

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

FESTIVE SEASON SURPASSES EXPECTATIONS

The fact that Overstrand Municipality was operationally geared to receive visitors definitely paid off: The traffic flowed, public places were kept clean and petty crime was kept to a minimum.

These accolades come from operators in the tourism and hospitality industry who all reported a whopping increase in visitors compared to the previous two years' figures.

Of course, the fact that Overstrand played host to no fewer than 348 events covering anything from arts and crafts, food and wine, ParkRuns and half-marathons, touch rugby and 4x4 rallies – not to mention live music – all contributed to this positive outcome.

What is most heart warming, though, is that holidaymakers from far and wide took the time to spend a little time to discover nature and our rich heritage:

- The Harold Porter Nature Reserve recorded an increase of 12% compared to the previous year
- Visitors to the Kogelberg Nature Reserve increased by 57%
- A whopping 1,700 people from as far afield as Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Namibia, Scotland and Switzerland visited the Danger Point Lighthouse

Clearly, those who visit the Overstrand fully intend to uncover all our hidden treasures, a fact that can be attested to by the 4,543 walk-ins (an all-time high) recorded at Overstrand's Visitor Information Centres.

Overall, businesses and operators seem to be of the opinion that the tourism and hospitality industry is recovering from the slump it experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As much as all of us benefitted from the bumper Festive Season, rather than slacking, we should take a breather to reflect on what we have learnt and where we need to improve," Executive Mayor, Dr. Annelie Rabie cautioned. "Overstrand has so much to offer: Let's unite in offering everyone – be it a visitor or a resident – the very best. And do keep in mind that the Easter Holidays are just around the corner."



RAISING A GLASS TO THE 2022/23 GRAPE HARVEST

South Africa is the only country in the world that can accurately pinpoint the exact date of origin of its wine industry thanks to a diary entry dated 2 February 1659.

Today, Overstrand's agricultural landscape proudly boasts many a winery and vineyard that has earned accolades the world over, so much so that connoisseurs from far and wide flock to savour our delectable wines and to enjoy the stunning views along our three wine routes.

Dr Annelie Rabie, Overstrand's Executive Mayor, joined in celebrating the South African wine industry's 364 birthday and to toast the 2022/23 harvest: "Thanks to the dedication of our remarkable viticulturists, cellar masters and their support staff, a bit of Overstrand are now served and enjoyed at dinner tables in just about every corner of the world," she remarked.

"Your contribution to stimulating the curiosity and taste buds of potential tourists are much appreciated, and I am sure that the tastings and events you have planned for the months ahead will make a huge contribution to not only stimulating our local economy but to secure Overstrand's well-deserved place as a 'must go' destination on the global wine map."



HERMANUS COUNTRY MARKET: THE WAY FORWARD

In the course of February, several meetings and discussions were held with interested and affected parties regarding the continued existence of the Hermanus Country Market.

This came about after Overstrand Municipality had no option but to issue an order for the closure of the market due to non-compliance with several laws and regulations.

Currently, the Municipality leases the property to the Hermanus Sports Club who, by agreement, sublets it to stall holders.

The current state of affairs is that neither the sports club nor any of the stall holders have valid fire/population certificates and evacuation plans. On top of that, no building plans have been approved and the insurance on the property expired a year ago.

"As much as we are all in agreement that the Hermanus Country Market is a 'must have' for traders, locals and visitors, matters regarding the lease and subletting agreement and the flagrant disregard of laws and regulations must be addressed as a matter of urgency if this market is to continue to exist," Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie said at a public meeting held on 6 February.

Dean O'Neill, Overstrand Municipal Manager, concurred but granted a request to allow trading on the back of an agreed plan of compliance. Formulating such a plan will require the inputs of all parties concerned and a plan of action with firm timelines, he added.

It was agreed that a technical meeting between representatives of the Overstrand Municipality, Hermanus Sports Club and the Hermanus Community Market was to be convened as soon as possible to discuss the points raised at the public meeting.

On her part, the Mayor undertook to regularly follow up on progress made and to keep the public informed. She nevertheless reiterated that as much as everyone loves the market, the current situation is untenable and called on everyone to cooperate so that patrons can enjoy the benefit of a safe, compliant country market for many years to come.

PRE-PAID ELECTRICITY METER ON TRACK

The process commonly referred to as the TID roll-over (i.e. the re-programming of pre-paid electricity meter software) in Overstrand's municipal area is progressing well, and all indications are that it will be completed well before the deadline: **24 November 2024**. The table below reflects the status as at the time of going to press:



GREATER HERMANUS Suburb(s)	Status	Roll-out / completion date
Eastcliff, Hermanus Heights, Voëlklip, Westcliff, Northcliff, Beach Club, Whale Rock Estate, Hermanus Industria	Completed	
Hawston	Underway	March 2023
Meerenbosch	Completed	
Sandbaai	Completed	
Mount Pleasant	Planned	March – April 2023
Zwelihle	Planned	May – June 2023
HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND Suburb(s)	Status	Roll-out / completion date
Kleinmond	Completed	
Overhills, Proteadorp, Extension 6	Underway	March 2023
STANFORD Suburb(s)	Status	Roll-out / completion date
Stanford, Farms	Planned	March – April 2023
GREATER GANSBAAI Suburb(s)	Status	Roll-out / completion date
Masakhane	Planned	Nov – December 2023
Franskraal, Uilenskraalmond, Gansbaai Farms	Completed	
Birkenhead, Kleinbaai	Planned	May – June 2023
Blompark	Planned	July – August 2023
De Kelders, Gansbaai, Perlemoenbaai, industrial area	Planned	Sept – October 2023
Pearly Beach	Planned	Nov – December 2023

❖ Overstrand residents who buy their electricity directly from Eskom should note that Eskom is following its own schedule to affect the compulsory TID roll-over. If they have not contacted you yet, please contact Eskom directly to check on progress.

