

July  
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# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## • AFFORDABILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT MAIN CHALLENGES

# A REAL PEOPLE'S BUDGET

A thorough and comprehensive process was followed with the compilation of the 2012/13 budget and Integrated Development Plan to ensure that the residents of this area's voice is heard – through the ward committees and with the public participation process after the draft budget was published for public comment.

This was said by Overstrand Municipality's Executive Mayor, Cllr Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, at the presentation of the final budget and other related documents on 30 May 2012 to Council.

The occasion, however, was marred by the fact that all the opposition members – nine from the ANC and one from the National Independent Civics Organisation – recused themselves from the meeting before any item on the agenda was discussed. A budget protest gathering was held outside the municipal campus in Hermanus.

In her speech, the Mayor extensively addressed the issues that the ANC Caucus had with the budget. She said according to a letter she received, the ANC members expressed their approval of the operational budget and the proposed tariffs as well as their support for the municipality's 25-year infrastructure development programme.

The ANC's issues pertained to the use of Municipal Infrastructure Grants for the construction of the Hermanus parallel road, alleged health risks posed by the Hermanus waste water treatment works to Zwelihle communities living close by, connecting Hawston to the waterborne sewerage network, interim relief measures for the informal settlement at Die Kop while they wait for the Stanford housing project plans to be finalised and the financing of local economic development projects.

Cllr Botha-Guthrie said that the Hermanus parallel road had been identified as an

important transport link and will form part of the future integrated public transport route in the Overberg district. The waste water treatment works are currently being refurbished, and these improvements will reduce the occurrence of offensive odours. The plant does not pose a health risk and is operated and maintained at such a level that Green Drop status was awarded to it by the Department of Water Affairs in 2011. The provision of waterborne sewer conveyance systems in the municipal area is part of the 25-year plan to address the infrastructure backlog, and Hawston will get its turn. Die Kop forms part of the Access to Basic Services Programme and additional toilets and water stand pipes will be installed in the area by March 2013.

The financing of local economic development projects is discussed in a separate report in this issue.

The Mayor said the best interest of ratepayers was sought with the budget and that she believes it is a real people's budget. The main challenges of the 2012/2013 budget were:

- Being a major retirement region with many residents depending on pensions and the returns on their investments to make ends meet, affordability posed a challenge because the municipality had to try to keep increases in rates and tariffs at the lowest level possible while simultaneously attempting to work more economically with its own resources; and
- Keeping infrastructure investment on an appropriate level to maintain the 25-year plan. The municipality managed to approve capital projects of almost R100 million for this purpose. In future, more savings on operational expenditure will be needed to generate sufficient surpluses to finance the programme.

## THIS IS WHAT THE 2012/13 BUDGET LOOKS LIKE

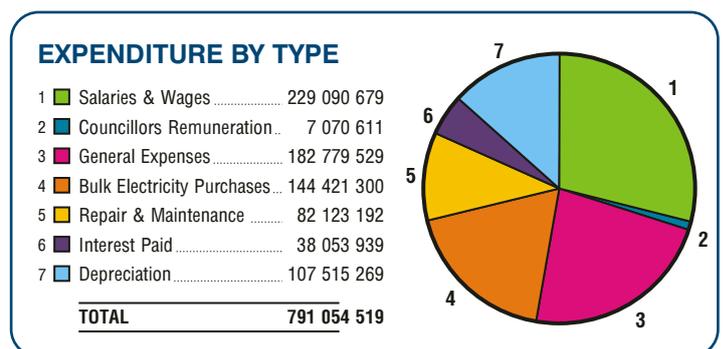
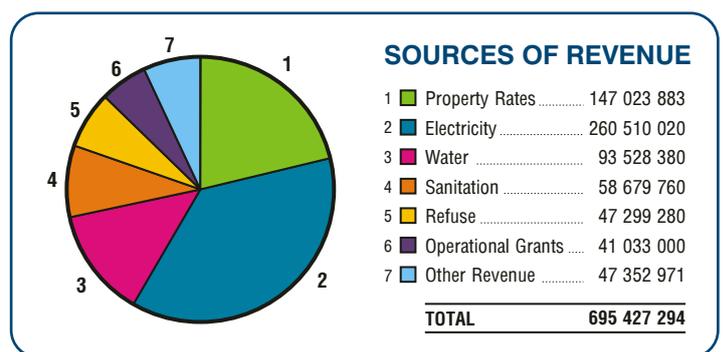
The 2012/13 operational budget provides for income of R696 million and expenditure of R791 million, which includes depreciation of R108 million on non-cash items in accordance with the new Generally Recognised Accounting Practice recently introduced by the municipality. The budget for capital projects amounts to a further R166 million.

