

MAYOR'S PLEA: PLEASE HELP US STEM THE RAPID INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES BY BEING EXTRA VIGILANT

Shortly after the gazetting of the protocols for Lockdown Level 3 advanced, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee addressed Council during a virtual meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2020 on the state of affairs in Overstrand.

"Moving to Level 3 advanced has seen businesses such as hairdressers and beauty services re-opening, and people in personal care services (formal and informal) are getting back to work, which is great for our Overstrand community," he said but immediately cautioned that "we still need to be vigilant about Covid-19 because the risk of infection inevitably increases as we resume more activities."

"The rapid increase in the number of people testing positive is very worrying, and the positive Covid-19 cases are rising fast in the Overberg and, more specifically, the Overstrand."

"The first deaths as a result of the pandemic were reported in the Overstrand on 17 June. Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of the deceased."

"Having said this, notice must be taken that the National Health Act provides that all information concerning patients, including their health status, treatment or stay in a health establishment, is confidential. This information may thus not be disclosed. Please respect the privacy of others, especially during these hard times and refrain from comments naming or alluding to the name and or address of the deceased."

"The two main hotspots in the district are Zwelihle in the Overstrand Municipality and Grabouw in the Theewaterskloof Municipality."

"Our frontline teams from the Department of Health, the municipalities and SAPS are working and doing their level best in assisting to stop the spread of the virus, but this cannot be done without your help and each and every individual living in or visiting our area."

"A special plea is directed to those who are over the age of 60 or those having underlying illnesses to take extra care. You are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying. It is, therefore, important that you take extra precautions and stay at home whenever possible."

"The most effective defences against the virus are the simplest:

- Please wear your mask when you leave your home;
- Please maintain social distancing;
- Please sanitise your hands regularly;
- Please stay home as much as possible – don't shop if you don't have to; and
- Please ensure those vulnerable to Covid-19 also remain at home.



"Allow me to extend a special word of thanks to all our essential services workers: We really appreciate the work you do."

"Thank you, also, to all the wonderful non-profit organisations providing humanitarian relief during lockdown. You are doing amazing work, for no recognition and no reward."

"Thank you to all our councillors who have been assisting with the various food-relief programmes as well as broadcasting messages in various areas encouraging people to stay at home and to take the necessary precautions when leaving their homes."

At the time of going to press, the number of positive Covid-19 cases for the Western Cape, Overberg and Overstrand were as follows:

- Western Cape: 82 264 confirmed cases
- Overberg: A total of 2 224 cases (823 active cases) and 49 deaths
- Overstrand: A total of 1 105 cases (517 active cases) and 15 deaths

DEAN O'NEILL OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AS OVERSTRAND'S NEW MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Given that the fixed-term employment contract of its current Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald, will terminate on 31 October 2020 when he reaches retirement age, Overstrand Municipality has duly followed a recruitment, screening and selection process to fill this vital position.

In total, 28 applications were received for the position. Following on thorough screening, three of the prospective candidates were invited to attend a formal interview and to undergo further evaluation. Subsequently, one of the three prospective candidates withdrew at the interview stage.

Mayor Dudley Coetzee chaired the selection committee comprised of Adv G Mettler (specialist and incumbent municipal manager of Stellenbosch Municipality), Cllr Elnora Gillion (Overstrand's deputy mayor), Mr G Paulse (head of the provincial department of local government), Cllr Valerie Pungupungu (observer), Mr R Steele (facilitator) and Ms Desirée Arrison (director: management services and secretariat). Based on the selection committee's recommendations, Council unanimously agreed during a virtual meeting held on 24 June 2020 to appoint Mr Dean O'Neill as Overstrand's new Municipal Manager.

Mr O'Neill is currently serving as the municipal manager for the Cape Agulhas Municipality and has many years' experience in local government.

His appointment will be effective from 1 November 2020.

"Council has every confidence in Mr O'Neill's capabilities and is looking forward to working with him. He is a competent and experienced municipal manager and we are hopeful that he will exercise his duties as accounting officer with the utmost care and diligence," Mayor Dudley Coetzee said on announcement of the appointment.



