

# SWIMMING BEACH CLEANING POLICY

## OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

DECEMBER 2014

### 1.1 Introduction

The coastline is increasingly under pressure as a result of human induced impacts on natural coastal processes through development, resource consumption and encroachment into highly dynamic coastal systems. Swimming beach cleaning is an activity that plays a vital role in maintaining a high standard of coastal space that contributes to the social and economic value of the coast. However, kelp wrack and other natural marine debris play a significant role in the natural coastal processes taking place on our coast where wind driven systems and sand movement are predominant features.

### 1.2 Definition of Swimming Beach Cleaning

Beach cleaning is defined as a service activity provided by the municipality to remove waste material from identified swimming beaches, as well as the cleaning of associated amenities. The Municipality does not have jurisdiction below the high water mark as this is the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

### 1.3 Policy Intent

The intention of the policy is to promote clean swimming beaches and coastal environment to the highest standards free of waste material while protecting the natural coastal processes and dynamics.

### 1.4 General Policy Principles

The policy is informed by the following guiding principles:

- All swimming beaches will be primarily managed as natural functioning ecological systems vulnerable to human induced changes and activities.
- The beaches are one of our greatest economic, natural and social assets and as such should, to the best of our abilities, be kept free of waste material.
- Our coastline is utilised in many different ways with distinct high intensity recreational nodal points as well as extensive natural coastal areas utilised on a far lower intensity.
- Maintaining a waste free coastal environment is a shared responsibility between the municipality, its citizens, user groups as well as external organisations. This principle of shared responsibility must at all times be communicated and re-enforced to all coastal users.

## 1.5 Waste definitions

The following definitions of waste will apply to the Swimming Beach Cleaning Policy:

- Human induced/resultant waste: This includes all litter and domestic waste (plastics, paper, cigarette butts, cans, cardboards, bottles, organic waste etc.) and commercial waste products
- Domestic animal waste: dog and other domestic animal excrement

The following is NOT defined or considered as waste, but is central to the Beach Cleaning Policy:

- Kelp
- Marine Animal Stranding or Carcasses (to be dealt with by the responsible authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [Fisheries Branch: 021 402 3911]).
- Oil, toxic and hazardous waste or pollution (Will be dealt with through the Overberg Disaster Management Policy)

## 1.6 Areas outside swimming beaches

This policy will also be applicable in respect of initiatives to be undertaken to perform beach cleaning activities in areas outside of swimming beach areas. This work includes programmes by private/independent organisations, for example implementing agents and initiatives by individuals.

## 2. Beach Cleaning Protocols

### 2.1 Kelp

- No kelp may be removed from the coast at any time by private individuals or organisations unless in possession of a permit issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- Kelp will only be moved from areas demarcated as Kelp Cleaning Areas as identified and approved by the Overstrand Environmental Section.
- For all areas demarcated as Kelp Cleaning Areas (in the attached aerial photographs) all kelp shall be moved and placed at kelp deposit sites in front of the fore-dunes and as indicated on the attached aerial photographs.
- No kelp is to be removed from any other area on the coast.
- Frequency of kelp removal from the demarcated areas will be done according to a schedule and/or as required. This cleaning schedule will be determined by the Operational Manager of each area.

### 2.2 Litter Picking and Waste Removal

- All coastal areas will be litter picked according to a cleaning schedule which will be determined by the Operational Manager of each area.
- Waste and litterbins will be emptied according to a cleaning schedule which will be determined by the Operational Manager

- All pet owners that walk their pets on beaches (where permissible) must ensure that their pet excrement is picked up, placed in a closed packet and placed in the litterbins.

### **2.3 Ablution and associated facilities**

- The maintenance of these facilities does not form part of this policy.
- All ablution and associated facilities will be cleaned according to a cleaning schedule which will be determined by the Operational Manager of each area.

### **2.4 Blue flag beaches**

- The requirements of the WESSA: Blue Flag Beach Programme will govern the beach cleaning activities at Blue Flag designated beaches.

### **2.5 Cleaning checklist**

- Typical cleaning checklist (this may vary according to site specific requirements) is attached.

### **2.6 Identified swimming beaches**

The swimming beach areas, also indicated on attached maps, are as follows:

Kleinmond area:

- Palmiet,
- Kleinmond Blue Flag beach,
- Betty's' Bay (Silversands),
- Pringle Bay (main beach)
- Rooi Els

Hermanus area:

- Grotto Blue Flag Beach,
- Voëlklip Beach,
- Kammabaai,
- Fick's Pool,
- Langbaai,
- Sandbaai,
- Onrus River,
- Hawston Blue Flag beach

## Gansbaai area :

- Pearly Beach (entrance Beach Road)
- Pearly Beach(Castle Beach),
- Buffeljachtsbaai,
- Pearly Beach (Caravan Park),
- Uilenkraalsmond
- Gansbaai (Tidal pool),
- Stanfordsbaai
- Kleinbaai (Tidal pool),
- Blompark beach (Romansbaai)

