The PROVINCIAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, 2014 (PSDF) is the common spatial reference framework for delivering on the Province’s strategic development priorities, individually and collectively. It guides the location and form of public investment of national and provincial departments as well as municipalities in the natural and built environment, ensuring that the returns on these investments are consistent with the Province’s development objectives.

The Western Cape Economy is founded on the Province’s unique asset base which makes the Western Cape the country’s premier tourism destination. The West Coast District is rich in biodiversity, with the West Coast National Park and the West Coast Biodiversity Reserve as areas representing biodiversity in the West Coast.

THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE PROVINCE’S ASSETS

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PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- Delineate urban edges to divert urban growth pressures away from critical biodiversity areas.
- The District is a water scarce region, with a significant demand for water especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors. The Berg and Olifants Rivers are the most significant in the region. Saldanha Bay is one of the main industrial water users. The Cape Metro and Saldanha Bay Functional Regions compete for water derived from the Berg River Water Management Area (WMAs). Marine ecosystems along the coast of the region are critically endangered. Langebaan Lagoon is located within a marine protected area.

SAFEGUARD INLAND AND COASTAL WATER RESOURCES, AND MANAGE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER

- Adopt an overarching approach to water demand management – maximise efficiencies, optimise storage capacity and ground water extraction.
- A dominant scenic feature and area of prolific archaeological sites, the Cederberg/Kouebokkeveld mountain ranges, lie to the east of the West Coast District. The mountain ranges in the West Coast give rise to a number of scenically and historically important mountain passes including the Rieensekloof (Green’s), Paalhuis and Varyns Passes, providing crossings of the mountain barriers to the interior. The West Coast Fossil Park possesses one of the richest Cenozoic fossil assemblages in the world. The Cederberg possessing the richest collection of rock art in South Africa.

SAFEGUARD CULTURAL AND SCENIC ASSETS

- Effective management of scenic landscape quality and form is critical. Strategies to protect scenic resources must describe the qualities of an area and the nature of development that is likely to be permitted.

OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPACE-ECONOMY

The Western Cape space-economy comprises 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. Saldanha/Vredenburg is emerging as a lower order port based regional economic node in the West Coast where Strategic Integrated Project 5 involves the development of the Saldanha Bay – Northern Cape link through rail and port expansion, increasing back-of-port industrial capacity by the development of an Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) for the maritime oil and gas industry.

USE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO LEVERAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Consolidate and align the various regional economic infrastructure investment proposals and address and reconcile competing and overlapping demands.

REVITALISE AND STRENGTHEN URBAN SPACE-ECONOMIES AS THE ENGINE OF GROWTH

- Build the national competitive advantage and innovation of Saldanha/Vredenburg through appropriate infrastructure, facility, amenity and social service investment.

The rural space-economy is not only about agricultural development, but also broad based agrarian transformation, diversifying the rural economy, tourism, government promotion of rural development and land reform programmes, and functional ecosystems. The West Coast has three Comprehensive Rural Development Programme nodes, namely: Ebenhaezer (Matzikama Municipality), Clanother (Cederberg Municipality) and Chatsworth/Riverlands (Swartland Municipality).

DIVERSIFY AND STRENGTHEN THE RURAL ECONOMY

- Extend the current rural livelihood support programme to cover a wider range of activities and build a broader rural skills base.

DEVELOPING INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

A strong sense of place and quality environments within settlements is recognised as an essential dimension of sustainable settlement. This relates to the economic potential associated with tourism, attracting skills into the service and knowledge economy, as well as the wellbeing and dignity of communities of all income groups. Low density urban sprawl continues, which encourages private vehicular travel, compromising the viability of public transport and undermining inclusive economic growth.

IMPROVE INTER AND INTRA-REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

- Strengthen functional linkages and transport connections between rural settlements and regional service centres in order to ensure spatial integration and associated economic resilience at all scales.
- Mono-functional land uses, urban sprawl and remote developments increase the need to travel within and between regions. Many developments are taking place on cheap land at the urban fringes, dissipating the core of public transport and undermining accessibility.

PROMOTE COMPACT, MIXED USE AND INTEGRATED SETTLEMENTS

- Promote functional integration as a key component of achieving improved levels of settlement livability.
- Counter decentralisation through densification and infill development.

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