

MARCH 2024

# Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

## BROWNISH, SMELLY & DISCOLOURED LATEST ON THE STATE OF PEARLY BEACH'S TAP WATER



Overstrand Municipality is all too aware that residents of Pearly Beach have been complaining about the colour, taste and odour of tap water delivered to their homes.

Keep in mind that to meet Pearly Beach's water demands, the municipality must source water from both the Koekemoer and the Pearly Beach Dams. This raw water must then be treated at the Pearly Beach water treatment plant up to a standard that is fit for human consumption.

Raw water from the Koekemoer Dam has a brownish colour, while water from the much smaller Pearly Beach Dam is clear.

In recent times, extreme weather events had a severe impact on the quality of raw water delivered to the treatment plant from both sources:

1. The above-average rainfall experienced during 2023's wet season caused the colour of the water in the Koekemoer Dam to intensify substantially.
2. The extremely hot days experienced since the onset of summer caused the level of the Pearly Beach Dam to drop from 75% to 25%. In fact, at the current rate, this dam may run dry before the onset of the rainy season.

All of the above affects the existing water treatment plant's ability to deliver tap water to households that is palatable, clear and odourless. Overstrand Municipality is all too aware that the current state of affairs is a cause for concern that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency both over the short- and the long term.

### OVER THE SHORT TERM

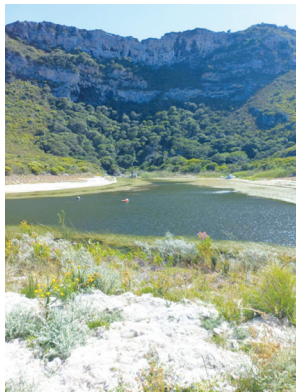
- Water restrictions have been implemented to reduce water demand from the dams.
- Water supply will continue as is until such time as the Pearly Beach Dam runs dry at which point raw water will be sourced from the Koekemoer Dam only.
- ➡ **Note that when this point is reached, even though tap water may be brownish in colour, consumers can still rest assured that their tap water has been disinfected appropriately.**
- Should the quality of the raw water sourced exclusively from the Koekemoer Dam prove to be below standard, the municipality will truck drinking water in from Gansbaai in tanks that will be placed strategically in Pearly Beach for use by residents.

### OVER THE LONG TERM

- The intention is to upgrade the Pearly Beach water treatment plant to a point where water from the Koekemoer Dam only can be treated up to SANS 0241 drinking water standards without the need to blend it with water from the Pearly Beach Dam. The project of this nature might take several months to complete.
- Meanwhile, investigations are also underway to determine whether groundwater might be a viable alternative to improve the town's water security in the long run.

### PLEASE USE WATER SPARINGLY

- Flush the toilet only when really necessary.
- Don't let the tap run when you brush your teeth, wash your hands or do the dishes.
- Fill the dishwasher and/or washing machine to the hilt before you let it run.
- Water your garden only before sunrise or after sunset and use a watering can, not a hose.
- Use a bucket, not a hose, to wash your car.
- If you detect a leak, fix or report it immediately.



## WHO'S TO BLAME FOR THIS **UNSIGHTLY MESS?**

It is common knowledge that those who let their homes to weekenders and holidaymakers as well as those who operate self-catering units pitch Overstrand as "a destination of choice characterised by pristine beaches and unspoilt nature".

How unfortunate, then, that many a weekender and holidaymaker seemingly have no intention to leave Overstrand as they found it on arrival: "pristine" and "unspoilt".

Week after week, law abiding residents have to contend with the sight of overflowing, ransacked rubbish bins and the stench of rotting household waste strewn everywhere.

And, as is always the case, the thankless task of having to clean up once the guests have grabbed their belongings and headed home befall our refuse collection teams.

These diligent teams will always show up on the scheduled collection day in the designated area, no matter what.

All they ask in return is a little cooperation.