<b>POLICY SECTION:</b>	<b>DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>
<b>CURRENT UPDATE:</b>	
<b>PREVIOUS REVIEW:</b>	
<b>APPROVAL BY COUNCIL:</b>	3 December 2014



Rooiels



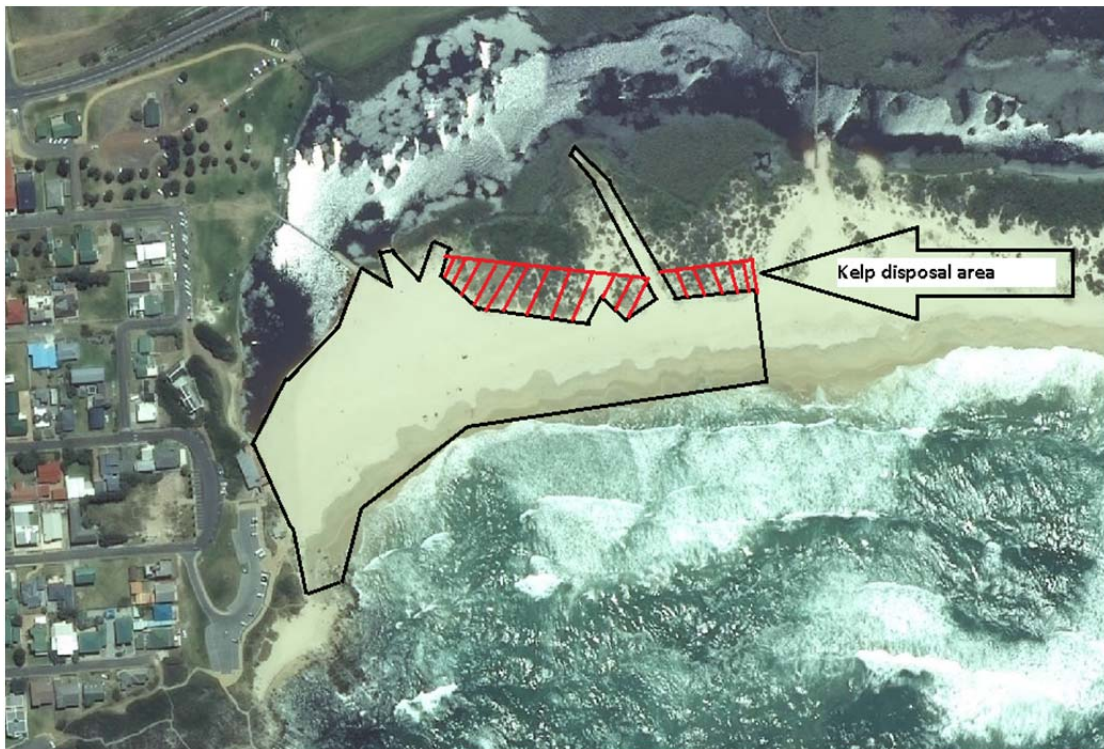
Pringle Bay



**Silversands (Betty's Bay)**



**Palmiet (Kleinmond)**



**Kleinmond Main beach**



**Hawston**



Onrus



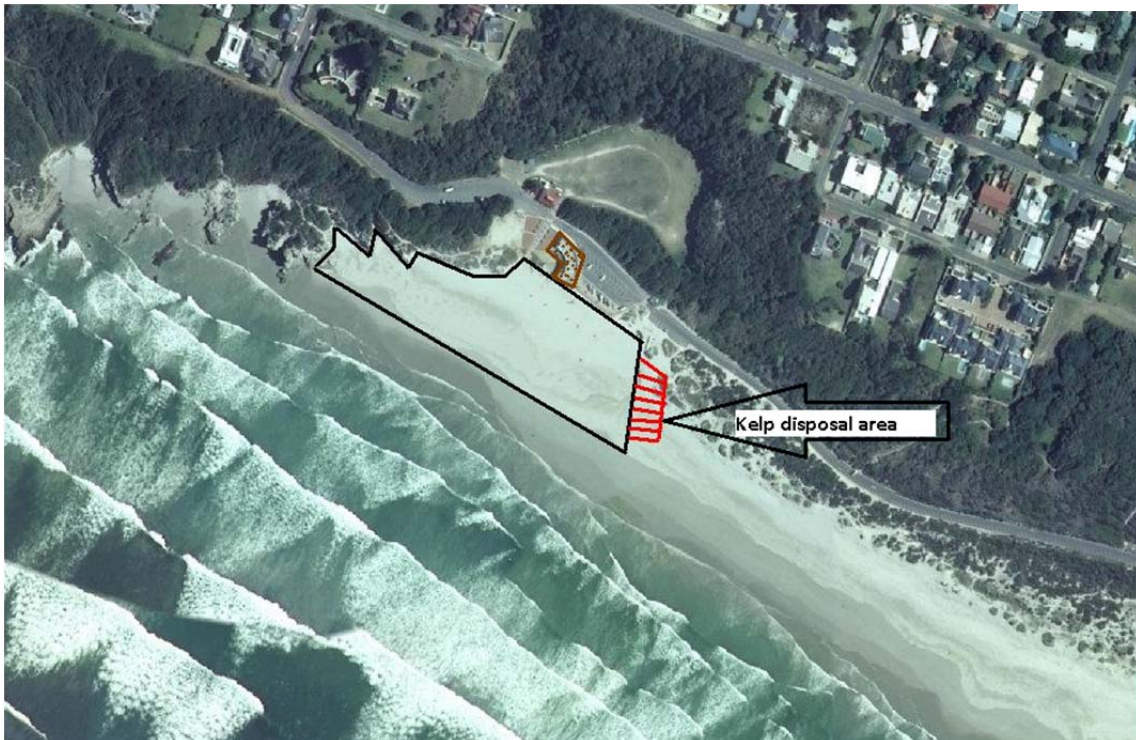
Kammabaai (Hermanus)



