



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

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ACHIEVEMENTS | MARCH 2021

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# Overview

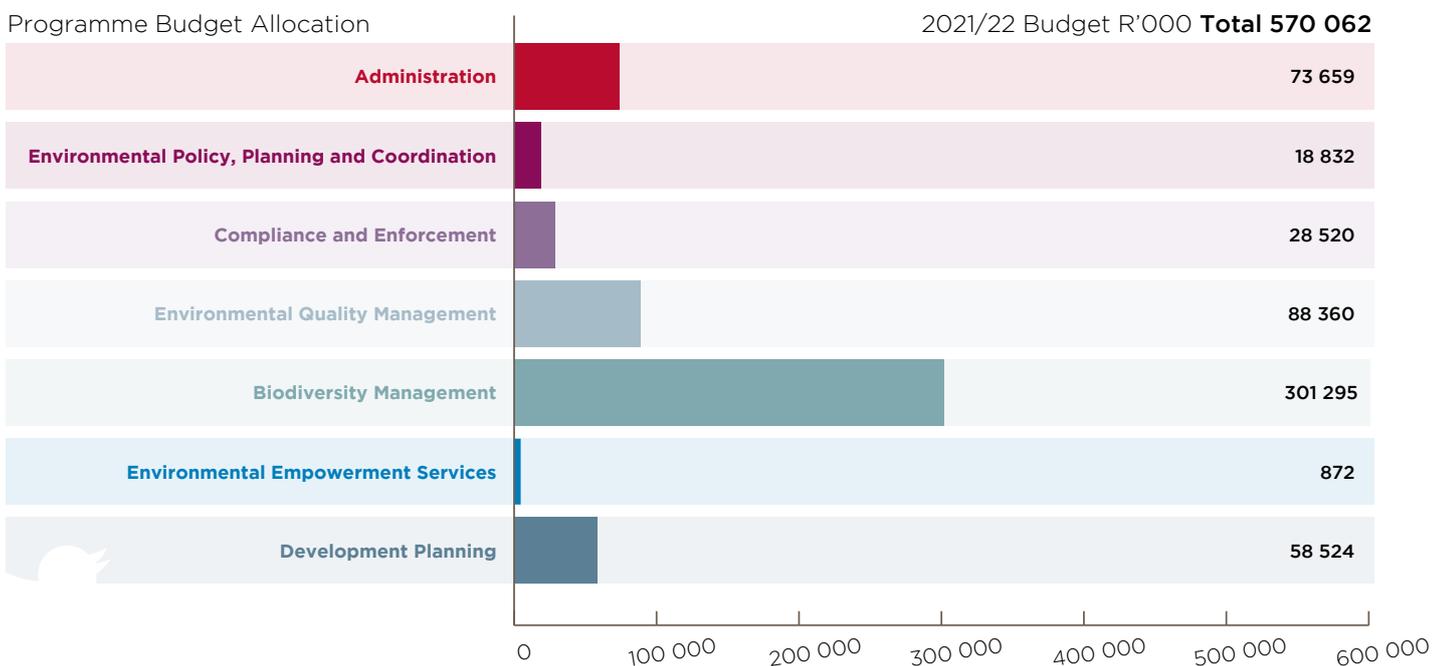
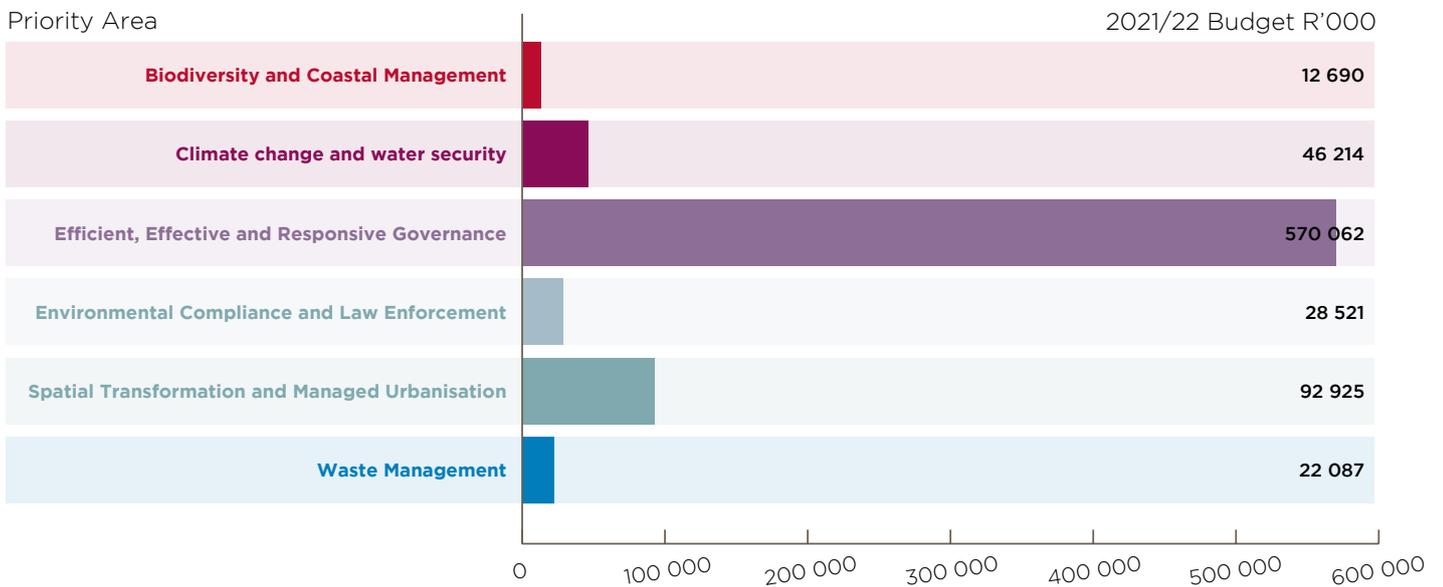
The Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 is informed by Minister Anton Bredell's Apex and Safety Priorities, for this term of office.