On their behalf, Overstrand Municipality yet again appeals to those who let holiday/weekend accommodation and self-catering units to, first and foremost, **ensure that guests know on which day of the week household waste will be collected in their area.**

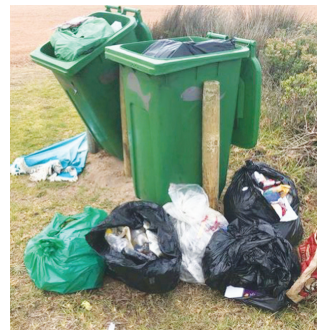
- If guests are to vacate the premises **before or after the scheduled waste-collection day**, as the person who lets the property, it is your responsibility:
  - ➡ to make arrangements (e.g. with a neighbour or an agent) to dispose of the household waste on the appropriate day, or
  - ➡ to ensure that visitors know where they should drop off their household waste before they leave town.
- Whatever the case may be, you as the responsible owner/operator must make it abundantly clear that **guests should under no circumstances dump household waste next to rubbish bins, on commonages or on pavements when they depart.**

**Equally important is to ensure that guests never leave household waste on the pavement overnight.**

- To deter scavengers, household waste must be secured in black bags or a wheelie bin and **should be placed out for collection by 07:00 on the morning of the scheduled collection day only.**
- If you are letting weekend/holiday accommodation or a self-catering unit in a baboon-affected area, it is your responsibility to ensure that the premises are equipped with a baboon-proof bin (**i.e. a bin fitted with a latch, strap, padlock or clip**) and that your guests are alerted to the fact that **no refuse bags may be left on top of or next to this bin.**

We as Overstranders are renowned for our hospitality and it is, of course, always a great honour and pleasure to welcome people from far and wide to our shores.

At times, though, it may be necessary to make absolutely sure that guests leave Overstrand as they found it: "pristine" and "unspoilt".



## BUDGETING PROCESS FOR 2024/25 FISCAL YEAR HAS COMMENCED

# BE READY TO DELIVER YOUR INPUTS WHEN CALLED UPON



Given the increasing pressure caused by both the rising cost of basic services and the growing number of households in the Overstrand, effective consultation with all stakeholders (including residents) is extremely important if we are to ensure that projects earmarked for the next fiscal year truly speak to the needs of all who live in the region.

Currently, Overstrand Municipality's budget steering committee is conducting meetings with internal role players and will, in due course, invite residents to engage in a public participation process.

We are fully committed to following a transparent process whereby all stakeholders will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, to express their views and to make representations before decisions regarding the 2024/2025 budget (with the inclusion of rates and capital projects) are finalised.

Therefore, we appeal to all residents to give some thought as to the capital projects they believe Overstrand Municipality should prioritise and how best Council should go about keeping the rising costs of living in check.

Dates and venues pertaining to the public participation process will be communicated via the media in due course.

**Your inputs are invaluable, so please take this opportunity to share your views seriously by showing up.**

## RATES & TARIFFS BOUND TO INCREASE IN JULY RELIEF AVAILABLE FOR STRUGGLING HOUSEHOLDS



Due to rising costs, an increase in the tariffs for basic services (water, sanitation and refuse removal) as well electricity and property rates is inevitable.

On 31 January 2024, Council approved its revised Indigent Policy whereby struggling households can apply for free basic services and indigent support at any time of the year.

Where applications have been approved, qualifying households must verify their indigent status at least once per year to confirm that they still meet the policy's requirements for free basic services (including free electricity units). In the absence of proof of a household's indigent status, the subsidy will be cancelled with immediate effect.

To determine if you qualify for indigent support, visit your nearest municipal rates hall or download the Indigent Policy via this link: [overstrand.gov.za](http://overstrand.gov.za) click on Documents and go to Policies. You are also welcome to approach your ward councillor for assistance.

**Residents should note that the annual increase in rates and tariffs following on Council's approval of the 2024/25 budget will reflect on their July municipal accounts and will be payable by 20 August.**

## GAIN MEANINGFUL WORK EXPERIENCE & IMPROVE YOUR PROSPECTS APPLY NOW TO BECOME A YEBONEER

Becoming an Overstrand YeBoneer means that you will be signing up for an eleven-month, full-time commitment to either help learners to develop their reading skills or to help bridge the digital gaps in your community from Monday to Friday at a local library.

