIES:  
028 425 1690

www.odm.org.za

@OverbergDM





# COUNCIL 2021 – 2026

Following the 2021 Local Government Elections, in terms of section 29(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act of 1998, the Overberg District Municipal Council for 2021-2026 was constituted on 6 December 2021.

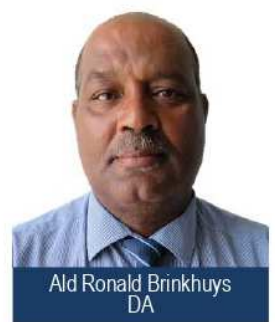
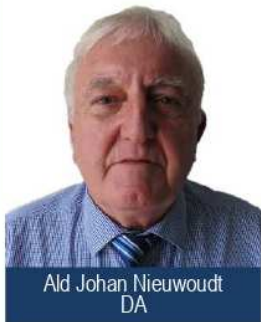
Political Parties represented:

DA  
12

ANC  
8

VF+  
2

GOOD  
1





# KARWYDERSKRAAL LANDFILL EXPANSION

## FIRST PROJECT TO MOVE THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE

**Following commitments made during the State of the Province Address (SOPA) Debate, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure Tertuis Alfred Simmers marked a significant milestone in infrastructure delivery with a sod-turning ceremony at the Karwyderskraal Regional Landfill Facility in the Overberg District on 27 February 2026.**

This project is the very first to successfully progress through the Western Cape Government's Infrastructure Pipeline, from inception and feasibility, through approvals and funding alignment, to implementation on site.

The expansion includes the construction of Cell 5A, the extension of the composting footprint, and the upgrading of the existing access road. Cell 5A alone will provide approximately seven to

eight years of additional landfill airspace, ensuring continued waste management security for the Overberg region. Construction commenced on 23 February 2026 and is scheduled for completion in November 2026, with an estimated final project cost of R63.5 million.

Karwyderskraal is a Class B engineered regional landfill facility serving Overstrand, Theewaterskloof and Cape Agulhas Municipalities, as well as private users. It processes approximately 5 500 tons of waste per month and operates under strict environmental compliance standards. The facility recently achieved an external compliance rating of 98.97%, reflecting strong governance and operational oversight.

CONSTRUCTION OF CELL 5A TO CREATE LANDFILL AIRSPACE FOR THE NEXT 8 YEARS



***“Through our infrastructure pipeline, we are strengthening local government capacity by aligning planning, funding and governance upfront, ensuring municipalities are supported, coordinated and positioned to deliver sustainable infrastructure with certainty and confidence. Karwyderskraal is proof that when we plan with discipline and support municipalities through structured alignment, delivery follows.” MEC Tertuis Simmers***



# WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT RELEASES FIRST FINDINGS OF OVERBERG RAIL BUSINESS CASE

On Friday, 20 February 2026, the Western Cape Government released the first findings of the Overberg Rail Business Case, following a high-level stakeholder feedback session held in Bredasdorp.

The report outlines a strategic roadmap to transform the region's rail infrastructure into a modern, integrated freight system linking the Overberg to major inland markets, including Gauteng.

In July 2025, Western Cape Mobility Minister Isaac Sileku announced the launch of the Overberg Rail Business Case to freight stakeholders. The Minister highlighted that, while the Western Cape has a proud rail heritage, its full potential has long been underutilised.

The Overberg Rail Business Case highlights the Western Cape Government's commitment to revitalising rail as a key component of its broader economic and transport strategy.

Central to the business case is the development of a seamless intermodal corridor linking Transnet-operated rail, the Belcon Inland Terminal, and the Port of Cape Town. This integrated system will enable the efficient transport of agricultural and bulk commodities, including barley, wheat, canola, animal feed, and fertilizer, to domestic and export markets, while also creating backloading opportunities from inland markets.

During the session, stakeholders were presented with updated freight demand projections and implementation considerations. The business case highlights the potential to transport approximately 105 000 tons of freight annually



between the Western Cape and Gauteng, along with an estimated 2 000 refrigerated containers each year through the corridor. These volumes offer a significant opportunity to shift freight from road to rail, improving efficiency and enhancing export competitiveness.

Revitalising freight rail along this corridor will enhance supply chain reliability, lower logistics costs, and reduce pressure on provincial roads, while supporting a more sustainable and efficient freight system.

