

NOVEMBER 2022

Telephone

Hermanus 028 313 8000
 Gansbaai 028 384 8300
 Kleinmond 028 271 8400
 Stanford 028 341 8500

24-hour Emergency 028 313 8000/8111
 Fire Brigade 028 312 2400

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

OVERSTRAND CROWNED GREEN ECONOMY CHANGE CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



Overstrand Municipality walked off as the immensely proud and highly motivated winner.

According to Taahirah Ghoo (GreenCape's senior analyst: circular economy), the long-term vision of this project stood out: "Overstrand Municipality did not only make significant upgrades to its wastewater treatment facilities, thereby increasing capacity by 40%, but also introduced new Nereda technology, reverse osmosis, bio-filtration, ultra-filtration and anaerobic digestion technologies which facilitated the need for highly skilled operations and maintenance personnel."

"When a system is significantly upgraded or extended, section 77 of the Municipal Systems Act requires a municipality to review and decide on an appropriate mechanism to deliver water services in the municipality. This enables the municipality to then initiate the process of outsourcing the operations and maintenance of the facility."

Overstrand's Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, lauded the project team for the long-term vision they demonstrated by outsourcing the operation and maintenance of water services infrastructure, thereby ensuring the project's longevity whilst addressing the long-term water service delivery needs of communities.

"It is our sincere wish that other municipalities will be able to replicate this project," he added. Mayor Rabie echoed O'Neill's sentiments, adding that she is especially proud of the fact that Overstrand Municipality (a relatively small municipality) came out tops despite stiff competition from larger municipalities and even a metro.

"That just goes to show that size doesn't count when one is serious about being a centre of excellence for all you serve," she said.

All local authorities who partake in the annual championships are afforded the opportunity to share learnings from the novel green economy solutions they have tested and implemented successfully.

As this year's champion, a professional video has been produced to showcase the Overstrand project and its success so other municipalities countrywide will be inspired to follow suit.

Preekstoel Biofiltration Groundwater Treatment Plant, Hermanus



Overstrand's persistent adoption of innovative and sustainable green technologies to improve service delivery in respect of water and wastewater treatment facilities most definitely did not go unnoticed.

As part of its mission to drive the widespread adoption of economically viable green economy solutions, GreenCape – in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) – invites municipalities annually to nominate any project they initiated that, in their opinion, is sustainable and replicable.

To quote GreenCape's spokesperson, Cecelia Kok: "There are many extraordinarily innovative sustainable municipal initiatives that are not adequately spoken about, shared or celebrated. These projects are implemented in complex environments, with numerous challenges, and often have strong replication potential. That is why we reach out to municipalities across the country to nominate sustainability projects that they have implemented or are in the process of implementing."

Based on the impact they will have on service delivery as well as their level of innovation, sustainability and replication potential, five projects made the shortlist this year:

LOCAL AUTHORITY	NATURE OF PROJECT
City of Cape Town	Energy management system that improves the quality of water from wastewater treatment plants while minimising wasted energy
George	Electricity wheeling project that gives municipal customers alternative options to source electricity
Nkomazi	Operating the Untum recycling buyback centre to divert waste from landfills
Overstrand	Outsourcing of bulk water services operation and maintenance
uMhlatuze	Drone technology to improve the management of non-revenue water and water losses

CONNECT with OVERSTRAND

Stay connected and get involved with the Collab Citizen app!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Available on the AppGallery

YOU CAN ALSO STAY CONNECTED THROUGH

- www.overstrand.gov.za
- 028 313 8000
- enquiries@overstrand.gov.za
- @overstrandmunicipality
- @overstrandmuni
- Kleinmond-Hangklip Administration
33 5th Ave, Kleinmond, 7195
- Hermanus Administration
1 Magnolia Street, Hermanus, 7200
- Stanford Administration
17 Queen Victoria St, Stanford, 7210
- Gansbaai Administration
72 Main Rd, Gansbaai, 7220

BORED STIFF? YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

WHOPPING 227 EVENTS HOSTED IN SEPTEMBER ALONE

Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, is happy to report that the many restrictions that impacted negatively on the hospitality and tourism sector during the previous two years are definitely on the wane.

"Last year in September, 88 events were staged in Overstrand. During the same month this year, that figure increased by an incredible 158% – and that excludes all regular repeat events such as markets and ParkRuns.

"Any opportunity to introduce tourists from far and wide to this beautiful part of the world is always a pleasure since it stimulates the local economy and helps to create job opportunities.

"Equally pleasing is that so many of our local eateries and guest houses have been afforded Travellers' Choice status by TripAdvisor in its latest release. That goes to show that service excellence does, indeed, count.

"Let us not forget, though, that residents and holidaymakers alike owe a great deal of gratitude to our dedicated municipal staff who go to a great deal of trouble to ensure that everyone enjoys a pleasant stay.

In this regard, I would like to single out the solid waste removal and law enforcement teams who work tirelessly to ensure that we are all safe and sound. Load shedding and budget cuts despite, they are doing a remarkable job. Thank you."

