The Western Cape space-economy comprises all of the diverse economic activities in the Province’s urban centres and its rural areas, and the relationship of these places and spaces to the infrastructure that connects and supports them. The space-economy includes the network of workplaces across the Province and their linkages with local, national and international markets.

The Western Cape's leading economic growth prospects lie in the urban space-economy, with public infrastructure investment forecast to be the leading driver of growth. Most of the economic sub-sectors that the WCG is targeting for growth are urban based:

- Agri-processing and agri-tourism – on farms and in settlements
- Niche manufacturing – primarily settlement based
- Renewable energy (low job creation potential) – on farms subject to consistency with biodiversity, heritage, scenic and agricultural requirements
- Gas – new LNG terminal facilities in Mossel Bay and between Saldanha Bay and Cape Town, associated gas power stations, and conversion of nearby industrial areas
- Financial services – based in larger urban centres
- Knowledge and creative industries – based in larger urban centres
- ICT, broadband – coverage extends across urban and rural areas
- Tourism – based in settlements and along regional tourist routes, themed and focused on outdoor activities

Government cannot grow the economy on its own or dictate to business how it must operate. But government can contribute to business success through the provision and maintenance of regional infrastructure, and how it organises economic activities in urban and rural space.

The 2013 Western Cape Infrastructure Framework (WCIF) advocates a new approach to infrastructure - “one that satisfies current needs and backlogs, maintains existing infrastructure, and plans proactively for a desired future outcome leading to resilient and inclusive growth and a route to a vibrant, equitable and low-carbon society”.

The PSDF strategy for opening-up opportunities in the rural space-economy has two dimensions, namely:

- Accommodating a greater diversity of compatible and sustainable land use activities on farms and in the rural landscape in general
- Channelling public investment in rural development initiatives to areas where it can offer real and sustained improvements to beneficiaries and the rural community

The Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) aspires to ensure that the Western Cape is a place where:

- The PSG 1: Create opportunities for growth and jobs
- The PSG 2: Improve education outcomes and opportunities for youth development
- The PSG 3: Enhance wellness, safety and tackle social ills
- The PSG 4: Enable a resilient, sustainable, quality and inclusive living environment
- The PSG 5: Embed good governance and integrated service delivery through partnerships and spatial alignment

For more information and tips visit www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp