



Western Cape  
Government

FOR YOU

Police Oversight and  
Community Safety

2022/23 - 2023/24  
POLICING NEEDS AND  
PRIORITIES (PNP)

# The West Coast District Municipality Report

## WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

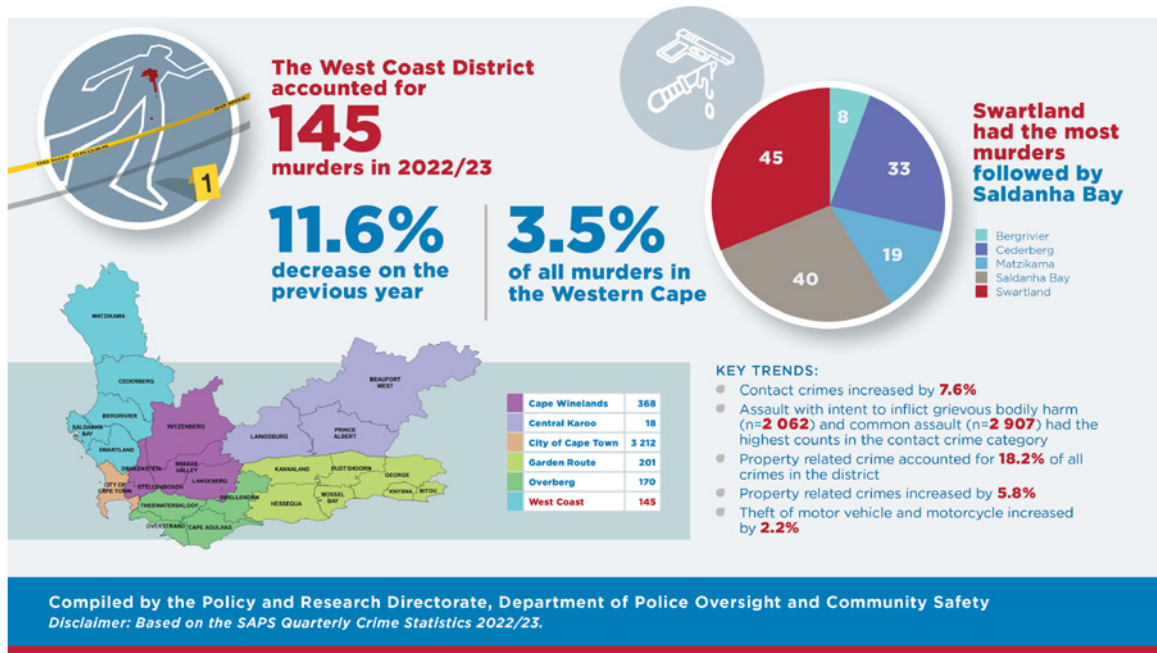
The West Coast District Municipality comprises of five local municipalities namely Bergrivier, Cederberg, Matzikama, Saldanha Bay and Swartland as well as 25 police stations. The former three clusters of Vredenburg, Vredendal and parts of Milnerton cluster are, as of August 2022, organised into one police District, which is aligned with the District municipal boundaries.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. 2022. West Coast District Municipal Overview, p. 7.



Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Mr Reagen Allen addressing stakeholders at the PNP engagement.





**ABOVE:** West Coast District annual crime statistics: 2022/23<sup>2</sup>

**There were 145 murders in the West Coast District in 2022/23. This was a decrease of 11.6% compared to the previous year. The West Coast District accounted for 3.5% of all murders in the Western Cape.**

## CRIME OVERVIEW

There were 145 murders in the West Coast District in 2022/23. This was a decrease of 11.6% compared to the previous year. The West Coast District accounted for 3.5% of all murders in the Western Cape. Swartland had the most murders followed by Saldanha Bay.

Contact crimes increased by 7.6%. Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and common assault had the highest counts in the contact crime category. Property related crime accounted for 18.2% of all crimes in the District. Property related crimes increased by 5.8%. Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle increased by 2.2%.

