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# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## OVERSTRAND WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR AND HIS DEPUTY



Overstrand's newly-elected Executive Mayor with his mayoral committee (from left to right): Cllr Andrew Komani (Management Services), Cllr Riana de Coning (Finance), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion (Economic Development and Tourism, as well as Protection Services), Arné Africa (Community Services) and Kari Brice (Infrastructure and Planning)

On Wednesday 28 February 2018, Overstrand's newly-appointed Executive Mayor, Ald. Dudley Coetzee, delivered his inaugural speech in the Hermanus Auditorium. During the same meeting, Cllr Elnora Gillion was elected as Executive Deputy Mayor and the appointment of a streamlined MAYCO for the period 2018 - 2021 was announced.

Due to a Council decision to reduce the MAYCO by one as part of its continued cost-containment drive, the portfolio Protection Services was added to that of Economic Development and Tourism and will be chaired by Cllr Gillion. Councillor Riana de Coning is now the chairperson of Finance, whilst Cllr Andrew Komani will be the chairperson of Management Services, Cllr Kari Brice of Infrastructure and Planning and Cllr Arné Africa of Community Services.

## GROTTO'S PLEASURES NOW ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

thanks to generous donation of amphibious wheelchair



Overstrand Blue Flag coordinator, Lauren Rainbird, was overwhelmed with joy when WESSA and the Ford Motor Company Fund donated an amphibious wheelchair to Grotto's Blue Flag Beach. Pictured here are, from left to right, Rob Slater (WESSA's Blue Flag manager), Lauren Rainbird, Dudu Nxele (Ford Wildlife Foundation), Richard Scholtz (Overstrand's Superintendent: Parks, Sports Fields and Beaches) and Linda du Plessis (Ford Wildlife Foundation).

Physically disabled residents and visitors to Grotto's Blue Flag beach can now spend time on the sand and dip their toes in the Atlantic, thanks to a brand-new amphibious wheelchair designed specifically for their beach use.

This amphibious wheelchair has a sturdy aluminium frame and can carry a weight of up to 150 kg.

The chair is equipped with three wheels that are relatively wider than those of a traditional wheelchair to enable ease of movement on the sand. It also has two flotation devices: Acting as armrests, these devices ensure that the chair becomes safely buoyant when pushed into the water.

The wheelchair was generously donated to Overstrand by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa), the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and the Ford Motor Company Fund.

The chair will be available for use at Grotto Beach during the Blue Flag season (1 December - 31 March) when lifeguards are on duty.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAYOR'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

In his first address to Council on Wednesday 28 February 2018, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee said that it will be his goal to ensure that the municipality remains financially sustainable and continues to provide a high standard of basic services to its residents and visitors that are affordable. Of equal importance, though, will be to focus on the social upliftment of Overstrand's poor and disadvantaged communities, he added. "To accomplish this," Coetzee said, "we must grow our economy by creating an environment in which people who have innovative ideas can put them into practice, enabling them to create jobs for our residents, because we can only instil dignity in people if they are able to earn a living and so support their families". With this objective in mind, Coetzee pointed out that Overstrand needs to become more "investor friendly" by revising its regulations and reducing the amount of red tape which currently makes it difficult for investors wanting to establish their businesses here. To this he added, "We need to ensure that we continue to provide clean, accountable and responsible local government as it is under such a government that people wish to invest". On the subject of housing, Coetzee said that the municipality is ready to roll out its plan to make houses available in the affordable market, ranging from about R350 000 to R1 000 000, which would cater for people earning between R8 000 and R20 000 per month. He also addressed the pressing water shortage currently experienced in the Western Cape, saying that even though Overstrand has not been affected as severely as municipalities elsewhere in the province, residents need to learn to invest in the use of grey water in their homes and that the municipality will have to build water efficiency into its planning approval. "To further augment our water supplies," he added, "we will have to start re-treating our waste water. Not necessarily to drinking water, standards, but at least to a standard where we can use it to replace potable water because we can no longer afford to flush drinking water down the toilet or use it to mix concrete or water sports fields and gardens".

Even the ongoing baboon problem deserved a mention in his address. In this regard, Coetzee said that he has convened a meeting with Minister Anton Bredell, the minister for local government and environmental affairs in the Western Cape Legislature, to reach finality on whose responsibility it is to keep baboons out of Overstrand's towns. The meeting has been scheduled for 24 April, and in the event that it results in Overstrand being responsible for baboon control, an amount of R14 000 000 spread over three years will be included in Overstrand's next budget cycle to address this problem conclusively.

## TASTE AND SMELL OF GANSBAAI'S DRINKING WATER - PROGRESS MADE

Since the end of February, Overstrand's bulk-water services operator has been implementing a temporary treatment process to reduce the foul taste and smell of Gansbaai's drinking water as a result of an algae growth in the Kraaibosch dam. The problem is mostly a seasonal occurrence during the hot summer months, and the presence of algae is already beginning to decline in the raw water source. Consequently, the smell and taste of the drinking water have also improved quite a bit. The municipality would like to reassure consumers that the algae are not physically present in the purified water, but only release the smell and taste into the raw water. The Franskraal treatment works was not designed to remove the putrid taste and odour caused by the algae, since historical data did not show that there was a need to include such a process in the design. Nevertheless, residents can rest assured that every effort is being made to find a more permanent solution to the problem to reduce the risk of similar occurrences in the future. The results of recent water samples revealed that the water is still suitable for human consumption. Weekly sampling was introduced since the incident to ensure the safety of Gansbaai's drinking water, and will continue until the situation has stabilised. Thereafter, the normal sampling frequency will be applied.

## OVERSTRAND DRAFT BUDGET EXPLAINED

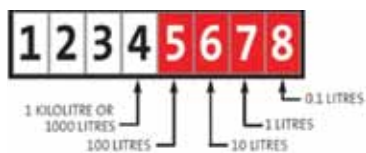
On Tuesday 20 February, the (then) finance portfolio chairman and Acting Mayor Dudley Coetzee gave a glimpse of the envisaged draft budget for 2018/19 at a public meeting of the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF). At the time, Coetzee pointed out that although the municipality is making headway with replacing ageing and leaking water reticulation mains, continuation of this drive and expanding it to include the sewerage reticulation system will require large amounts of capital, resulting in Overstrand having to draw on its cash reserves. He did, however, give the assurance that Overstrand's liquidity levels have improved since the municipality has started to consolidate its financial position by reducing expenditure and increasing revenue slightly. "The unencumbered cash and cash equivalents as at 30 June 2017 was R259.8m, and left us with a surplus of R21m after providing for our statutory liquidity requirements and refundable amounts," he said; adding that capital funds from Overstrand's surplus will again increase this year, from R11.7m in the current year to R20m for next year. Coetzee said year-on-year inflation recorded at the end of December 2017 was just below 6%. It is projected that inflation this year will increase to 6% from July 2018, following the increased electricity tariffs. Against this background, the draft budget makes provision for either a zero or minor increase on all expense items that the municipality has control over, with only properly motivated and escalation-related items being considered. Indications are that electricity costs for municipalities from Eskom will increase by 7.32%, based on increases applicable from 1 July annually. These increases have been considered in the electricity tariff structure for 2018/2019, with a total basket for average households adding up to an increase of 7.32% in electricity costs. "The basic charge for electricity will increase by 9% and to offset this, the unit increases will be as follows: first 350 units by 6.5%, the next 250 units by 6.9% and all units above 600 by 7.32%. This results in an average increase of 7.34% for the first 350 units of electricity consumed," Coetzee said. In order to ensure that Overstrand is in a position to continue building up its reserves, the proposal is to increase property rates by 7.2% across the board in the current year. However, proposed property rates for 2018/2019 will only increase by 6%. The rebate on property rates offered to persons over the age of 60 remains unchanged. Calculating the sewerage charge for waterborne sewerage on 70% of potable water consumed with a cap of 35 kℓ remains the manner in which waterborne sewerage charges are to be levied. The tariffs for refuse removal, sewerage and water all increase by 6% in the draft budget. Coetzee said the exception here is the tariff for 0 - 6kℓ of water which increases by 11.5%. This is in line with a National Treasury directive that the level and structure of water tariffs are to be fully cost reflective. At present, the cost of providing water is around R24.66 per kℓ. The proposed 2018/19 draft capital budget amounts to R148.7 million and the operating budget to R1.07 billion.

### HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET:

■ Electricity: R22.2 million	■ Water: R32.1 million
■ Sewage: R29.2 million	■ Bulk storm water: R3.1 million
■ Roads: R6.5 million	■ Sports and recreation: R4.1 million
■ Community & social services: R9 million	■ Ward-specific projects: R5.2 million
■ Public safety: R2.3 million	■ ICT, minor assets & vehicles: R20 million
■ Housing grant projects: R20.2 million	

• The 2018/19 draft budget will be open for public inspection and comment after it has been tabled in Council on 28 March 2018.

## AN APPEAL TO ALL CONSUMERS TO REPORT SUSPECTED WATER LEAKS IMMEDIATELY



Exceptionally high water bills can usually be ascribed to one of the following:

- Incorrect meter readings
- Leaks
- Faulty meters
- Sprinkler systems

Should you suspect that the meter reading is incorrect, you may ask your nearest municipal office to verify the readings against its financial records and request a copy of photographs taken of the meter readings over the past three months.

In cases where consumers suspect that the meter itself may be faulty, we will first have to rule out the possibility of any leakages - either on the side of the water meter the consumer is responsible for, or on the side the municipality is responsible for.