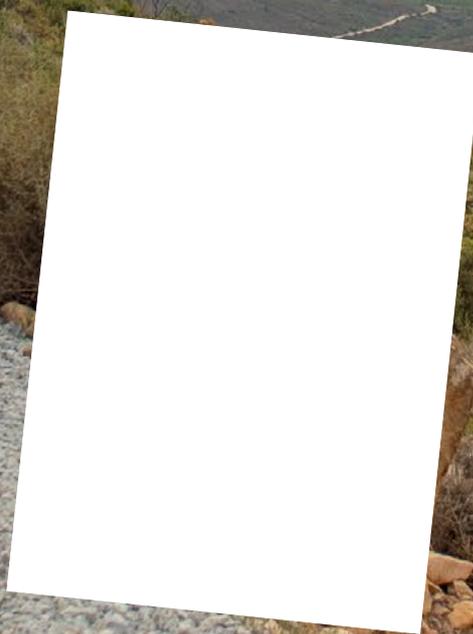
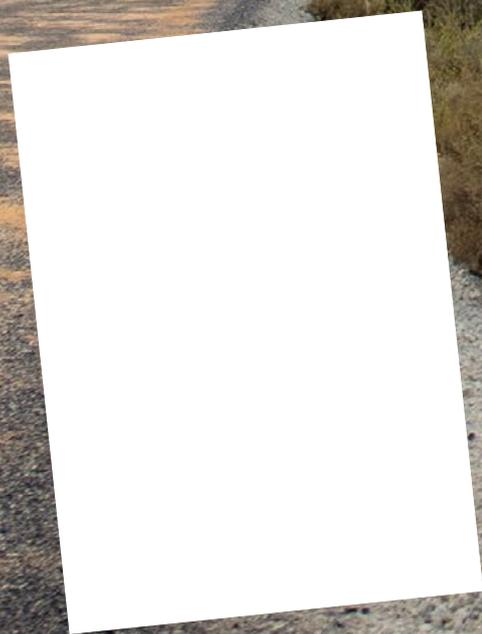
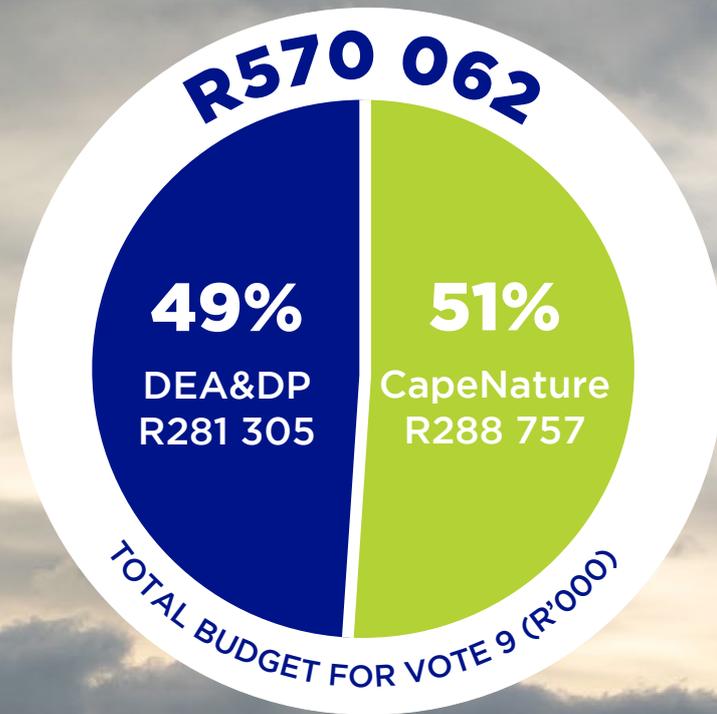
**Apex Priority** "Resource resilience for towns, aimed at growth."