“This Business Case positions the Overberg rail corridor as a key enabler to triple Western Cape exports by 2035. By unlocking dormant rail capacity, strengthening intermodal links, and attracting private investment, we are building a freight system that drives economic growth, supports producers, and reduces road congestion,” said Minister Sileku.



***Minister Isaac Sileku with ODM Executive Mayor Sakkie Franken, ODM Deputy Mayor Helen Coetzee, Theewaterskloof Executive Mayor Lincoln de Bruyn, Cape Agulhas Deputy Mayor Karin Donald and other role players during the feedback session held at the Overberg District Municipality.***

“The release of the Overberg Rail Business Case findings is an important step toward unlocking the full economic potential of our region. The revitalisation of the rail corridor will strengthen supply chain reliability, reduce pressure on our roads, and improve the competitiveness of Overberg producers in both domestic and export markets. As the Overberg District Municipality, we support this collaborative initiative and remain committed to working with provincial and national partners to ensure the successful implementation of a modern, integrated freight system that drives sustainable economic growth,” said Ald Sakkie Franken, Executive Mayor, of the Overberg District Municipality.

Stakeholders emphasised the importance of strong partnerships between government,

industry, and rail operators to secure long-term freight commitments and provide certainty for investment. The Western Cape Government remains committed to supporting national rail reform while advancing regional economic development priorities.

The next phase will focus on finalising the implementation plan, addressing infrastructure needs, and deepening collaboration with industry partners. The Overberg Rail Business Case pilot will offer valuable insights to guide future freight rail revitalisation efforts, helping to build a resilient system that supports producers, reduces road congestion, and promotes inclusive economic growth across the Western Cape and South Africa.

# Overberg District Municipality Showcases Regional Excellence at Annual Diplomatic Engagement

**Overberg District Municipality (ODM) attended Premier Alan Winde’s Annual Diplomatic Engagement held in Cape Town on 13 February 2026. The event provided an important platform to engage with members of the diplomatic corps and key strategic partners from across the province.**

The Annual Diplomatic Engagement serves as a strategic platform to strengthen international partnerships and promote the Western Cape as a globally competitive destination for trade, investment, and tourism. Bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, government leadership, and key industry stakeholders, the engagement facilitates meaningful dialogue and collaboration aimed at unlocking economic opportunities. Through agencies such as Wesgro, the province continues to position its regions, including the Overberg, as investment-ready destinations, with strong offerings in agriculture, wine production, and tourism, contributing to job creation and inclusive economic growth.

ODM was proud to showcase a taste of the Overberg’s unique offerings, highlighting the region’s rich tourism appeal, agricultural excellence, and world-class wine industry. The engagement created valuable opportunities to position the Overberg as a competitive and investment-ready destination within the Western Cape.

Discussions with representatives from the Provincial Government, Wesgro, and industry stakeholders reinforced the importance of collaborative partnerships in unlocking economic growth. Strengthening these relationships remains central to driving tourism development and expanding market access for local producers.

Through participation in platforms such as this, ODM continues to promote the Overberg as a region of opportunity, innovation, and distinctive experiences, ensuring that the district remains firmly on the map for both domestic and international stakeholders.



# GRABOUW FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ELGIN GRABOUW CYCLING ACADEMY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM.



## NEW GRABOUW TOURISM AND FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE OPENED IN GRABOUW

Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), officially opened the new Grabouw Forest Information Centre in Grabouw on 18 March 2026.

Situated at the gateway to the Elgin-Grabouw trail network at the Elgin Grabouw Country Club, this new centre will:

- Welcome visitors to the biosphere, with the Kogelberg Biosphere Environmental Guides on site to show you around, and with support in-field from the Biosphere Rangers
- Connect people to world-class trails
- Share the story of the incredible biodiversity
- Create local jobs

This partnership project is funded by DEDAT, built by the Elgin Grabouw Cycling Academy and

supported by the local community.

Most importantly, it helps people understand that Grabouw lies within one of the most special natural landscapes on Earth.



Minister Ivan Meyer (middle) with Cllr Yvonne van Tonder (Theewaterskloof Municipality) and Cllr Steven Fourie (Overberg District Municipality).

# VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND



To be eligible to vote you must:

20 & 21  
**June**  
2026



01

Must be a  
South African  
citizen



02

Must be  
16 years old  
you can only  
vote from age 18



03

In possession  
of a green ID  
book, smart ID  
card or temporary  
Identity certificate



     @IECSouthAfrica  060 088 0000  0800 11 8000  elections.org.za

## 2026 Local Government Elections

South Africa's Electoral body has designated a special registration weekend on 21 and 22 June for individuals to sign up to vote in the upcoming elections.

This initiative aims to facilitate the registration process by allowing individuals to register conveniently near their residences.

## Where to Register?

To vote, you must be registered in the area where you normally live.

## When Are The Elections?

Once voter registration is complete, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is expected to proclaim the election date.

# VOTER EDUCATION TYPES OF MUNICIPALITIES



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

There are **THREE** types of municipalities  
in South Africa



f x b o in @IECSouthAfrica 060 088 0000 0800 11 8000 elections.org.za

# VOTER EDUCATION TYPES OF MUNICIPALITIES

**Metropolitan Municipality**  
Currently there are 8 Metropolitan Municipalities

- ▶ **One large city government that does all services including:  
Water, electricity, roads, public transport, housing etc.**
- ▶ **Has ward councillors and municipal councillors**



f x b o in @IECSouthAfrica 060 088 0000 0800 11 8000 elections.org.za

# VOTER EDUCATION TYPES OF MUNICIPALITIES

**District Municipality**  
Currently, there are 44 district municipalities

- ▶ **Cover a large geographic area made up of several municipalities**
- ▶ **Coordinate planning development for the whole region**
- ▶ **Coordinate services like:**

Water, electricity, roads disaster management and public transport



f x b o in @IECSouthAfrica 060 088 0000 0800 11 8000 elections.org.za

# VOTER EDUCATION TYPES OF MUNICIPALITIES

**Local Municipality**  
Currently there are 206 local Municipalities

- ▶ **Falls within a district municipality**
- ▶ **In towns and rural areas**
- ▶ **Delivers day-to-day services to communities**
- ▶ **Has ward councillors and municipal councillors**



f x b o in @IECSouthAfrica 060 088 0000 0800 11 8000 elections.org.za

**YOUR DEMOCRACY  
OWN IT** 



**SOUTH AFRICA**

# Multi-Disciplinary Blitz Operations Strengthen Public Health Compliance Across the Overberg

During February and March 2026, Overberg District Municipality's Municipal Health Services, in collaboration with key enforcement partners, conducted a series of multi-disciplinary "Blitz" operations in Riviersonderend and Swellendam to strengthen compliance with health legislation and safeguard public wellbeing.

The first operation, held on 20 February 2026 in Riviersonderend, saw Environmental Health Practitioners Ms Bonolo Maruping and Ms Mendy Tyhawana, supported by Law Enforcement Officers from Theewaterskloof Local Municipality, inspect food premises including butcheries, bakeries, and spaza shops. The team assessed critical compliance areas such as food labelling, hygiene and sanitation, temperature control, and safe food-handling practices in line with the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act. Educational material on the "Five Keys to Safer Food" was also distributed to promote sustained compliance.



Building on this effort, a second coordinated operation was conducted on 17 March 2026 along Voortrek Street in Swellendam, targeting Annexure A premises, including guesthouses, lodges, bed and breakfast establishments, and a beauty salon. Led by Municipal Health & Air Quality Services in collaboration with the South African Police Service and Swellendam Law Enforcement, the focus was on verifying compliance with Municipal Health By-Laws, particularly the requirement for valid Health Certificates.

While several establishments were found to be compliant, a number of businesses were identified as operating without valid or updated Health Certificates. These operators were issued with application forms, guidance, and educational materials to support immediate compliance. Although no premises were closed, follow-up inspections will be conducted, and further enforcement action may be taken where necessary.

These operations form part of an ongoing, proactive approach by Municipal Health Services to integrate enforcement with education. Regular blitz initiatives, conducted in partnership with stakeholders, remain essential to improving compliance, supporting business owners, and ensuring the continued protection of public health across the Overberg region.



