Munisipaliteit • U-Masipala • Municipality
OVERSTRAND

SEPTEMBER 2026

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

P.O. Box 20 Hermanus 7200

Hermanus	028 313 8000
Gansbaai-Stanford	028 384 8300
Kleinmond	028 271 8400
Collab Citizen App	

24/7 Municipal Emergencies:

Basic Services	028 313 8111
Fire & Rescue	028 312 2400

GET READY FOR THE 2027 WARD COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Overstrand Municipality is preparing for the upcoming Ward Committee Elections in **February 2027** and is encouraging residents, community groups and organisations to start thinking about who they would like to see representing their ward and community interests.

Choosing the right committee members is important for good two-way communication between the community and the Municipality. They can raise issues experienced in the ward, identify where upgrades or new projects are needed through the correct channels, and keep residents informed about municipal projects and timelines. Committee members can also help residents understand what the Municipality is responsible for, what its mandate is and what constraints may affect service delivery.

START PREPARING NOW

During **September/October 2026**, the Municipality will invite registered organisations, sectors and pre-determined geographical blocks to submit an Expression of Interest to participate in the Ward Committee Elections.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Interest is invited from local structures operating within a specific ward, including:

- Organisations: Groups representing specific interests, such as youth, women, religious groups, ratepayers' associations and homeowners' associations. Political parties are not eligible.
- Sectors: Umbrella bodies representing broader community interests, such as sport and recreation, or health and welfare.
- Pre-determined Geographical Blocks: Groups representing specific areas within a ward, such as neighbourhoods, extensions or villages.

This is the first step in the process and will help establish which organisations and community structures are interested in serving on a Ward Committee. Each ward will have 10 Ward Committee members, who will be required to meet regularly with their Ward Councillor, participate in site visits throughout the year and organise quarterly feedback meetings with their constituencies.

Organisations and community groups should use the time before September to make sure their basic documentation is in order. This includes having a constitution or other regulating document where applicable, as well as the information needed to complete the Expression of Interest form.

If your organisation does not have a constitution or needs help with its documentation, assistance will be available from the Municipality's Community Liaison team to help you prepare.

The Expression of Interest form requires information such as the name of the organisation, sector or pre-determined geographical block, whether it has a constitution or regulating document, date of establishment and total number of members etc.

IMPORTANT

The nominator, nominee and seconder must all be registered voters with the Electoral Commission (IEC) in the specific ward.

A full nomination process will follow in **October 2026**, with further information on the requirements, nomination process and documentation provided closer to the time.

Keep an eye on the Municipality website (www.overstrand.gov.za > About us > Wards for the Expression of Interest notice and further information.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER SECONDED TO GEORGE

Council approved the secondment of the municipal manager, Dr Dean O'Neill, to George Municipality to serve as acting municipal manager for a period of three months, with an option to extend the arrangement for a further three months if required.

George Municipality requested the secondment of Overstrand Municipality's municipal manager to George to act as municipal manager after the contract of its previous municipal manager was terminated.

Mr Edward Jantjies is serving as acting municipal manager of Overstrand Municipality during Dr O'Neill's absence. He assumed his duties on Tuesday, 11 August 2026.

CAN'T PAY YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT IN FULL?

Please make a payment arrangement with the Municipality before credit control action is taken.
Don't wait until it's too late and services are restricted.
Let's sort it out before action is needed.

Progress Report:

ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS TO OVERSTRAND'S WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Overstrand Municipality continues to invest in and maintain essential water and sanitation infrastructure to ensure reliable services for residents and to support the needs of growing communities. These ongoing projects focus on improving the capacity, resilience and efficiency of the water and sanitation systems, while also protecting the environment and maintaining water quality across the region.

ONRUS MAIN SEWERAGE PUMP STATION UPGRADE UNDERWAY

Construction work is progressing on the R30 million upgrade of the Onrus main sewerage pump station next to the Onrus estuary following the receipt of environmental authorisation for the project from the Department of Environmental Affairs. This project will provide emergency storage capacity, while significantly increasing the throughput capacity of the pump station to convey effluent to the Schulphoek wastewater treatment works in Hermanus.

The completed project, scheduled for mid-2027, will significantly reduce the risk of sewage spillages into the sensitive Onrus estuary.

WELL FIELD DEVELOPMENT

The municipality is continuing with its groundwater development in parallel with its preparation work for seawater desalination, with a drilling contractor currently on site at the Gateway well field in Hermanus. After completion at Gateway, the drilling contractor will move to Pearly Beach for groundwater exploration in that area during the latter part of 2026.