Anyone who professes to be "bored stiff" when visiting/staying in this unique part of the world are advised to make their way to <https://whalecoast.info/#>, the official website of Overstrand's tourism bureaux Cape Whale Coast, to view a diary of events that is updated weekly. Alternatively, pay a visit to the visitor centre in Hermanus, Kleinmond, Stanford and Gansbaai where you'll find heaps of advice on what to do and where to go.

SCHULPHOEK UPDATE:

LAA BETWEEN DOHS AND OVERSTRAND NO LONGER BINDING

At an ordinary Council meeting held on 28 September 2022, it was resolved that the land availability agreement (LAA) entered into between Overstrand Municipality and the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements (DoHS) be declared null and void.

This decision followed on a recent meeting between MEC Tertuis Simmers and Mayor Rabie where they came to a mutual agreement that an independent turnkey implementing agent needs to be appointed to see this project through to fruition.

Several factors prompted this decision, one being that as part of its current restructuring process, the Western Cape Government plans to establish a new Department of Infrastructure that will absorb the current Department of Human Settlements.

As is often the case when restructuring is on the cards, several key personnel have left the employ of the DoHS and this is bound to have a negative impact on the continued implementation of the Schulphoek project in its current form.

Furthermore, as Mayor Rabie pointed out, no significant movement on the project has been made since the incumbent Council's election almost a year ago. In fact, nothing much has materialised in the two preceding years either.

Clearly, excessive governmental red tape is hampering progress. By appointing a competent, independent turnkey implementing agent, such hindrances can be overcome much quicker since said agent then takes full responsibility for the management and implementation of the project, **with the inclusion of all related procurement.**

Of importance is to note that in instances such as these, Council will merely fulfil an oversight role and that Councillors will have no say in any bidding processes or the allocation of tenders since they are strictly forbidden by law to interfere in the foregoing.

In short, going forward, the project will become an administrative function and will be managed without any political interference.

At the time of the Council meeting, Mayor Rabie emphasised this point urging the public to refrain from contacting Councillors regarding any issue pertaining to the Schulphoek project as they have been prone to do in the past.

"We are aware that there are a number of purported stakeholders who are not in agreement with the latest decision, but then again, they also did not support the LAA entered into in February 2022. Their dissatisfaction is noted for the moment, but we will not entertain any further correspondence on the matter for the time being as we need to allow the administration to focus on the appointment of an implementing agent," she said.

Given that none of the previous efforts to kick start this project was successful, Mayor Rabie said she has every reason to believe that the opposite will be achieved as soon as an appropriate turnkey agent has been appointed.

The process to appoint such an agent will commence as soon as official confirmation to this effect has been received from the DoHS.

JOB APPLICATION PORTAL

Moving with the times, Overstrand Municipality launched an online Job Application Portal (JAP) on 12 September 2022 and the first vacancies were advertised recently. This means applicants can now apply online.

As an added benefit, Overstrand can now start building an online candidate database for future employment purposes as well as review and track employment metrics. Mostly, though, this portal will help to optimise employment processes and assist with making the best decision faster given that a great deal of time spent on posting, publishing and sorting applications as well as on notices and communiqués will be saved.

The JAP is easy to use and convenient for all applicants.

How to apply

- Go to www.overstrand.gov.za
- Go to Vacancies
- Click on the link to apply online and the JAP will open
- Do the following:
 - ✓ Register (one time only)
 - ✓ Create a profile
 - ✓ Upload documentation required to apply for a job
 - ✓ Apply for a job – available jobs will be displayed
 - ✓ View job/s that's been applied for

Applicants who do not have access to a computer, mobile, tablet or the internet can visit the Local Economic Development offices housed in the Old Lusitania Building in Hermanus' New Harbour. Alternatively, visit a library at any of the localities listed below and make use of their facilities:

Libraries throughout Overstrand

Area	Tel / Address
Hermanus	028 313 8077 (Magnolia St)
Kleinmond	028 271 4021 (5th Lane 44)
Gansbaai	028 384 8346 (c/o Main & Kapokblom Street)
Hawston	028 315 1126 (2 Church Street)
Stanford	028 341 8506 (17 Queen Victoria Street)
Mount Pleasant	028 313 8984 (Heide Street)
Betty's Bay	028 272 9263 (2649 Clarence Drive)
Eluxolweni	028 384 8346 (8 Holomisa Street)
Buffeljachtsbaai	028 384 8346 (next to Community Hall)

Residing in Overstrand?

EXPAND YOUR WORLD: JOIN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY FOR FREE!



Joining your local library is simple and costs nothing: All you need to do is provide a valid identity document together with proof of your home address (such as a utility bill or municipal account) and fill out an application form.

If you haven't turned 17 yet, a parent or guardian will have to sign your application form and you must have both your ID and that of the parent/guardian on hand when you apply.

In instances where you are renting a property, a copy of the first page of your rental agreement will be required. Should you live with someone else, that person must give you a letter confirming that that is indeed the case.

Remember, you can only take out and renew library items if you present your library card. If you do not have your card, librarians cannot issue or renew library materials. (You do not need to present your card when handing in library materials, though.)

The application form to join your local library can be downloaded by visiting www.overstrand.gov.za. Click on "About us" and then "Libraries".