

JUNE 2026

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



BUILDING STREETS FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST CARS

The Overstrand Municipality is setting the pace for safer and more accessible walking and cycling routes as one of the Western Cape's Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Demonstration Towns.



This project focuses on improving safety and access for residents and learners who walk, cycle or make use of public transport every day.

Earlier this month, the Municipality welcomed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Mobility for an oversight visit. During the visit, the committee visited projects in Hermanus that are helping create safer streets, better public spaces and improved access for communities.

In many rural areas, transport options are often limited. Nearly 60% of workers and over 50% of learners rely on walking or cycling every day. Even though most people travel on foot, our roads are still designed mainly for cars, leaving pedestrians with the highest risk of injury.

To tackle these challenges, the Western Cape Department of Mobility partnered with Overstrand Municipality to develop a Non-Motorised Transport Master Plan aimed at creating safer, more connected communities.

Due to limited budgets and funding being limited, the focus is on targeted projects that can make a visible difference. The Demonstration Town initiative aims to show how practical improvements such as safer crossings, traffic calming, better sidewalks, public transport facilities and connected walking routes can improve everyday life for residents.

Projects already completed by the Municipality include the High Street upgrades in Hermanus and Phase 1 of Malva Street in Mount Pleasant. This initial stage featured new raised crossings to slow down cars and make walking safer, alongside a public transport holding area and upgraded taxi and bus bays.

The total cost of this phase is R1.7 million, of which R1.1 million was provided through Provincial Grant funding.

Future projects planned for Greater Hermanus include upgrades and beautification to the Hermanus Civic Precinct and the Hermanus CBD Taxi Rank and parking areas.

The NMT Demonstration Towns project highlights the value of co-operation between local and provincial government through safer and better-lit areas, traffic calming, improved intersections, access to public transport facilities and possible future partnerships with the private sector for bicycle distribution and safety training, to name but a few.



The Provincial Government Standing Committee on Mobility visited Hermanus for a site visit, where Chief Engineer of Infrastructure Services, Director Steven Müller, presented the Overstrand Municipality's progress on non-motorised transport (NMT). This highlights the municipality's commitment to improving how residents move around the Overstrand. While there is still much more to be done, it marks an important start on a new path.

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY PROGRESS REPORT:

TOP 10 CAPITAL PROJECTS ON TRACK AS NEW BUDGET NEARS ADOPTION

The 2025/26 Top 10 Capital Projects report confirms the Municipality is turning its budget into real improvements for the community.

The progress report, recorded at the end of April 2026, reflects that an amount of R72 million has already been spent to date.

As the current financial year draws to a close, the final budget for 2026/27 will be presented to Council at the end of May 2026. Once approved, it will take effect from 1 July 2026. The total proposed budget is R2,44 billion, which includes R2,197 billion for operations and R242,7 million for capital projects – a 2,7% increase from the previous year.

The capital budget prioritises basic service infrastructure and roads. This represents 76% of the proposed 2026/27 capital budget. These projects are mainly funded through borrowing (52,7%), with grants (29,6%) and internal funds (17,7%) over the 26/27 MTREF (Medium-term revenue and expenditure framework).

INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONES

The Municipality continues to direct significant investment into water and electricity to keep essential services running reliably:



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The refurbishment of the Buffels River Water Treatment Works is currently in the construction stage. This is supported by the R22,8 million replacement of ageing water pipes and a R13,4 million upgrade to pump stations and rising mains, both of which are actively under construction.



ELECTRIFICATION

Work is underway for the R13,9 million electrification of low-cost housing areas. In Hermanus, Hawston and Kleinmond, the MV/LV upgrade and replacement project is progressing through its construction phase to stabilise the local power grid.



FLEET

The R8 million project for road-related vehicles is 100% complete. The Electricity (R6,25 million) and Community Services/Waste (R5,16 million) vehicles have also been 100% delivered, while Public Safety (R4,30 million) is 96% complete.

HOUSING

A large portion of the capital spend is dedicated to improving living conditions and recreational spaces:

HOUSE SERVICES

A total of R34,7 million is being managed across several housing developments, including Masakhane in Gansbaai, Mount Pleasant and Schulphoek in Hermanus.



Note: Due to a change in accounting treatment relating to housing, these projects have been consolidated to provide a comprehensive view of the total investment in this sector.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Construction is ongoing at the Mount Pleasant Sport Grounds (R12,2 million), the Hawston Sport Complex (R10,6 million), and the Kleinmond Sport Facilities (R8,7 million).