**Safety Priority:** "Spatial integration to build social cohesion and connected, safer spaces in our towns."

To enable the Province to achieve a more resilient and sustainable environment, that will also empower an inclusive and transformative spatial economy, the Department will be focusing on the following six Strategic Priority Areas in the 2020-2025 period:

- Spatial Transformation and Managed Urbanisation
- Climate Change and Water Security inclusive of Air Quality Management
- Waste Management
- Biodiversity Management and Coastal Management
- Environmental Compliance and Law Enforcement
- Efficient, Effective and Responsive Governance





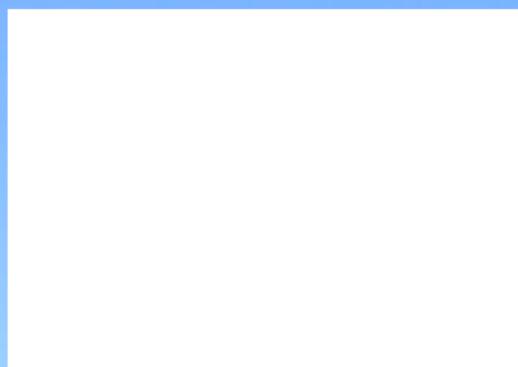


# Spatial transformation and managed urbanisation

This WCG flagship programme, initiated via Cabinet approval in 2013 and with DEA&DP as the lead Department, will continue through the 2020-2024. This transversal Programme enjoys the commitment and active participation of almost

all the WCG Departments. There are currently twelve beneficiary municipalities in the Programme (Saldanha Bay, Swartland, Bergrivier, Witzenberg, Breede Valley, Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas,

Prince Albert, Mossel Bay and Bitou) and 15 participating towns (Saldanha Bay, Malmesbury, Darling, Piketberg, Ceres, Worcester, Touws River, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Villiersdorp, Bredasdorp, Prince Albert, Mossel Bay and Plettenberg Bay).