# HYGIENIC GUIDELINES FOR FOODSTALLS

MUNICIPAL HEALTH & AIR QUALITY SERVICES



## SAFE FOOD STORAGE

- ✓ Keep raw and cooked food separate
- ✓ Keep food covered at all times
- ✓ Store food off the ground
- ✓ Keep perishable food in a fridge or cooler box
- ✓ Check date marking (expiry date, sell by date and use by date)



## PERSONAL HYGIENE

- ✓ Wear a clean apron every day
- ✓ Cover your hair (cap/scarf/hairnet)
- ✓ Keep nails short and clean
- ✓ No rings, bracelets, or watches while handling food
- ✓ Wash hands regularly:
  - Before preparing food
  - After using the toilet
  - After handling money
  - After touching raw meat
- ✗ Do NOT:
  - Smoke while handling food
  - Cough or sneeze over food
  - Prepare food when sick

!!!  
**Remember:**  
Clean hands  
save lives.



## HANDWASHING FACILITIES

- Every food stall must have:
- A 10–20 litre container with a tap
  - Clean water
  - Liquid soap
  - Paper towels
  - A waste bin



## TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- ✓ Hot food must be kept above 60°C
- ✓ Cold food must be kept below 5°C
- ✓ Do not leave food at room temperature
- ✓ Reheat food until steaming hot



## CLEANING & SANITISING

- ✓ Clean surfaces before and after use
- ✓ Wash utensils with hot water and detergent
- ✓ Use approved sanitiser
- ✓ Remove waste daily



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Use a bin with a lid
- ✓ Empty waste daily
- ✓ Keep surrounding area clean



## PROTECT FOOD FROM CONTAMINATION

- ✓ Use tongs or gloves when serving
- ✓ Protect food from flies and dust
- ✓ Keep stall away from refuse or dirty water
- ✓ Separate money handling from food handling



## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Food stalls must:
- Obtain a Certificate of Acceptability (COA) from Overberg District Municipality
  - Follow Regulation R638 (Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act)



**Cape Agulhas:** 028 425 1157



**Overstrand:** 028 313 1243



facebook.com/OverbergDM



**Theewaterskloof:** 028 212 1120



**Swellendam:** 028 514 1182



www.odm.org.za



26 Long Street  
Bredasdorp  
7280

I KNOW.  
I ACT.  
I STOP



CORRUPTION

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

**#FightingCorruption**

You can also share your photos, videos, sound bites, graphics or messages on:



GovernmentZA



GovernmentZA/

Together we move South Africa forward



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY REINFORCES ETHICAL GOVERNANCE DURING NATIONAL ETHICS AWARENESS MONTH

March marks National Ethics Awareness Month, a time for reflection on the values that guide both individual conduct and institutional integrity. The Overberg District Municipality (ODM) uses this opportunity to reaffirm its strong commitment to ethical governance and its zero-tolerance approach to fraud, corruption, and financial misconduct.

Guided by its Anti-Corruption, Fraud and Financial Misconduct Policy, as well as its Anti-Corruption and Fraud Prevention Plan, ODM has established clear systems to prevent, detect, and respond to unethical behaviour. These frameworks ensure that all employees and officials act with integrity, accountability, and in the best interests of the communities they serve.

## **Embedding Ethics in Daily Practice**

At the core of ODM's approach is the understanding that ethics is not a once-off commitment, but a daily responsibility. The Municipality's Code of Ethics serves as a guiding standard, encouraging staff to consistently reflect on their decisions and actions.

Employees are encouraged to ask critical questions when faced with uncertainty: Is it legal? Does it comply with policies and regulations? Would it withstand public scrutiny? This culture of reflection strengthens ethical decision-making across all levels of the organisation.

## **Prevention, Awareness, and Accountability**

ODM continues to prioritise prevention through strong internal controls, ongoing risk assessments, and regular awareness initiatives. These efforts are aimed at reducing opportunities for misconduct while equipping employees with the knowledge to identify and address risks early.

At the same time, the Municipality maintains firm accountability measures. Any act of fraud or corruption is thoroughly investigated, and appropriate disciplinary or legal action is taken where necessary.

## **Encouraging a Speak-Up Culture**

A key component of ODM's anti-corruption strategy is encouraging a safe and transparent reporting environment. Employees, residents, and stakeholders are urged to report any suspected wrongdoing through the Municipality's confidential reporting channels.

Whistle-blowers are protected, and all reports are treated with seriousness and urgency to ensure that unethical conduct is addressed without fear or favour.



