

FEBURARY 2026

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

MUNICIPALITY DELIVERS UNDER FESTIVE PRESSURE

The Overstrand Municipality has just wrapped up a highly successful festive season. Despite the massive influx of visitors, our municipal service departments worked tirelessly to meet the increased demand and ensure a safe, pleasant experience for everyone.

WATER CONSUMPTION TRENDS

While the water reticulation system was under severe pressure, it coped well with no major incidents.

- **Overall Usage:** December 2025 saw an additional 37 835 kℓ consumed compared to December 2024.
- **Kleinmond Success:** Notably, Kleinmond residents used 11 400 kℓ less water than the previous year.
- **Current Status:** With soaring temperatures and declining dam levels, the Municipality emphasises that everyone must continue to use water sparingly.

TOURISM AND SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Occupancy:** The local hospitality industry enjoyed a remarkable 98% occupancy rate during the peak period.
- **Events:** Overstrand hosted 394 events in December alone, providing a welcome boost to the local economy.
- **Beach Safety:** No drownings were recorded at official swimming beaches. Our Blue Flag status and visible lifeguard presence ensured a safe environment for the packed crowds.
- **Traffic Volume:** Hermanus saw its highest incoming traffic on 20 December 2025 with 788 vehicles per hour and its highest outgoing traffic on 27 December with 644 vehicles per hour. Kleinmond peaked on 19 December with 492 vehicles per hour, and Gansbaai recorded its highest incoming traffic on 20 December with 416 vehicles per hour.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING SUCCESS

Waste collection teams were thoroughly tested by the holiday surge. To manage the extra volume, teams worked extended hours to ensure refuse and recycling were collected on schedule.

- **Drop-off Usage:** Municipal facilities saw waste and recycling volumes more than double during peak periods.
- **Problem Animal Areas:** Most residents in these areas responsibly used mini drop-off sites for excess refuse.
- **Recycling Growth:** Separated recycling volumes increased noticeably this year, and our Materials Recovery Facility continues to operate at full capacity to process these loads.
- **A Note of Caution:** Unfortunately, some households left black bags on pavements, which attracted baboons and made the work of baboon monitors significantly more challenging.

TEAMWORK AT ITS BEST

Success was made possible through the close cooperation of Municipal Law Enforcement, Traffic officers, and the various directorates providing essential services, as well as SAPS and neighbourhood watches. "What made this season a success was the way all role players worked together in the interest of the region," concluded Mayor Klaas.



NO ACTS OF HEROISM JUST PURE FIREFIGHTING FROM TEAMS ON THE GROUND

The Overstrand Municipality has been battling an unprecedented number of fires since October 2025. With more than 40 000 hectares burned in Stanford and Pearly Beach areas, these fires have caused significant losses to local farmers, businesses, and livelihoods.

The Battle on the Ground

Extremely tough conditions - including challenging weather, strong winds, dense vegetation, and inaccessible terrain - have tested our teams to the limit.

- Over 200 firefighters and support personnel, landowners, Fire Management Units (FMUs), and volunteers worked 24-hour shifts to contain the flames.
- Despite the intensity of the fires, no lives were lost, though some evacuees were treated for smoke inhalation.
- Structures have been lost; however, the exact number cannot be confirmed at this stage.
- It is estimated that the fires have cost between R6 to R7 million since 4 January 2026.

A Community Effort

The Overstrand Municipality extends a sincere thank you to everyone who stepped up during this crisis:

- **Personnel:** Municipal staff and firefighters from neighbouring municipalities.
- **Support:** Aerial resources, landowners, FMUs, and welfare organisation volunteers who prepared meals.
- **Residents:** Those who donated water and essential items to keep our firefighters "fuelled" on the front lines.

Your dedication and support have been invaluable during these challenging times. Firefighters will remain on the scene, continuing mopping-up operations and monitoring the area for any flare-ups.



Reward for Information: The Municipality suspects that some fires may have been started deliberately. We are offering a R10 000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

- How to report: Contact Fire & Rescue at 028 312 2400, WhatsApp the Chief of Law Enforcement at 076 970 5481, or use the Collab Citizen App
- Tips can be provided anonymously.



HELP KEEP OVERSTRAND'S WATER FLOWING: A CALL FOR ONGOING CONSERVATION

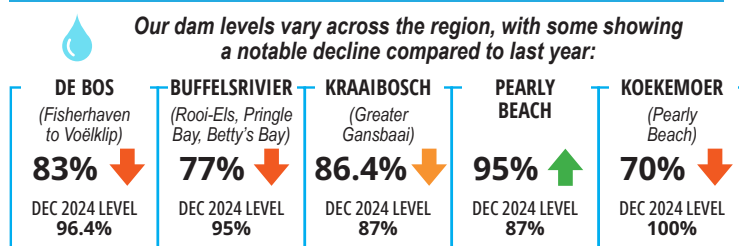
Overstrand Municipality extends a sincere thank you to all residents, businesses, and visitors for your dedicated efforts to save water during this critical period. Your mindful actions are making a tangible difference in protecting our shared natural resources.

THE CURRENT SITUATION: WHY WE MUST ACT NOW

While there are currently no formal water restrictions in place, we must remain vigilant to avoid them. The data shows a significant shift in our environmental conditions:

- **Decreased Rainfall:** In 2025, we recorded only 482mm of rain, a sharp drop from the 746mm received in 2024.
- **Below Average:** This is well below the Hermanus annual average of 640mm, requiring the Municipality to monitor dam levels very closely.
- **Consumption Trends:** Between December 2024 and December 2025, water consumption increased across nearly all towns. Only Kleinmond and Buffelsrivier saw a decrease, likely due to fewer pipe breakages during the month.

STATUS OF OUR DAMS (DECEMBER 2025 UPDATE)



ELECTRICITY PURCHASES

Aux charges are back

The Overstrand Municipality wishes to inform all residents that the Auxiliary (AUX) charge system for electricity purchases was officially reinstated on 1 December 2025.

What is the Auxiliary Charge?

The Auxiliary system is a long-standing debt collection mechanism utilized by the Municipality to recover outstanding amounts on municipal accounts. It ensures that residents can systematically pay off their debt while continuing to access essential services.

How It Works

When a prepaid electricity customer has an account in arrears, payments are split as follows:

- **60%** of the purchase amount is automatically allocated toward the arrears account.
- **40%** of the purchase amount is used to provide electricity units.

Because of this allocation, affected customers will receive fewer units than usual until their municipal debt is fully settled. Additionally, customers in arrears may experience restricted ("drip") water supply until the account is brought up to date.

Who is Exempt?

You will **not** be affected by the reinstatement of the Auxiliary charge if:

- Your municipal account is currently up to date.
- You have a formal payment arrangement in place and are consistently honouring it.

Festive Season Suspension

As a gesture of compassion during the holiday period, the Municipality will temporarily suspend AUX charges from 22 December 2025 to 15 January 2026. During this brief window, no deductions will be made for arrears, allowing residents full access to the units they purchase.

Please note that the Auxiliary system will resume in full on **16 January 2026**.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR SUPPLY

Every drop counts in ensuring a sustainable supply for everyone. You can make a difference by following these guidelines:



Mind the Midday Sun: Permanent regulations prohibit garden irrigation between 09:00 and 17:00 to prevent water loss through evaporation.



Practice Mindful Usage: Always turn off taps when they are not in use and limit outdoor watering.



Reuse and Recycle: Use greywater for your garden or general cleaning whenever possible.



Report Leaks Fast: If you see a leak, report it immediately to the Municipal Contact Centre or via the **Citizen App**.

DETAILED CONSUMPTION COMPARISON (kℓ)

The following table highlights the change in usage trends across our towns:

TOWN	NOV 2024	NOV 2025	DEC 2024	DEC 2025
GREATER HERMANUS	442,400	515,140	515,650	543,860
GREATER GANSBAAI	129,153	151,610	156,572	176,144
KLEINMOND	86,848	88,054	112,721	101,321
BUFFELSRIVIER	60,001	71,734	82,209	80,148
STANFORD	41,245	47,902	52,512	55,118
PEARLY BEACH	13,142	17,148	20,206	21,525
BAARDS-KEERDESBOS	1,711	2,137	2,189	2,561
BUFFELJAGSBAAI	591	725	783	846

DON'T TURN A BLIND EYE

REPORT VANDALISM & THEFT

Theft and vandalism are persistent challenges across South Africa, and the Overstrand region is no exception. These crimes do more than just break things; they drain thousands of rands from the community every year and disrupt the flow of daily life.

In Overstrand, cable theft and the destruction of streetlights are reaching critical levels. These acts create significant safety hazards and place an immense strain on municipal resources. Every hour spent repairing preventable damage is time and manpower stolen from other vital community projects. Beyond the infrastructure, public spaces are also under fire. Graffiti, broken toilets, damaged benches, and shattered windows continue to plague our shared areas. Even though the municipality has switched to cost-effective plastic fittings to mitigate losses, the destruction persists.

Ultimately, every act of sabotage redirects funds that should be used to improve services for everyone.

"We cannot allow this to continue," stated Mayor Archie Klaas. "These facilities belong to every one of us, and we all deserve to enjoy them. It is up to the community to help protect what is ours."

While Overstrand's Safety and Security officers patrol tirelessly, the sheer size of the region makes it impossible to be everywhere at once. Criminals are often fast, taking advantage of the vast area to evade capture. The municipality cannot win this battle alone; we need you. In many cases, residents are already aware of who is responsible for the damage. If you see something suspicious or notice unusual activity, do not wait for someone else to act.

HOW TO REPORT:

- **Municipal Law Enforcement (24/7):** 028 313 8996
- **Ward Councillors:** Find yours at www.overstrand.gov.za under "About Us"
- **Overstrand Citizen App:** Download and report issues directly from your smartphone