# Practical spatial upliftment through the RSEP Programme

The RSEP Programme, initiated through Cabinet approval in 2013 and with DEA&DP as the lead Department, is aimed at social- and spatial upliftment through

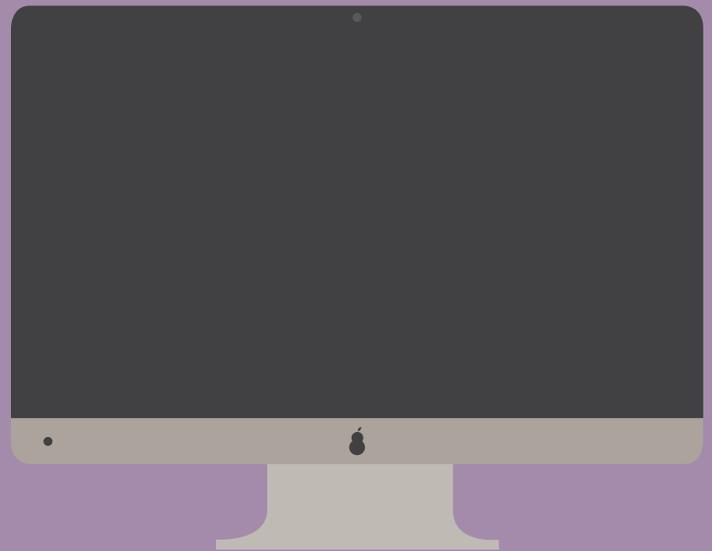
neighbourhood development and spatial restructuring. Currently there are twelve municipalities benefitting directly from the Programme, namely Saldanha Bay, Swartland,

Bergrivier, Witzenberg, Breede Valley, Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas, Prince Albert, Mossel Bay and Bitou.

Highlights from 2020/2021 were the completion of the following projects:

- Two multi-purpose youth and LED hubs in Mossel Bay;
- A pedestrian route and LED hub in Porterville;
- A multi-purpose 'Active Safety Box' in Piketberg;
- A container LED park in Bredasdorp;
- A public square and youth hub in Plettenberg Bay.

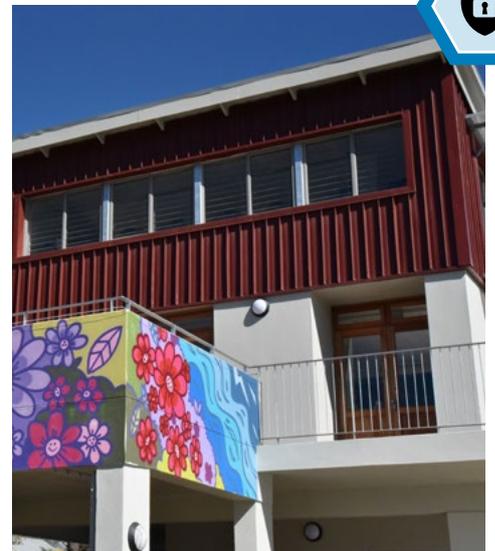
It should be noted that several projects are still under construction but should be completed by the end of the municipal financial year (June 2021).



Towards the end of this financial year, RSEP became responsible for establishing a cross-departmental Community of Practice for Safety and Dignity through Design and

also started to support the Dept of Human Settlements with three pilot approaches to the planning of the Priority Human Settlement and Housing Development Areas

(PHSHDAs), as proclaimed by the national department. RSEP is also reaching out to two new municipalities to assist with area-based planning.



# Climate Change and Water Security

The WCG, under the leadership of the Department, continues its global contributions under The Climate Group – States and Regions Alliance and the **Under2 Coalition**, in responding to climate change as a regional government, by announcing that it would undertake a **2050 Emissions Pathway Analysis**. The 2050 Emissions Pathway Analysis will be used to set targets and identify associated actions, that need to be implemented by 2050 to support the just transition to a low carbon economy.

The Department has a mandate to coordinate and mainstream climate change response in the Western Cape. To do this, multiple research products have been commissioned over the years to inform sector decision-making, as well as supporting various departments. We have had a climate policy for more than a decade but continue to struggle to adequately implement due to competing institutional priorities. The climate change landscape has significantly changed since the approval of the Western Cape Climate Change Response

Strategy (2014) and as such, will be undergoing a review followed by an intensive stakeholder co-creation process among all 13 WCG Departments, to assist in adjusting the way of doing business to respond to climate change.