With the exception of refuse removal rates, which have been severely impacted by the temporary closure of the regional landfill site at Karwyderskraal for an

indefinite period and the equalisation of the level of service delivery throughout the municipal area, the increase in municipal rates and taxes is lower than in the previous year, as is evident from the table below.

Approval has also been granted for the municipality to incur long-term loans amounting to R40 million for the financing of capital projects in the 2012/13 financial year and for the Municipal Manager to conclude the necessary agreements to give effect to the loan programme.

RATES & TAXES		2012/13	2011/12
Property rates	• Residential	6.13%	8%
	• Business	7.98%	10%
Water rates (basic)		6%	8%
Electricity rates	• Basic	6%	8%
	• Consumption	11.05%	28.9%
Sewerage rates		6.73%	9.55%
Refuse removal rates	• Greater Hermanus	-3.01%	8%
	• Rest of Overstrand	35.8%	



## ALONG WITH THE BUDGET COMES...

### INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council approved the Integrated Development Plan for 2012/13. Comments were received on the draft document from the Hermanus Business Chamber and Whale Coast Conservation and, where possible and applicable, were incorporated into the final plan. In his comment, the Municipal Manager mentioned that the provincial assessors' team found that "the Overstrand IDP is an excellent document, well structured, practical and implementable" and added that it clearly sets out the municipality's developmental agenda.

### WATER SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council approved the Water Services Development Plan for 2012/13. No comments were received on the draft plan which was tabled at the end of March. In addition to the executive summary used for Council approval and the public participation process, the plan consists of three modules: the first deals with an overview and assessment of the current situation; the second module contains detailed information, especially with a view to compliance issues; and the third module contains supporting information with regards to future plans and strategies.

### INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council approved the Integrated Waste Management Plan for 2012/2013. No comments were received on the draft plan tabled at the March meeting. The primary objective of this plan is to integrate and optimise waste management in order to maximise efficiency and minimise the associated environmental impacts and financial costs. The plan underlines the National Waste Management Strategy principles of the prevention of waste generation, the recovery of waste when the generation cannot be prevented and the safe disposal of waste that cannot be recovered. All areas of waste

## TOP 10 CAPITAL PROJECTS



PROJECT	FUNDED BY	EST. COST
• New 66 kVA substation in Hermanus	External Loan	R34M
• Preekstoel Water Treatment Works in Hermanus	External Loan/Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant	R30M
• Replacement of pipes in Overstrand	External Loan	R13,5M
• Hermanus Parallel Road	Municipal Infrastructure Grant	R10,2M
• New cell at Gansbaai Landfill	External Loan	R7M
• Kleinmond Harbour Development	Public Contribution	R6,6M
• Eloxulweni Housing Project - 211 sites	Provincial Housing Grant	R5,8M
• Hermanus Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade	Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant	R5,8M
• Gansbaai Storm Water upgrade	Municipal Infrastructure Grant	R4,4M
• Kleinmond Main Substation - replacement of switching gear	External Loan	R4M

management are addressed: waste avoidance, collection, treatment, recovery and final disposal. Highlighted in the plan is the issue of public education which is vital to a successful management system.

### INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN

Council approved the Integrated Transport Plan for the period 2012 to 2016 in order to comply with the statutory requirements of the National Land Transport Transition Act of 2000 and the act that will replace it, namely the National Land Transport Act of 2009. The primary objectives of this plan were to compile a transport register at local level, to determine transport needs, to make suggestions for the improvement of the situation and to establish a transport budget. The plan forms part of the Integrated Development Plan and is submitted to the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. Although the plan covers a number of years, it will be reviewed annually. Implementation will take place by way of existing municipal structures and systems in accordance with the implementation schedule, as determined in the IDP and municipal budget. According to the plan, there are 573 km of provincial roads in the area and 609 km of municipal roads and the general conditions of these roads is good

to very good. There is a need to expand capacity on major feeder routes, to supply regular and safe public transport, to find a solution for seasonal traffic congestions, to supply parking facilities at popular tourism destinations and to enhance road repair and maintenance work.

### BUDGET-RELATED POLICIES

Twelve revised budget-related policies were approved by Council and will be implemented with effect from 1 July 2012. These policies were tabled together with the draft budget for 2012/13, and stakeholders were asked for comments. Input was received from especially staff members and the issues were addressed. In the Indigent Policy, provision has been made for the installation of flow limiter meters that will limit water consumption by a household to 18 kℓ per month. There were also changes to the Tariff Policy and the Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy. Policies that remained the same were the Asset Management Policy; Funds and Reserves, Investment and Cash Policy; Rates Policy; Supply Chain Policy; Virement Policy; Petty Cash Policy; Travel and Subsistence Policy and Budget Policy. Economic development should also be investigated.

## THE FINANCING OF LED PROJECTS

LED projects are funded from an integrated budgeting process found in all departments. In the IDP, emphasis is placed on:

- Small, medium and micro enterprise support through capacity building and mentoring;
- Support programmes to assist entrepreneurs to do business with the municipality, other spheres of government and the private sector; and
- Employment creation – over 500 jobs have been created through the CAPEX and OPEX, including LED-facilitated initiatives, and we hope to double that number in the coming year.

On the 2012/13 budget, R1 million is provided for project facilitation through LED, R1,5 million for the implementation of the Extended Public Works Programme and R2,4 million to complete projects with the aid of

the Neighbourhood Development Programme Grant.

Many other projects are funded through partnering with other government departments and the private sector.

Facilitation of infrastructure to support informal trading is important for self-employment and to address unemployment and poverty.

Emerging service providers are engaged through specially designed projects and subcontracting. Over R7 million has been spent on doing business with SMMEs and, with this as a benchmark, we are aiming to aim for more.

In previous years, we have spent more than 85% of both the CAPEX and OPEX on local service providers. Again, based on this benchmark, we can improve local businesses and help ensure that they create jobs by simply doing business with the municipality.

## SDBIP ALIGNS BUDGET WITH IDP

The final budget for 2012/13 was compiled in such a way that sustainability of service delivery and the financial viability of the municipality are ensured. In this process, the **Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)** plays a vital role to align the budget with the latest Integrated Development Plan, which was also adopted by Council at its meeting in May.

For each department or function, the SDBIP re-

flects, amongst others, the following:

- Purpose (outcomes);
- Service delivery description (outputs);
- Resources utilised (inputs);
- Inputs to detailed sector capital plans; and
- The link between performance measures in the SDBIP and performance contracts.

The SDBIP is approved by the Mayor within 28 days following the approval of the budget.

## How the poor are looked after

Overstrand Municipality's equitable share from central government amounts to R28 million for 2012/13 and makes provision to fully fund the Council's Indigent Policy.

This programme comprises participants who, upon application and registration, are unemployed and/or receive a social pension or income per household that is equal to or less than the amount of four times the government's social pension and also encompasses all owner-occupied properties with a rateable valuation of up to R100 000.

The municipality also identified projects on the capital and operational budgets to continue the concept of Local Labour Promotion Projects. These projects, such as constructing storm-water channels and roads and undertaking cleaning projects, will be launched throughout Overstrand.