## PNP METHODOLOGY FOR 2022/23 - 2023/24

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS) used a mixed methodology for the annual Policing Needs and Priority (PNP) determination that yielded both qualitative and

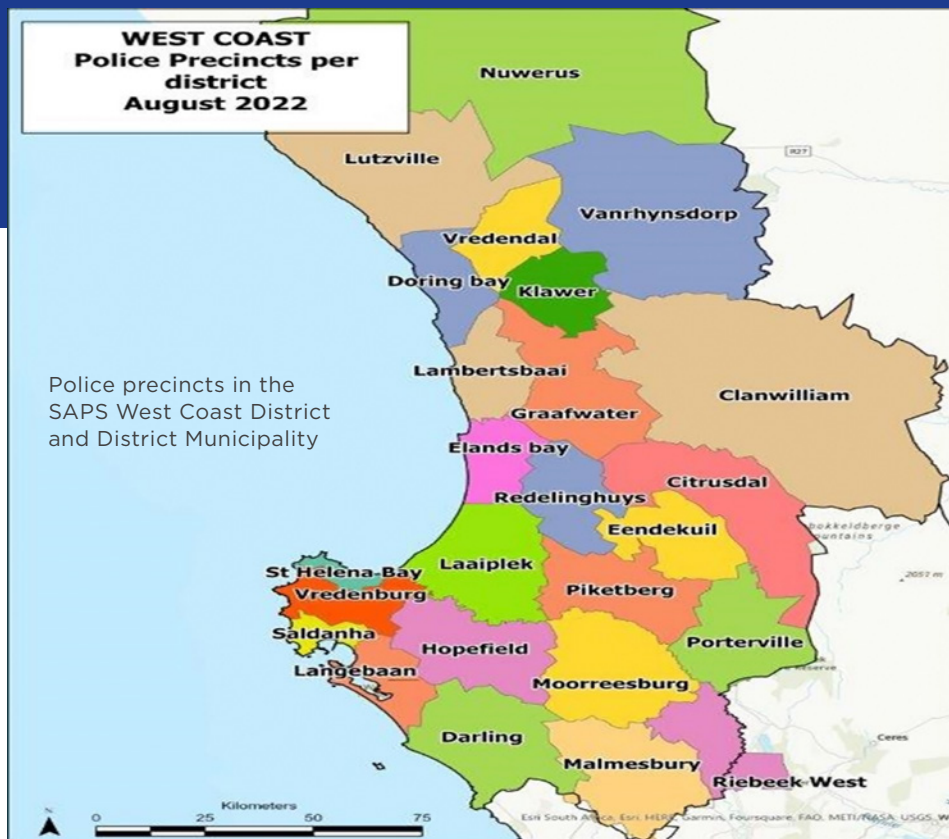
quantitative results for the 2022/23 - 23/24 financial years. A desktop analysis was conducted of key policing and safety concerns and issues in the province, as well as developments during the year. Secondary and relevant literature sources such as the SAPS Annual Report, the previous PNP reports, internal POCS reports, Victims of Crime Survey, media reports, Provincial and Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (PERO and MERO) reports<sup>3</sup> were reviewed to augment the findings amongst others. The SAPS Crime statistics on reported crimes were also used to give some crime perspective and context.

The qualitative methodology involved a public consultation in each district and two in the Metro. The district consultation was held over two days, dedicating day 1 to Rural Safety and day 2 to the Policing Needs and Priorities.

The target group for the PNP consultations included people who were believed to be representing the key

<sup>2</sup> The South African Police Service (SAPS) release crime statistics quarterly and this is a summary of the crime statistics for 2022-23, derived from combining the four quarterly releases.

<sup>3</sup> The MERO report is intended to be used in the municipal integrated development plans (IDPs); spatial development frameworks (SDFs); local economic development (LED) strategies; and budgets for evidence-based decision-making, as well as implementation of the Joint District and Metro Approach to socio-economic development across the Province. Western Cape Government. 22/23 MERO Report, p. 5.



stakeholders in the safety environment of the Western Cape. This included the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Farm Watch (FW) Chairpersons, members of the Provincial Standing Committee on Community Safety, members of Cabinet, SAPS District and Station Commanders, Metro Police, all Provincial, cluster and local CPF chairpersons, National and Provincial Government Departments, District and Local Municipalities, District and Local Municipal Mayors and Municipal Managers, Mayco members for Safety and Security, IDP Coordinators and Managers, Heads of Disaster Management, Law Enforcement (LE), Traffic and Protection Services, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Correctional Services and Justice, safe schools managers, councillors for safety and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), Agricultural organisations, Business Sector and the media.

At the PNP consultation, focus group discussions (FGD) were held along the three broad themes of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design. Facilitators and scribes were sourced

and briefed for the session. A facilitation guide was used to structure the discussion. FGD notes were captured and then coded.