What you should do

Once it is your suburb's turn to update, you will receive two extra 20-digit codes with your first electricity purchase for the month. In other words, there will be three codes in total on the token: The two extra codes plus the usual one. The same applies if you make use of a banking app to purchase your prepaid electricity.

All three codes need to be entered in sequence by following these steps:

1. Enter the first 20-digit key change code and wait till it has been accepted.
2. Enter the second 20-digit key change code and wait till it has been accepted.
3. Enter the usual 20-digit electricity token to recharge units as normal.

Important reminder: Be sure to punch in all unused tokens!

Units that are on your meter will still be available after the re-programming, so please make sure that all tokens are punched in. If you do not enter your credit tokens first, you will not be able to use them after you have entered the key change tokens.

Where to get help

Should you have difficulty updating your pre-paid meter, or if you wish to implement the change-over on your meter sooner than later, please contact Overstrand Municipality during office hours (Mon – Fri from 07:45 – 13:00 and from 13:45 – 16:30) on one of the following numbers:

- ➡ Greater Hermanus: 028 313 8000 (Finance Department) or 028 316 2630 (Electricity Department)
- ➡ Hangklip-Kleinmond: 028 271 8400
- ➡ Stanford/Greater Gansbaai: 028 384 8358 or 028 384 8376

Alternatively, send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.



GOING ALL OUT TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Overstrand Municipality is one of six municipalities participating in the Western Cape Government's Municipal Energy Resilience Programme and, according to Cllr Clinton Lerm (MAYCO member for Infrastructure and Investment), is doing its utmost to ensure that all residents will have equitable access to sustainable energy.

"Before we can 'go green', though, various technical and regulatory aspects need to be considered carefully, with the inclusion of network capability, regulatory limitations, procurement procedures, base generation demand and capacity, possible peak shaving, load shedding and energy efficiency," he cautioned.

"In addition to updating the Electricity Master Plan, our Electrical Services Department completed two studies in the course of 2022, namely a cost of supply and a grid capacity connection study.

"These studies were necessary to identify where networks are able to accommodate renewable energy connections, what capacity can be accommodated and how to best align these renewable resources with existing policies and statutory requirements.

"They were also necessary to determine the percentage of renewable energy that can be purchased from independent power producers (IPPs) to ensure that small-scale embedded generation (SSEG) customers will still enjoy access to the municipal network as and when necessary."

Given that various affordable and sustainable combinations of renewable energy technology exist, the next step will be to compile mini-IRPs (integrated resource plans) to establish the percentage renewable energy allocated to solar, wind or hydro generation.

According to Cllr Lerm, aside from the existing SSEG programme, Overstrand's intention is to procure renewable energy from IPPs by 2026 and is currently pursuing the following avenues:

● A renewable energy plant

A request for proposals to establish a renewable energy plant on municipal land in Kleinmond will be advertised soon.

● Hydropower

Given that technology has improved considerably over the past years, Overstrand is again exploring the viability of generating hydropower via the gravity-fed bulk water pipeline between the De Bos Dam and Hermanus for the purposes of running the water treatment works at Preekstoel.

● Wheeling

This involves allowing compliant and approved energy producers and energy traders to "wheel" private generators from one location to another to supply electricity to a buyer or off-taker. The go-ahead for this option has already been granted by Council and can be introduced as soon as 2024. However, since wheeling will take place over a combination of municipal and Eskom networks, compliance with the regulations and policies of both authorities will be necessary.

● Retrofitting

Overstrand is currently in the process of identifying municipal buildings suitable for retrofitting based on roof area, orientation, trees and shading. The findings will be included in a mini-IRP due end-February 2024, where after funding options will be investigated.

● Solar Panels

Solar photovoltaic systems can be installed on rooftops of all sizes, and the "clean" electricity it generates can be stored in batteries, used directly, or fed back into the electricity grid. To date, around 45 businesses and residents in the Overstrand have registered to feed excess electricity into the municipal grid. As much as Overstrand encourages the installation of private SSEG systems, potential providers are cautioned that approval and registration of such an installation is compulsory, even if they do not feed into the grid.

SSEG TECHNICALITIES

■ Many systems that claim to be off-grid are not electrically separated from the home's wiring and are thus not technically off-grid. To qualify as an off-grid system, a solar PV system must be completely separated from the property's wiring.

■ Connecting an unauthorised SSEG system to the grid could interfere with electricity supply, electricity demand management, future network planning **AND** pose a safety and fire risk.

■ Customers wishing to install an SSEG system, regardless of its generation capacity, need to complete an application form and request written approval from the Municipality prior to the commencement of system procurement and installation. The approval process for an SSEG installation will vary, depending on the size of the system and consumer category. All applicable guidelines and forms are available on the Municipality's official website: www.overstrand.gov.za.