According to Section 6.8.1 of Overstrand's Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy, if the leakage is on the consumer's side, he or she will be responsible for paying all outstanding fees as well as for repairing the leak.

Overstrand does offer customer assistance programmes to those consumers who have inadvertently experienced severe water losses. For details on the terms and conditions of these programmes, please contact your nearest municipal office or visit our official website at [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za). Click on the "Documents/Policies" tab and download the full Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy. To prevent unnecessary wastage and expenses of this nature, it is advisable to fix all leaking fixtures (i.e. toilets and taps), to turn off the mains whenever you are planning on being absent from the premises for extended periods of time and to monitor your water consumption closely at all times. Another alternative would be to request the municipality to cap consumption by having a flow-restrictor meter installed at the approved tariff. Please also note that tampering with any municipal meter is a criminal offence liable to hefty fines and the immediate suspension of all municipal services. Feel free to direct any questions regarding municipal services to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) and be sure to visit your nearest municipal office to verify your account details.

## Help avoid severe water restrictions in Greater Hermanus - An appeal to all households to cut water consumption by 20%

Given that the level of the De Bos dam stands at below 50%, Overstrand Municipality announced that level 1B water restrictions will be effective in the Greater Hermanus area (i.e. from Benguela Cove to Voëlklip) as from 1 March 2018. At the time of going to press, the dam's level stood at 46%.

Should this level drop below 40%, Overstrand will then need to increase its water tariffs in an attempt to discourage excessive water usage.

To avoid the institution of Level 2 restrictions - and the concomitant higher tariffs - we appeal to all residents in the Greater Hermanus area to please adhere to the following restrictions as currently enforced:

- Hoses may not be used to wash vehicles and/or boats. This restriction does not apply to commercial car-wash industries.
- No washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipal drinking water is allowed.
- Except for commercial nurseries and the likes, municipal drinking water may only be used to water gardens, lawns and sports fields twice a week, one hour per day, before 09:00 or after 17:00 as follows:
  - ☞ Properties with even-numbered street addresses: ONLY on Wednesdays and Sundays
  - ☞ Properties with uneven-numbered street addresses: ONLY on Tuesdays and Saturdays

Failure to comply will result in the issuing of a compliance notice to the consumer, followed by a fine. In terms of Overstrand's Water By-Law, the municipality can also discontinue or limit water supply to households who persist in ignoring the above restrictions.

Note, too, that all well points and boreholes must be registered at the office of the relevant area manager, and consumers must ensure that they display the appropriate signage in such a way that it is clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.

### Together, we can make a difference

If every household does its utmost to save an average of 20% on current water usage over the next three to four months, it may not become necessary to implement level 2 water restrictions. In addition to adhering to the restrictions outlined above, this is how you can make a difference:

- Take a quick shower rather than a bath.
- Collect shower water in a bucket or basin and use this to water potted plants or to flush the toilet.
- Flush the toilet only when it is really necessary.
- Rather than letting the tap run, use a glass filled with water to brush your teeth.
- Wash larger loads of laundry once a week. Washing machines waste a lot of water.
- Do the dishes only once a day.
- Harvest rainwater whenever possible.
- Where possible, install water-efficient fittings.
- Check for leaking taps and/or connections and have these repaired. (Also see article on suspected water leaks elsewhere on this page.)

In the event of level 2 water restrictions being implemented, the watering of gardens and lawns will be more severely affected. If the level of the De Bos dam drops below 40%, the first increment of the approved water restriction tariff, which entails a 30% tariff increase on all usage above 6 kℓ per month on household consumption, will be implemented. We can avoid this unfortunate scenario if everyone does their bit.

Water misuse and leakages can be reported to 028 313 8000/8111 or 028 313 8996. Residents or businesses who want to apply for exemption can contact Adenel Bayley on 028 313 8972 or send an email to [depdircomsec@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:depdircomsec@overstrand.gov.za).



**DON'T MISS OUT ON A BUMPER FYNARTS FESTIVAL!**

Since its debut in 2013, the popularity of the Hermanus FynArts Festival has grown exponentially, and patrons are advised to book their tickets well in advance for the bumper 120 events that will be showcased from 8 to 17 June this year. Gracing this year's programme is a whole array of performers who have made their mark - both locally and internationally - in the world of music, ballet and drama. On top of that, festival goers will also have the opportunity to enjoy several entertaining, stimulating and enriching exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops. For a detailed programme, visit [hermanusfynarts.co.za](http://hermanusfynarts.co.za) or contact Hermanus' tourism office. Tickets can be bought online at [Webtickets.co.za](http://Webtickets.co.za) or from Hermanus' tourism office.



**Timothy Moloi - all set to charm his audiences**