The Department hosted the PNP engagement in October 2022 in Saldanha for the West Coast District. The PNPs started off with presentations setting the scene, followed by questions and answers which were directed to the presenters. Thereafter, the participants were given an opportunity to determine their policing needs and priorities by participating in focus group discussions (FGDs). Input was captured on a template developed by the Department which was later analysed to identify key issues and common themes for inclusion in the report.

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE POLICING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES<sup>4</sup>

On the next page follows a summary of policing needs and priorities through the lenses of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design that was extracted from the focus group discussions.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Police precincts in the SAPS West Coast District and District Municipality

**ABOVE TOP:** Alderman Roeloff Strydom, Executive Mayor for West Coast District

**SECOND ABOVE:** Cllr AK Warnick, Mayco member for Safety and Security for Swartland Municipality

**THIRD ABOVE:** Cllr Andre Truter, Executive Mayor for Saldanha Bay Municipality

**FOURTH ABOVE:** Major General Dyantyi, West Coast SAPS District Commissioner

**ABOVE:** Mr Johan van Litsenburgh, West Coast District Safety Coordinator

<sup>4</sup> The broader findings and detailed recommendations are available in the 2023/24 Western Cape Policing Needs and Priorities Report which will be published in due course.

**BELOW:** Summary of policing needs and priorities through the lenses of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design

LAW ENFORCEMENT	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insufficient SAPS and Law Enforcement human and physical resources and lack of adequate training</li> <li>2. Lack of effective response to Gender Based Violence (GBV)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAPS reports that the 25 stations in the West Coast District have a staffing capacity of 93% of Visible Policing, 92% in the Detective Services and 108% in the Support environments, resulting in an overall average of 94%.</li> <li>• 58 Entry Level Constables (ELC) from the recent project "10,000 ELC", were placed at 14 stations within the West Coast District, and several promotional posts have been advertised.</li> <li>• Drones and surveillance equipment should be used.</li> <li>• Off road vehicles appropriate to the terrain should be procured.</li> <li>• SAPS need to revisit the National Rural Safety Strategy and appoint a rural safety officer as a potential solution to resource constraints.</li> <li>• POCS and other role players must focus on implementing specific GBV prevention programmes.</li> <li>• The DSD should implement a widespread communication strategy regarding their availability and adjust shifts to be available when needed.</li> </ul>
SOCIAL COHESION	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substance-related challenges</li> <li>2. Unemployment</li> <li>3. Lack of parenting skills &amp; challenges</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SAPS need to mobilise other important role players including municipalities, the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) and the NPA to address issues of substance abuse. The SAPS, the WCLA, and the LE need to conduct liquor-related operations including regular raids of drug houses and closure of drug houses.</li> <li>• The SAPS to focus on drug houses and drug dealers.</li> <li>• The Swartland Municipality should create more awareness of the K9-unit's availability to municipalities. There is a need for more integrated Law Enforcement and SAPS operations.</li> <li>• The WCG must provide adequate funding for rehabilitation programmes and widespread community education to address substance abuse or dependency and increase awareness of services.</li> <li>• Municipalities must establish more municipal courts in all towns, with increased powers as well as the need for additional facilities for minors.</li> <li>• The WCED must consider re-opening technical high schools and should increase Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Institutions for people to develop their skills.</li> </ul>
URBAN DESIGN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Influx of migrant and immigrant farm workers</li> <li>2. Inadequate Streetlights and CCTV cameras</li> <li>3. Drug houses and illegal alcohol trade</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A need for increased monitoring of migrant and immigrant workers by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and deporting of illegal residents; also limiting work permits; conducting inspections and verifying vehicles crossing the border.</li> <li>• DHA must establish a database documenting immigrant workers and checking farms to verify labour practices.</li> <li>• To deal with ANPR/CCTV management, stakeholders recommended having a supportive budget; by-laws and the enforcement thereof at district level; as well as supportive agreements and collaboration between the provincial government and district municipality.</li> <li>• Stakeholders also indicated the need to strengthen investigations and prosecutions related to buyers of stolen goods or property.</li> <li>• The South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) should facilitate establishment of street committees to assist with safeguarding of the infrastructure.</li> <li>• POCS needs to facilitate the integration of technology by the different stakeholders.</li> <li>• Municipalities should install proper lighting in communities and proper zoning of businesses, spaza shops and taverns.</li> <li>• Need more integration with NPA and Department of Justice to prosecute offenders and secure convictions.</li> </ul>