NEW GBV SUPPORT FEATURE ADDED TO OVERSTRAND CITIZEN APP

Gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide were classified as a national disaster under section 23 of the Disaster Management Act in November 2025.

Gender-Based Violence includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, as well as threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation. These acts may occur in any setting, whether in public or private life, in times of peace or during conflict and can result in physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economic harm.

To improve access to support for victims in the Overstrand area, a new GBV incident feature has been added to the Overstrand Municipality Citizen App. This 24-hour feature allows GBV victims to log a service request in the event of a GBV incident involving physical (assault) or sexual violence when they need ambulance, medical, or police assistance.

GBV incidents submitted through the app will be directed to the Overstrand Municipality Emergency Control Room, which will request that an ambulance or the police be dispatched. The local Provincial Government Department of Social Development is also available if you need assistance. You can contact the office at 028 316 4141 or visit them at the Onrus Trading Post, corner of R43 and Vermont Avenue.

The Overstrand Municipality strongly condemns all forms of GBV and encourages individuals to refrain from acts of gender-based violence and femicide. The Municipality also speaks out against all forms of abuse and calls on individuals to refrain from such acts.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD COMMUNITIES
WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE, RESPECTED AND HEARD**



WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

Overstrand Municipality is warning residents to be alert as various scams involving false traffic fines and municipal account arrears are currently circulating. These scams are often designed to look official and may be received via SMS or WhatsApp.

Residents are urged to always verify any traffic fines or municipal account information through official channels before making any payments.

The safest and fastest way to check and pay traffic fines is via the Overstrand Municipality website:

- Visit www.overstrand.gov.za
- Click on "Pay & Purchase"
- Select "View and Pay Traffic Fines" (ID number required)

Alternatively, residents can contact Overstrand Traffic Services on 028 313 1044 / 8174 / 8173 for assistance.

A separate scam circulating involves WhatsApp messages where individuals falsely claim that municipal accounts are in arrears and threaten immediate disconnection of services unless payment is made.

Overstrand Municipality confirms that it will never notify residents via WhatsApp that their account is in arrears or threaten immediate disconnection in this way.

The formal process followed for arrear accounts is strictly as follows:

1. If a client's cellphone number is on record, an SMS will be sent notifying the client that the account is in arrears and allowing two days for payment.
2. If payment is not received within two days, a 14-day written notice is delivered to the physical address and sent via email, where available.
3. Only if payment is not made within the 14-day notice period will municipal services be restricted and/or disconnected.

Residents are also reminded that municipal officials will never demand immediate or upfront payment to prevent disconnection. Any payments, including reconnection fees, must be made directly to Overstrand Municipality's official bank account via EFT or at a municipal rates hall.

HELP PLEASE!

What are the laws on keeping chickens in suburban neighbourhoods, for example Ward 3?

KEEPING OF FARM ANIMALS (POULTRY) ON A RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY

Following questions from the public, the Overstrand Municipality would like to clarify the legal requirements for keeping farm animals on properties zoned as 'Single Residential' (such as those in Voëlklip).

Under the current Overstrand Municipality Land Use Scheme, 2020 ('the Scheme'), the primary (permitted) land uses applicable to single residential erven are reflected under paragraph 6.1.1(a). It is evident that farm animals (including poultry) are not included as a permitted land use and it is therefore illegal to keep them on residential properties.

The definition of a 'household pet' is also set out in the Scheme. The definition clearly excludes, among other animals, farm animals from being considered household pets. Poultry falls under farm animals. Should the complainant wish to lodge a formal complaint, a complaint form and sworn affidavit must be submitted to the Town Planning offices. Submission of these forms is compulsory in terms of section 87(1) of the Overstrand Municipality Amendment By-Law on Municipal Land Use Planning, 2020.

Upon written request, the Town Planning Department may investigate complaints prior to the submission of the required forms, but it may not institute the non-compliance process without the said forms. The Town Planning office only investigates matters pertaining to land uses and development parameters that are not compliant with the requirements of the Scheme.

Please note that noise complaints are investigated by Law Enforcement, while amplified noise caused by humans is investigated by Environmental Management and Conservation.

Documents are available on the municipal website, www.overstrand.gov.za > Documents > Town & Spatial Planning.