Ethical governance is not only about compliance, but about building a culture where doing the right thing becomes standard practice. Our prevention measures, risk assessments, and reporting mechanisms are designed to protect both the Municipality and the communities we serve. National Ethics Awareness Month reminds us that every official has a role to play in safeguarding public trust and ensuring accountability at all times.

## **A Shared Responsibility**

As National Ethics Awareness Month reminds us, building a culture of integrity requires collective effort. ODM calls on all staff and community members to play their part in upholding ethical standards and safeguarding public resources.

Through continued vigilance, accountability, and commitment to ethical principles, the Overberg District Municipality strives to strengthen public trust and deliver services in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner.

# OVERBERG FIRES

## A SEASON OF RECORD

## WILDFIRE ACTIVITY

(DECEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026)



The 2025/26 fire season in the Overberg region was one of the most severe in recent memory, with prolonged dry conditions, strong winds, and a series of ignitions combining to produce widespread wildfires across natural vegetation, agricultural lands and peri-urban areas. Provincial authorities have described the season as the worst in a decade with significant ecological, social and economic impacts.

Across the Western Cape Province, including Overberg, more than 130 000 hectares have been consumed by wildfires between 1 December 2025 and early January 2026, making this the most extensive season since at least 2015. Fires in Pearly Beach and Stanford contributed significantly to that total.

### MAJOR FIRE INCIDENTS WHICH AFFECTED THE REGION

#### Pearly Beach Wildfire

The Pearly Beach fire ignited in early January and spread rapidly under hot, dry and windy conditions. Intense fire behaviour, including spot fires ignited by embers carried up to hundreds of meters ahead of the main blaze, made containment extremely difficult.

Local fire authorities and communities reported that at its peak the blaze was “one of the hottest wildfires” they had seen, driven by extreme dryness, high wind speeds and abundant flammable vegetation.

## RECORD FIRE SEASON

Provincial authorities and scientific observers noted this season surpassed recent fire seasons in both hectares burned and number of active fires, with over 130 000 ha across the Western Cape, a significantly higher figure than typical recent seasons.

Historical data for comparison indicate that previous fire seasons, such as 2023/24, saw tens of thousands of hectares burned (e.g.,

~73 000 ha across CapeNature-managed land in 2023/24), but the 2025/26 season surpassed those extents by a considerable margin.

Experts attribute this exceptional activity to climatic conditions, particularly prolonged dry spells, high temperatures, persistent winds and heavy fuel loads from vegetation grown during wetter years followed by rapid drying.



### Stanford Fire

Not far inland, a separate fire near Stanford burned extensive fynbos and farmland. This fire threatened residential areas and informal settlements, prompting evacuations and temporary relocations as a precaution.

Collectively, the Pearly Beach and Stanford fires accounted for tens of thousands of hectares of burned landscape in the Overberg alone, representing a substantial share of the province's fire footprint.

### Greyton Fire

A separate wildfire near Greyton was initially contained, but strong winds pushed it across barriers onto nearby mountain slopes, extending

its footprint into otherwise inaccessible terrain.

### RESPONSE AND RESOURCE PRESSURES

Wildfire response in the Overberg and Western Cape involved:

- Extensive aerial firefighting operations, supported by provincial funds – with approximately R16 million spent on aerial support between December and January.
- Mobilization of municipal firefighting units, national resources (e.g., South African Air Force helicopter support), and coordination across districts.
- Requests from the Western Cape Cabinet to declare the situation a provincial disaster, enabling flexible resource allocation.

## IMPACT OF FIRES ON FAUNA, FLORA AND LIVELIHOODS

### Ecological & Biodiversity Loss

Overberg is part of the globally recognised fynbos biome, renowned for its biodiversity. While fire is a natural part of fynbos ecology, the extent and intensity of these fires exceeded historical patterns, creating large continuous burn scars, damaging seed banks and risking long-term changes in species composition. Satellite analysis showed burnt areas with significant vegetation loss across mountain slopes and valleys.

### Wildlife & Agriculture

Many species were displaced or perished in fast-moving fires. Small mammals, reptiles, ground-nesting birds and invertebrates suffered habitat loss, and displaced animals required careful management by trained responders due to safety risks.