BREAKFAST: THE BEST WAY TO START THE DAY

Thanks to the Overstrand Municipality and volunteer organisations in our towns, thousands of people in need during the Corona virus lockdown crises are receiving food and essential supplies.

On the 6 July 2020, about 5 000 FutureLife porridge boxes were handed over to the most vulnerable community members via the Overstrand Disaster Management Centre. "This highly nutritious cereal will be distributed across the Overstrand especially to senior citizens who need to take their medication in the mornings, people on chronic medication and young children," said Mayor Dudley Coetzee.

Mark Bunn, Managing Director at FutureLife Health Products, also generously donated 2 500 energy bars. Some of these will be enjoyed by the Municipality's essential workers within the Directorate of Protection Services.

Masizole Mqasela, Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and Constituency Head for Overstrand, encouraged other businesses to continue to assist those in need wherever possible.

ELECTRICITY: WHAT YOU PAY FOR

There is some confusion regarding the different electricity tariffs applicable to municipal consumers. Hopefully, this guide will be useful to Overstrand residents.

Ratepayers will receive an account statement once a month, inclusive of all relevant charges for services that might be applicable to a particular property.

A basic charge for electricity forms part of the electricity tariff structure because the costs in rendering the service must be recovered. The basic charge therefore includes fixed and overhead costs as well as the capital costs for replacement/renewal of electricity infrastructure. A basic charge for electricity forms part of the electricity tariff structure because the costs in rendering the service must be recouped. The basic charge therefore includes fixed and overhead costs as well as the capital costs for replacement/renewal of electricity infrastructure (for which the Overstrand Municipality is responsible). The basic charge is applicable on vacant even as well, as infrastructure coverage has been put in place and the service is readily available.

In addition, an infrastructure levy was implemented a number of years ago to repay a once-off loan taken up by the municipality for upgrading of the electricity network infrastructure.

Overstrand is largely regarded as a holiday destination with a substantial number of holiday homes and vacant erven. If the basic charge were not in place to balance fixed and overhead costs, the price per unit consumed would have to be increased substantially. In this instance, the permanent residents, who consume electricity on a monthly basis, will have to pay much more for their electricity consumption, thereby subsidising consumers who only occasionally consume electricity. Basic charges are an equitable way of ensuring that everyone shares in the costs of providing the service.

Based on the tariff structure, residents should also keep in mind that the municipality must budget for adequate revenue so that it can sustain electricity provision to the community.

The interest on and repayment of loans taken up, or that will be taken up in future, with regards to capital projects for a specific area during a particular budget year are, likewise, recovered from all ratepayers.

The foregoing illustrates that rendering an electricity service to the community does not entail paying Eskom for units bought; neither does it involve calculating a profit on units sold so as to enrich the municipality. The total operational costs in rendering the service must be recognised.

Residents need to be aware of the fact that an infrastructure network to the tune of R523.4 million (R1 billion before depreciation) must be maintained by means of pro-active maintenance to prevent power cuts. Replacement and/or refurbishment and expansion of this network are critical in ensuring that the network does not fall into disrepair. Also keep in mind that only technically qualified and competent municipal staff can work on the electricity network.

Over and above the basic charge, sliding scale electricity tariffs for credit meters and prepaid meters can be viewed on the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za. Click on the tab for Strategic Documents, then Budget and scroll down to Annexure C (Rates and Tariffs).

Monthly basket of electricity tariffs 2020/21 for single residential households after NERSA approval:

