

OCTOBER 2026

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



OVERSTRAND PREPARES FOR A HOT AND DRY SUMMER

RESIDENTS URGED TO USE WATER WISELY AS FIRE RISK INCREASES

Weather forecasts point to a very strong El Niño weather pattern during the coming summer, which could bring warmer and drier conditions to the Western Cape for between nine and 18 months. The expected conditions could increase the risk of veld fires, while warmer weather can also lead to higher water use. The Overstrand Municipality is therefore preparing for a potentially longer and more difficult fire season and is closely watching both fire and water conditions.

As part of its preparations, the Municipality is reviewing and strengthening its plans for the summer months. Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management is working with organisations such as the Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association (goFPA) and other response agencies to improve preparedness, coordination and information sharing.

Landowners, farmers and businesses are encouraged to clear alien vegetation, maintain firebreaks where required, and ensure that firefighting equipment is serviced and ready for use to help reduce wildfire risk during the coming summer months.

NO WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR NOW

All dams across the Overstrand remain close to full capacity and are monitored continuously. While no water restrictions are currently in place, residents are nevertheless encouraged to use water wisely now rather than waiting for dry conditions to develop.

Residents can assist by fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off taps when not in use, only running washing machines and dishwashers with full loads, and watering gardens outside the hottest part of the day and for shorter periods.

The existing Water Services By-law stipulates that irrigation is not allowed between 09:00 and 17:00, helping to reduce water losses through evaporation during the warmest part of the day.

Residents have also asked about the effect of the September 2024 Heritage Day storm, when large amounts of silt were washed down from the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. A survey of the De Bos Dam basin was carried out after the floods and confirmed that the current capacity of the dam is 5,57 million kilolitres. The dam remains at 100% capacity.

MORE WATER SOURCES BEING EXPLORED



The Municipality is continuing efforts to diversify water sources across the region. Plans for a seawater desalination plant are progressing, while work on the groundwater augmentation project continues both in Hermanus and Pearly Beach.

PROPERTY OWNERS REMINDED TO KEEP ERVEN **FIRE-SAFE**

The Overstrand Municipality reminds property owners and those responsible for vacant erven to keep properties clear of overgrown vegetation and other material that could increase the risk of fires spreading to neighbouring properties.

Following inspections, properties identified as fire hazards may be required to be cleared in line with the Municipality's Community Fire Safety By-law. Property owners will be given 14 working days from the date of the notice to clear the property.

If owners do not clear their properties within the required period, the Municipality may carry out the work, with the costs for the clearing being for the owner's account.

The Municipality urges property owners not to wait until a notice is issued and to maintain vacant properties, particularly during periods of increased fire risk.

Are your contact details up to date?

If the Municipality needs to contact you about clearing your vacant erf, it is important that your contact details are current. Check your details with the Finance Department by emailing enquiries@overstrand.gov.za, or complete the change of address form on the municipal website: www.overstrand.gov.za > Application Forms > Financial Services.

And remember the small wildlife: Before clearing an erf or preparing for development, take a moment to look for tortoises, chameleons and other small animals that may be hiding in the vegetation. If you use a contractor, ask them to look out for wildlife and, where possible, move animals to safety before clearing starts.

ONLINE JOB APPLICATIONS

What You Need to Know Before Registering Online

Seasonal employment opportunities will become available in the Overstrand for the remainder of 2026. Job seekers interested in these opportunities are encouraged to register now and create a profile on the Overstrand Municipality's online Job Application Portal. This will ensure that you are ready to apply when positions are advertised.

All applications for seasonal work, EPWP, fixed-term contracts and permanent positions must be submitted online through the Job Application Portal.

You can register and apply online from anywhere with a computer, cell phone and internet connection. A step-by-step guide is available on the Overstrand Municipality website to help you register and create your profile: www.overstrand.gov.za/vacancies

To create your profile

Have the following information ready:

- Personal details (name, surname, address, ID number/passport number)
- SARS tax number
- Valid cellphone number
- Valid email address and the password to access your email
- Highest level of education
- Valid reference contacts

To apply for a specific vacancy

When applying for a post, you must have all the documents required for that position. Documents must be in PDF format so that they can be uploaded to the Job Application Portal.

Easy ways to create a PDF:

Take a clear photo of the document with your cell phone or scan the document and save or convert it to PDF.

The documents required will vary depending on the post.

Examples include:

- Updated CV
- South African ID document or passport
- Qualification documents, including matric certificates, academic records and other relevant certificates
- Driver's licence (where applicable)
- Any other supporting documents required for the specific post

► Come prepared when asking for help

Residents who need assistance with the online job application process can visit the Thusong E-Centre or any public library across the Overstrand. Staff can assist with creating an email address, preparing a CV, registering a profile and uploading documents.

Please come prepared with all the necessary information and supporting documents.

Please allow **up to an hour** for the registration process. If staff are busy attending to other duties, they may not be able to assist you immediately, and an appointment may be arranged for later that day.

For those who are comfortable using the online platform and have access to the internet, visit: www.overstrand.gov.za/vacancies

A step-by-step guide is available to help you register and create your own profile.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT REVIVES NETWORK OF CARE



Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management is reviving its Humanitarian Network of Care, a partnership between local organisations that can provide support to communities during times of need.

When disasters such as fires, floods or other emergencies occur, there can be an immediate need for food, drinking water, clothing, temporary shelter and other essential items. While the Municipality coordinates the disaster response, community organisations, churches and other groups can often assist quickly with resources and support.

The network of care aims to improve coordination between these organisations and Disaster Management, helping to ensure that assistance reaches vulnerable communities as quickly as possible. It will help to avoid duplication and make sure the right assistance gets to the right place. This can prevent too much of one type of item being donated while other important needs are not being met. It will also improve communication and cooperation before, during and after an incident.

Letters have been sent to organisations that regularly work with Disaster Management, inviting them to become part of this initiative.

THE NETWORK WILL INCLUDE:

- A shared, up-to-date list of available resources and services
- Clear roles and areas of support during incidents
- Communication channels to help coordinate assistance quickly

Organisations interested in joining the Humanitarian Network of Care or finding out more can contact Disaster Management on 028 313 8941
mcarsele@overstrand.gov.za or 028 313 5052
scoert@overstrand.gov.za



BUILDING OR CLEARING?

Look out for our chameleons

For many years, Overstrand Municipality has partnered with Whale Coast Conservation and other organisations, such as the Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society, on environmental projects, including educational beach clean-ups, school programmes and the rescue of wildlife during vegetation clearing and controlled burns.

As part of this ongoing partnership, search and rescue operations are conducted before controlled burns take place to move and relocate tortoises, chameleons and other small animals out of harm's way where possible.

But looking out for small wildlife is something we can all do. Before clearing a plot, removing vegetation or starting work on a new house, take a moment to look for animals that may be hiding among the plants. Tortoises, chameleons and other small creatures can easily be missed and harmed during clearing. Where possible, give them a chance by finding and moving them to safety first. We should not have to wait for a regulation to tell us to care – protecting the wildlife around us is something that can come from the heart.

This month, Whale Coast Conservation is leading a rescue operation along the R43 between Hermanus and Onrus ahead of planned road-widening works. Volunteers will search the roadside vegetation at night for Cape dwarf chameleons, which can be difficult to spot during the day.

Community members who would like to assist are invited to lend a hand and take part in the rescue effort. Motorists travelling on the R43 during September and October may notice torches, warning triangles and volunteers working near the roadside after dark. Drivers are asked to slow down, remain alert and not stop along the busy road.

To get involved, contact Whale Coast Conservation on 028 316 2527.