Through these projects, a contribution is made towards local economic development. In essence, it involves delivering services whilst simultaneously using a portion of the earnings to settle arrears on municipal accounts.

# INCREASES TO EXPECT ON YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT

## BASKET OF TARIFFS - SINGLE RESIDENTIAL - 2012/13

HIGH CONSUMPTION		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R3,5m	46.00	6.13
Sewerage	R70 + levy on 70% of water consumption	28.19	7.84
Refuse	Once per week	-3.51	-3.01
Electricity: Prepaid	1500 kWh	177.97	10.63
Water	50 kℓ	82.22	13.54
Infrastructure levy		-1.50	-3.61
VAT		39.67	10.12
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>369.04</b>	<b>9.36</b>

MEDIUM CONSUMPTION		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R3,5m	32.67	6.13
Sewerage	R70 + levy on 70% of water consumption	16.64	7.65
Refuse	Once per week	-3.51	-3.01
Electricity: Prepaid	800 kWh	82.00	9.35
Water	25 kℓ	36.32	16.43
Infrastructure levy		-1.50	-3.61
VAT		18.19	8.82
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>180.81</b>	<b>8.17</b>

LOW CONSUMPTION		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R1m	12.67	6.13
Sewerage	R70 + levy on 70% of water consumption	12.02	7.48
Refuse	Once per week	-3.51	-3.01
Electricity: Prepaid	600 kWh	54.58	8.41
Water	15 kℓ	9.22	6.11
Infrastructure levy		-1.5	-3.61
VAT		9.91	6.33
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>93.39</b>	<b>6.3</b>

SUB-ECONOMIC CONSUMPTION		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R50 000	0	0
Sewerage	Levy on 70% of water consumption	1.85	8.13
Refuse	Once per week	0	0
Electricity: Prepaid	350 kWh	49.35	19.58
Water	10 kℓ	1.76	6.27
Infrastructure levy		-1.50	-3.61
VAT		7.20	14.95
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>58.66</b>	<b>14.95</b>

### BASKET OF TARIFFS - VACANT ERVEN - 2011/12

VALUATION: AVERAGE		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R250 000	3.92	6.13
Sewerage	Availability	-38.24	-23.74
Refuse	Availability	5.26	10.53
Electricity	Availability	6.14	4.05
Water	Availability	5.26	6.00
Infrastructure levy		-1.50	-3.61
VAT		-3.23	-4.69
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>-22.39</b>	<b>-3.58</b>

### BASKET OF TARIFFS - BUSINESS - 2011/12

VALUATION: MEDIUM		AMOUNT	%
Rates	Total mun. valuation: R3,2m	101.33	7.98
Sewerage	R70 + levy on 90% of water consumption	28.85	7.95
Refuse		144.75	74.33
Electricity: Prepaid	14 000 kWh	1495.73	22.14
Water	40 kℓ	28.96	6.11
Infrastructure levy		-1.50	-3.61
VAT		237.55	21.66
<b>ACCOUNT WILL INCREASE BY</b>		<b>2035.67</b>	<b>19.96</b>

NOT INCLUDED: HPP LEVEL AMOUNTING TO 10% OF RATES IN RELEVANT AREA

## THINGS TO NOTE ON YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT

### PROPERTY RATES

- The new valuation roll comes into effect on 1 July 2012, as per the written notification forwarded to all home owners at an earlier date.
- The rebate on agricultural-zoned properties is 85% for the 2012/13 financial year and 75% for the 2013/14 financial year.
- Applications for rebates on property rates must be made on or before 30 September 2012.
- Application for rebates on bona-fide agricultural land must be made on or before 30 September 2012.
- Application for rebates on guesthouses and B&Bs must be made on or before 30 June 2012.

### ELECTRICITY

- Electricity deposits for credit meters will be adjusted by 11% on 1 July 2012.
- Electricity deposits for prepaid electricity meters will be adjusted on 1 July 2012 to twice the basic levy, less 4 per cent.