INVESTING IN WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Onrus project forms part of a wider programme of investment by Overstrand Municipality to strengthen water and wastewater infrastructure across the municipal area.

The Municipality's 2026/27 budget includes a number of ongoing water and wastewater projects, including the refurbishment of the Buffelsrivier water treatment works near Pringle Bay, the upgrade of the Hermanus well fields, groundwater development in Pearly Beach, and the replacement of water pipelines.

Wastewater system projects include the above-mentioned upgrading of the Onrus pump station, and the refurbishment and upgrading of the Hawston wastewater treatment works, which is currently in the environmental impact assessment stage, sewerage telemetry system upgrades, and the extension of the Hawston sewer network.

BUFFELS RIVER WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WTW)

The other major investment in Overstrand's water infrastructure is the refurbishment and upgrade of the Buffels River WTW, which treats raw water from the Buffels River Dam for bulk supply to the towns of Rooi-Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay.

Construction is scheduled to continue until the second half of 2027. The construction cost is R64 million, which is largely funded by a water services infrastructure grant from the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The project includes a new inlet structure, a new mechanically mixed flocculation tank, a new filtration system, a new disinfection system, new chemical storage and dosing systems, a new backwash water recycling system, and a new admin building and control room.

QUERY HIGH WATER ACCOUNTS IMMEDIATELY AND CHECK FOR LEAKS

Following concerns raised by residents regarding burst pipes, underground leaks and unusually high water accounts, Overstrand Municipality would like to remind customers that financial relief may be available under section 6.8.1 (Water Leakages) of the Customer Care, Credit Control & Debt Collection Policy.

While each application is assessed on its own merits and in accordance with the policy, qualifying customers may apply for a water leakage discount where excessive water consumption resulted from a leak on the customer's side of the water meter.

Residents should note that the responsibility for maintaining plumbing on the customer's side of the water meter remains with the property owner. However, the policy provides for financial relief in qualifying cases where specific requirements have been met.

TO QUALIFY, CUSTOMERS MUST:

- Submit a completed water leakage discount application on the prescribed form within 90 days after the leak has been repaired.
- Repair the leak within 10 working days of detecting it, or take effective steps to prevent further water loss.
- Submit supporting documentation, such as a plumber's report or invoice, proof of repair, or an affidavit from the person who carried out the repair.
- Meet the policy requirements regarding previous applications, as water leakage discounts are generally limited to one application every 18 months, subject to the provisions of the policy.

Where approved, the rebate is calculated on qualifying excess water consumption above the customer's average usage for a maximum period of three months. Customers may also qualify for a rebate on excess sewer charges where they can demonstrate that the leaked water did not enter the municipal sewer system. Please note that leaks involving irrigation systems do not qualify for a water leakage discount. The prescribed water leakage discount application form is available on the Municipality's website at www.overstrand.gov.za under Application Forms > Financial Services: Water sewer rebate application.

For queries or to submit your claim, contact the Finance Department on 028 313 8000 or at enquiries@overstrand.gov.za, use the Overstrand Citizen App, or visit your nearest municipal office.

Early detection of leaks, prompt repairs and the timely submission of applications can help prevent further water loss and minimise the financial impact of excessive water consumption.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A WATER LEAK ON MY PROPERTY?

An underground water leak can go unnoticed for weeks or even months and may only become apparent when you receive an unusually high municipal water account.

If you suspect a leak, try this simple test:

- Close all taps and ensure that no water is being used on the property.
- Locate your water meter, usually found near the property boundary.
- Record the meter reading.
- Ensure that nobody uses water for at least one hour (or perform the test overnight).
- Check the meter reading again. If the reading has increased, there is likely to be a leak on your property.

Exceptionally high water accounts can be caused by:

- Underground or concealed leaks
- Leaking toilets or taps
- Incorrect meter readings
- Faulty water meters (less common)

If you believe your account is unusually high, contact the Overstrand Municipality's Finance Department to verify your account and meter readings. You can email enquiries@overstrand.gov.za, log a query (service request) via the Overstrand Citizen App, or visit your nearest municipal office.

If a leak is confirmed on your side of the water meter, it remains the property owner's responsibility to arrange repairs.

However, qualifying customers may apply for a water leakage discount in terms of the Customer Care, Credit Control & Debt Collection Policy, Section 6.8: Customer Assistance Programmes – 6.8.1 Water Leakages. Applications must be submitted on the prescribed form, together with the required supporting documentation, within 90 days after the leak has been repaired.