No qualifications needed, but having a matric certificate would be to your advantage.

In the Overstrand, the Hawston, Hermanus, Mt Pleasant/Zwelihle, Stanford, Gansbaai, Buffeljagsbaai, Eloxulweni, Kleinmond and Betty's Bay libraries will be participating in the programme, and you must live within 5 km from one of those libraries.

To apply, you will be required to create a profile on SA Youth Mobi, or to update your existing one.

Visit [www.yearbeyond.org](http://www.yearbeyond.org) (select the Libraries Programme page under the Programmes tab) to create/update your profile or go to your nearest library for assistance.

**Remember, applications close on 12 March 2024, so you'd better hurry!**

## Libraries Programme

Support your community with the YearBeyond Libraries Programme.

If you are tech-savvy or have a passion for books, become an **ICT Champion** OR **Reading Champion** and support learners in your community.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

- You are between 18-25 years old.
- You live in the Western Cape.
- You live within a 5km radius of a participating library.

For more information and to apply visit:  
[www.yearbeyond.org](http://www.yearbeyond.org)  
Closing date: 12 March



## ATTENTION ALL LIBRARY USERS: RE-REGISTRATION NOW COMPULSORY

All public libraries in the Western Cape have been ordered by the Auditor-General to clean up their membership databases by September 2024.

For that reason, all libraries in the Overstrand have embarked on a campaign to re-register active users and to remove all inactive users from their records.

Thus, when next you visit the library, you will be handed a new application form and asked to return the duly completed form, together with the necessary documentation and your old library card, as soon as possible.

Users who fail to comply with this request by the end of August 2024 will be classified as "inactive" and automatically removed from the database.

**The following documentation is required when renewing membership:**

- Duly completed application form
- Proof of identity (ID or birth certificate in the case of SA citizens/passport or confirmation of refugee status in the case of non-citizens)
- In the case of under-age children, ID of parent or guardian
- **Proof of residence:**
  - In the case of home owners, current municipal account reflecting your home address
  - In the case of tenants, either a valid contract or an affidavit from the home owner reflecting the latter's address as per his/her municipal account that is not older than three months
- Current physical library card (a replacement fee may be charged in the case of a lost card)
- The address and telephone number of two contactable references (e.g. neighbours, colleagues, family members)

The new library membership application form can also be downloaded via the municipality's website: [www.overstrand.gov.za/application-forms/](http://www.overstrand.gov.za/application-forms/)

We urge all residents to support the library re-registration campaign by submitting their application forms and supporting documentation as soon as possible. Should you be aware of a former user that is now longer active (e.g. deceased or relocated), please inform your librarian.

**Patrons are welcome to contact their nearest library for assistance:**

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|--------------------------------|--|
| ● Hermanus: 028 313 8077       | <a href="mailto:hermanuslibrary@overstrand.gov.za">hermanuslibrary@overstrand.gov.za</a> |
| ● Kleinmond: 028 271 4021      | <a href="mailto:kleinmondlib@overstrand.gov.za">kleinmondlib@overstrand.gov.za</a>       |
| ● Gansbaai: 028 384 8346       | <a href="mailto:evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za">evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za</a>               |
| ● Hawston: 028 315 1126        | <a href="mailto:bmay@overstrand.gov.za">bmay@overstrand.gov.za</a>                       |
| ● Stanford: 028 341 8506       | <a href="mailto:fhendricks@overstrand.gov.za">fhendricks@overstrand.gov.za</a>           |
| ● Mount Pleasant: 028 313 8984 | <a href="mailto:bmay@overstrand.gov.za">bmay@overstrand.gov.za</a>                       |
| ● Betty's Bay: 028 272 9263    | <a href="mailto:rmatthews@overstrand.gov.za">rmatthews@overstrand.gov.za</a>             |
| ● Eloxulweni: 028 384 8346     | <a href="mailto:evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za">evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za</a>               |
| ● Buffeljagsbaai: 028 384 8346 | <a href="mailto:evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za">evdlinde@overstrand.gov.za</a>               |