### REFUSE

- From 1 July 2012, refuse in the Hermanus area will only be removed once per week and not twice.
- One bag of garden refuse can be put out for removal.
- All businesses currently rated for the removal of black bags must please contact their nearest operational office as soon as possible.

### WATER AND SEWERAGE

- Businesses must exercise a choice before 30 September 2012 with reference to the application of water and electricity units.
- Please ensure that the mains have been turned off when not home to prevent unnecessary water losses due to leakages in your absence.
- Metered water will be for the owner's account.
- Ensure that you are covered in the event of leakages and burst pipes on your property.
- Water consumption is calculated in accordance

with a sliding scale. The number of days between readings should be taken into account. The formula can be obtained from your local municipal office.

- Do not interfere with water limiting meters. The moment this happens, all water supplies to the premises will be terminated.

### ACCOUNTS

- Accounts are payable on or before the 20th of the following month.
- Pay your account timeously to avoid collection fees, interest, increased deposits and the termination and/or limitation of services.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- All e-mail enquiries should be directed to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za to ensure a timeous response.
- The monthly newsletter is available on Overstrand's website: www.overstrand.gov.za.

# When disrespect for nature is a crime

By Duncan Heard, Duncan Heard Environmental Consulting

Our economy in the Overstrand is largely driven by tourism. Tourists travel here because we live in a beautiful part of South Africa, at peace with nature and rural in character. We are blessed with a diverse world of unique plant life all around us. Even in our towns, we have remained part of nature.

We have stunning mountain backdrops, globally important nature reserves skirting our towns, rivers and estuaries flowing nearby, green belts and parks intertwined with urban development, a diverse natural Overstrand coastline and the sea on our doorstep.

The Overstrand Municipality fully acknowledges that the environment is critical to the sustainability of our area. It has clearly stated that our search for prosperity may never compromise the protection of our environment.

The Moral Standards Initiative adopted by Overstrand is a community programme aimed at making ours a value-driven community. One of its six key values is respect: Respect, not only for one another, but also for the plants and the animals that share our environment. Respecting and caring for our environment today means we and our children will have a better quality of life tomorrow.

And to make it succeed, we all have to be part of it.

The picture shows the results of utter disrespect for our environment. Only a few coastal bush thickets remain along the Onrus coastline, and this one has recently been deliberately poisoned. The thicket also contains Milkwood trees, which are protected. Herbicide was clearly used to try and kill off this vegetation as most of the species in the thicket have been affected. The motive was probably a better sea view – to which no one has a right!

The Environmental Section and Protection Services of the municipality have stated its determination to act strongly on such crimes against our natural environment. If a person does not have written approval from the Environmental Section to cut or remove vegetation from natural, municipal or state-owned land, perpetrators will be charged to the full extent of the law.

Despite the fast-growing culture of respect and care, some individuals in our community are displaying utter disrespect towards our environment and, in so doing, to all of us. This includes dumping, encroachments and destruction of vegetation.

In the above case, these charges could be laid:

- Unlawful use of a herbicide;



- Unlawful destruction of natural vegetation on state land;
- Unlawful destruction of a protected tree (Milkwood); and
- Unlawful clearance of natural vegetation within 100 metres of the high water mark.

Fines may substantially exceed R100 000, and the perpetrator could also be required to bear the cost of rehabilitation under the guidance of an appointed consultant. In this case, the Ward 13 ward committee has recommended that this section of coastline be rehabilitated with natural bush. These coastal bush thickets may also significantly reduce damage to property by storm surges, which are predicted to become more destructive as a result of the rising sea level.

Please assist us in caring for our natural environment and report any environmental crime to 028 313 8111 (please note the name of the person taking the call and ask for a reference number). Overstrand Protection Services will attend to the matter as soon as possible or direct the complaint to the most appropriate law enforcement authority and give you the necessary feedback within 24 hours. If this does not happen, please contact the Overstrand Director of Protection Services with your reference number and information.