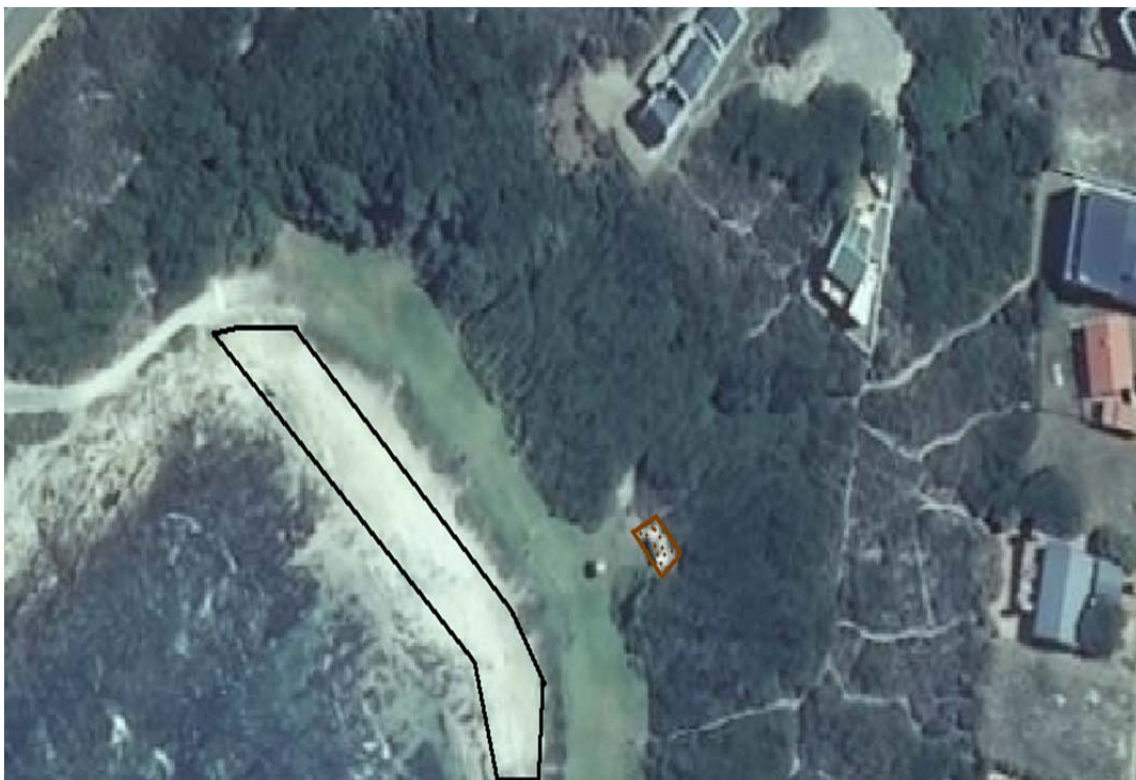
Langbaai (Hermanus)



Voëklip (Hermanus)



**Grotto Beach (Hermanus)**



**Stanfordsbaai (De Kelders)**



Buffeljagsbaai



Pearly Beach (*to the left*)

Castle Beach (*to the right*)



Uilenkraalsmond

**SWIMMING BEACHES CHECKLIST**

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	ACTIVITIES	YES (tick)	NO (tick)	COMMENTS
<b>A</b>	<b>SWIMMING BEACH AREA</b>			
1.	Refuse bins empty and clean			
2.	Beach area clean & tidy			
3.	Sign boards in order			
4.	Kelp removed (where applicable)			
5.	Parking areas and walkways cleaned			
6.	Back beach area clean and tidy			
7.	Carcasses removed			
<b>B</b>	<b>AMENITIES (ablutions, other buildings etc.)</b>			
1.	Bad odour's			
2.	Floors cleaned			
3.	Basins toilets urinals cleaned			
4.	Surfaces swept outside			
5.	Signage in order			
6.	Windows, doors, locks, neat and tidy and not broken			
7.	Toilet paper provided			
8.	Bins cleaned			
9.	Lights in working order			
10.	Dust and grit removed			

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of responsible official\_\_\_\_\_  
Date