High Consumption with credit electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Credit meter 1500kWh	3 347,73	3 555,96	208,23	6,22
VAT	502,16	533,39	31,23	6,22
TOTAL	3 849,89	4 089,35	233,46	6,22
High Consumption with pre-paid electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Pre-paid meter 1500kWh	3 205,11	3 404,47	199,36	6,22
VAT	480,77	510,67	29,90	6,22
TOTAL	3 685,88	3 915,14	229,26	6,22
Medium Consumption with credit electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Credit meter 800kWh	1 722,47	1 829,61	107,14	6,22
VAT	258,37	274,44	16,07	6,22
TOTAL	1 980,84	2 104,05	123,21	6,22
Medium Consumption with pre-paid electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Pre-paid meter 800kWh	1 642,85	1 745,04	102,19	6,22
VAT	246,43	261,76	15,33	6,22
TOTAL	1 889,28	2 006,79	117,51	6,22
Low Consumption with credit electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Credit meter 600kWh	1 258,11	1 336,36	78,25	6,22
VAT	188,72	200,45	11,74	6,22
TOTAL	1 446,83	1 536,82	89,99	6,22
Low Consumption with pre-paid electricity meter	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	% Amount	% increase
Electricity: Pre-paid meter 600kWh	1 196,49	1 270,91	74,42	6,22
VAT	179,47	190,64	11,16	6,22
TOTAL	1 375,96	1 461,55	85,58	6,22

SCHEDULE FOR STORM-WATER UPGRADE IN HERMANUS



The contractor appointed to upgrade the storm-water system in Hermanus, Meyer Beton Siviële & Boukontrakteurs, presented a summary of the proposed programme, proposed phases and proposed duration per phase as well as clarified issues pertaining to road closures and pedestrian access during a meeting held with affected business owners and landlords.

The project involves the upgrading of the storm-water infrastructure in Main Road, Marine Drive and High Street, as well as the revitalisation of High Street. In addition, the storm-water system along Mimosa and Prellwitz Streets in the industrial area will also be upgraded. Construction work will be implemented in phases to limit disruptions, and the contractors undertook to work on one section at a time so that businesses can be accommodated as far as possible.

THIS IS HOW IT WILL WORK

Phase 1 (June to November 2020)

Start at Marine Drive parking area in front of Hamewith apartment block through the block onto Main Road in front of Pappin and Pretorius Optometrists, then down Main Road to Dirkie Uys Street and then up Dirkie Uys Street to High Street. Whilst working in Marine Drive, a sewer manhole will be constructed in the intersection of Dirkie Uys and High Street along with some 12 m of sewer pipe. This is done to facilitate traffic flow while Main Road is to be closed to traffic and to subsequently allow for a new sewer line to be installed in High Street.

Phase 1 (end August to February 2021)

An attenuation pond with a storm-water line will be installed up Prellwitz Street and down to collect storm water in Mimosa Street. The clearing of topsoil started in July.

Phase 2 (end July / beginning August to January 2021)

Sewerage, continuing from the intersection of Dirkie Uys and High Street and storm water the length of High Street, from Beach House Interiors up to Tutamen. Opening/locating existing services started in June 2020.

Phase 3 (July to February 2021)

Upgrading of High Street as per the CBD regeneration plan:

- Area 1: End November to January 2021
- Area 2: January to February 2021
- Area 3: End July to end November 2020

Vehicular and pedestrian access to businesses and residences will be available and affected business owners, landlords and residents will be kept informed for the duration of this project.

Any enquiries and requests for further information can be directed to the contractor's public liaison officer, Robyn Diederichs, on 028 312 1092/3 or e-mail postnet@hermanus.co.za.

HIKERS WELCOME IN NATURE RESERVES, BUT...

Under Alert Level 3 Regulations, the Fernkloof, Kleinmond and Rooi Els Nature Reserves as well as all other areas zoned open space 1 are open for use as per their designated purposes.

Those who wish to explore the Fernkloof Nature Reserve can access the reserve via all existing sign-posted and designated footpaths or hiking trails.

Kindly note:

- No areas may be accessed unless by means of a designated path or trail.
- If an area is marked "no access", please do not venture there since it has been closed off to prevent erosion, to protect scarce plants or for safety reasons.
- Wearing a cloth mask at all times is mandatory.
- Be sure to keep a safe distance from one another and do not group together.

Rotary Way and the Fernkloof Gardens are also still closed at this stage.

• This is in accordance with the regulation applicable to public open spaces where socialisation (such as picnicking) and gatherings at vantage points may currently NOT take place.