*Duncan Heard is a member of the Ward 13 ward committee.*

## BABOONS: PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE TO CONTROL THEM

One of the natural occurrences that make the Overstrand unique is that it is sandwiched between mountains and the sea. Creatures like baboons are, therefore, on our doorsteps and are part of the 'package deal' of living here.

The problem is that they are no longer confined to the so-called doorstep, due to a variety of factors. Among these are natural causes such as reduced food sources due to drought and fires, loopholes in the municipality's waste management programme that are being urgently addressed and the visibility and availability of food in coffee shops, restaurants and shops, but also a measure of negligence on the part of residents and visitors. The latter refers to incidents such as careless waste disposal (e.g. not placed in baboon-proof bins), easy access to houses where foodstuffs are visible and reachable and – last but not least – the deliberate feeding of animals, including baboons.

Your help with and involvement in the programme that is being rolled out to control the unnatural, often damaging and destructive behaviour of our area's baboons is urgently required.

Please adhere to the following simple guidelines:

1. Ensure that your rubbish is sealed in black bags and then placed in baboon-proof bins for collection.
2. If you drop it off at the central mu-

nicipal collection point of the various towns, ensure that it is placed in a sealed container inside the enclosure and NOT easily accessible to visiting baboons.

3. Do not leave food and fruit visible and accessible in your home or on patios and balconies.
4. Do not leave windows and doors open and unattended. It is better to bar door and window openings that are regularly left open.
5. Do NOT feed any baboons!

The idea is to discourage the baboons from visiting and revisiting business and residential areas with the hope and expectation of finding easily obtainable food.

In certain areas, like Pringle Bay, the cost of damage and destruction caused by certain individual and problematic animals has run into many thousands of rands. There is no way in which the municipality can control and inhibit this behaviour on its own. Although urgent and serious efforts on the highest level – in collaboration with provincial authorities – are in place to alleviate the situation, they will be worthless if not supported and complemented by the awareness and preventative measures of residents and visitors.

For assistance call the 24 hour control room at 028 313 8111 and for reporting incidents in Pringle Bay 081 581 5403.

## NEW REFUSE REMOVAL SCHEDULE FOR HERMANUS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Vermont Fisherhaven Hawston	Onrus Chanteclair Berghof Sandbaai Hemel en Aarde	Zwelihle Mount Pleasant	CBD Westcliff Northcliff Hermanus Industrial Area	Voëlklip Eastcliff Hermanus Heights Marine Hotel Kwaaiwater

From 1 July 2012, Hermanus' refuse removal service will change from twice a week to once a week. This change is intended to place the level of services rendered by all administrations on an equal footing. The removal days will be as above.

Businesses will be serviced on request at prescribed rates. Refuse removal on weekends will be rendered at prescribed rates on written request.

Recyclable refuse (clear bag) and non-recyclable refuse (black bag) will be removed on the same day. Residents are advised to recycle as much as possible.

For those not familiar with the recycling process, in brief, the following:

- The municipality provides residents with a transparent bag. All recyclable products should be placed in those bags and be placed outside, together with the black bag, on the day of removal.
- Products that can be recycled include **glass, tins, paper, plastic and cardboard**.
- Every time a transparent bag with recyclable products is left on the

sidewalk, it will be exchanged with a new bag.

- Residents who let their homes must please ensure that tenants and/or residents are informed of the technical as well as the practical aspects pertaining to this recycling project.

What happens to the recycled refuse? The recycling bags are transported to the plants in Hermanus and Gansbaai where the content is sorted. This sorted refuse is baled by Walker Bay Recycling and the Gansbaai landfill site and sold to industries who, in turn, manufacture products from the recycled material. The stated recycling plants provide employment opportunities for 44 people. However, recycling is only profitable if sustainable volumes can be reached, and for this reason, it is essential that more and more people should adopt recycling as a way of life.

Karwyderskraal, the regional landfill site, had to be closed temporarily to build a new cell. Consequently, all refuse from Overstrand will be transported to the Gansbaai landfill site.