Vineyards, grazing land, fruit farms, and infrastructure sustained damage, with losses estimated in the millions of rands. Fire suppressed key economic activities, and smoke often compromised air quality vital for agricultural work and livestock.



# INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY



Theme: "Inclusivity without compromising tradition"

## What's Happening

- 🚩 Parade through town → Ends at Nampo Park
- 🔔 Ceremony → Bell ringing & chaplain's message
- 👊 Firefighter Teams Competition (indoor bullring arena)
- 🏃 Trail Run & 2.4 Challenge
- 🚒 Skid Unit Competition (Western Cape first!)
- 🚗 4x4 Obstacle Course Challenge
- 🎲 Dominos Showdown
- 👨‍🍳 Potjiekos Cook-Off



## NEW SENIOR MANAGER: INTERNAL AUDIT APPOINTED

The Overberg District Municipality has appointed Ms Shinelia Cupido as its new Senior Manager: Internal Audit, marking an important milestone in her distinguished local government career.

Ms Cupido began her journey in local government on 1 June 2004 at the Cape Winelands District Municipality in Stellenbosch, where she gained extensive experience in finance and internal audit over a period of 11 years. On 1 September 2015, she joined the Overberg District Municipality's Internal Audit Department, where she proudly celebrates ten years of dedicated service.

Her appointment as Senior Manager: Internal Audit represents both a personal achievement and a testament to her passion for the profession and commitment to adding value to stakeholders.



## NEW APPOINTMENT: AREA MANAGER – MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY SERVICES (THEEWATERSKLOOF)



The Overberg District Municipality is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Olwethu Tshekela as the new Area Manager: Municipal Health and Air Quality Services for the Theewaterskloof sub-district.

Mr Tshekela grew up in Matatiele, a small town in the Eastern Cape. He holds a National Diploma in Environmental Health as well as an Advanced Diploma in Health Management.

Boasting 13 years of professional experience, including one year in the private sector and 12 years in local government, he brings valuable institutional knowledge and practical expertise to the role.

We welcome Mr Tshekela to his new role and wish him every success in his responsibilities within the Overberg and the Theewaterskloof sub-district.

# ODM STRENGTHENS MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

The Overberg District Municipality has appointed new temporary Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) within its Municipal Health Services Department, effective from January 2026 to December 2026.


These appointments form part of the municipality's ongoing commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring the effective delivery of municipal health services across the district.

The appointed practitioners will be deployed across the Theewaterskloof and Overstrand sub-districts, where they will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the nine Municipal Health Functions as prescribed by the National Health Act (Act 61 of 2003), in addition to any other duties assigned to them.

The functions which they will be responsible include water monitoring, food control, waste management, surveillance of premises, surveillance and prevention communicable diseases, monitoring the disposal of the dead, pollution control, vector control and chemical safety. These functions play a critical role in protecting our communities from environmental health risks and ensuring compliance with health and safety standards within the Overberg region.

ODM welcomes the appointment of the temporary Environmental Health Practitioners and is confident that their contribution will enhance service delivery, strengthen regulatory oversight, and support the municipality's mandate to promote a safe and healthy environment for all residents during the 2026 period.




 Western Cape Government

**TAKING DECISIVE ACTION TO**

## CURB THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) OUTBREAK

IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Affected areas are under quarantine, with infected animals vaccinated by WCG State Veterinarians.



Should you suspect any cases of FMD, contact your nearest WCG State Veterinarians by scanning the QR Code.

Photo Credit: Freepik

 **WARNING:**

**BEWARE OF FAKE AI-GENERATED JOB VIDEOS**

Scammers are using artificial intelligence to create convincing videos with fake job opportunities designed to steal your personal information and money.

**HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:**

- Always verify job offers through official company websites
- Never share personal or financial information based on video solicitations
- Be suspicious of unusually high salaries or easy qualification requirements
- Research the company thoroughly before applying

If you encounter suspicious job videos, report them immediately.

**STAY VIGILANT. STAY SAFE.**



**26 Long Street  
Private Bag X22  
Bredasdorp  
7280**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tel: 028 425 1157

**EMERGENCIES - 24 HOURS**

Tel: 028 425 1690

[info@odm.org.za](mailto:info@odm.org.za)

[www.odm.org.za](http://www.odm.org.za)

Follow us on Facebook  
/OverbergDM