As part of implementing the Western Cape’s 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Air Quality Management Plan (2016) and SMART-air Programme, the Department continues to monitor ambient air quality at 12 locations in the Province. Given that climate change and air pollution are inextricably linked, the air quality data collected informs the Departments’ management interventions in respect of climate change and air pollution mitigation in the Western Cape.

Furthermore, through a Western Cape Government and Free State of Bavaria partnership, the Department is implementing a transversal Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) Partnership Project on the transitioning to natural refrigerant technologies in the Province. Apart from facilitating the “cool-training”

of South African RAC experts in Bavaria, a training course on natural refrigerant technologies is being developed for implementation at a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution in the Western Cape. This is the first TVET training facility in the Province to offer RAC training that incorporates sustainable and environmentally friendly refrigerants. Emissions from such refrigerants (e.g. hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, ammonia, water and air) have a negligible impact on the environment, as opposed to hydrofluorcarbon (HFCs) refrigerants that are currently used in RAC applications. HFCs contribute to global warming when they leak during operation, servicing or when an appliance is recycled or scrapped.

Ongoing monitoring of Water Quality is taking place in both the Berg and Breede River and Estuary to identify and address pollution sources, identify water quality trends and to monitor the effectiveness of interventions implemented.



# Waste Management

An Intergovernmental Task Team was established by the DEA&DP in collaboration with the provincial DoH, to adopt a more proactive approach on monitoring the HCRW streams being generated at health care facilities, as well as the treatment and disposal thereof by HCRW service providers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (“cradle to grave”).

Waste Workstream meetings with Waste Management Officers, Environmental Health Practitioners and Environmental Health Staff from provincial DoH continued to coordinate and monitor the WCG waste management response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings were reduced to once a fortnight, with the decline in active new cases in the Province. The waste worker surveys to monitor effective implementation of the waste management guidelines and protocols, as well as waste worker infections continued to be conducted once a month.

The Department also played a lead role in setting up the Waste Picker Support system, which will assisted waste pickers financially during the pandemic, as well as provided appropriate personal protective equipment.



## Managing COVID-19 Waste

# Biodiversity and Coastal Management

The systematic and participative implementation of the Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Provincial Biodiversity Economy Strategy, the Provincial Coastal Management Programme as well as the Provincial Estuary Management Programme enables the alignment of the plans of all spheres of government and external partners. This alignment and support of biodiversity conservation and coastal management improves the resilience of ecosystem goods and services and ensures that development in the Province is sustainable and resilient. The implementation of the Coastal

Management Lines focused first on the City of Cape Town, which has allowed the Department to pilot this important legal mechanism to support coastal resilience.

The implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting System for the Performance of CapeNature and the oversight system for Western Cape Biosphere Reserves, in terms of transfer payments continues to be a priority. This is foundational to good governance in the sector to effect alignment of key agencies and partners to the Provincial and National priorities.



The development of an **Ecological Infrastructure Investment Framework** has provided an important mechanism for the coordination of investment into priority ecological infrastructure that can enable the most strategic returns in addressing critical climate and water risks. The initiative has been positioned within the WC Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and has been included in funding requests for the Presidential Jobs Stimulus Package.



# Environmental Compliance and Law Enforcement

An intense enforcement campaign consisting of a series of inter-governmental compliance and enforcement blitz operations (“the Blitz Operations”) was conducted in conjunction with the DoH, the DEFF, the City and other District Municipalities.

Four intergovernmental Blitz Operations were successfully executed, comprising of 42 compliance inspections conducted at various hospitals (provincial

and private hospitals), Community Health Centres, Municipal health clinics, HCRW service providers, crematoriums and Quarantine & Isolation facilities, situated within the provincial District Hotspot Areas.

In addition, as one of the members of the Compliance and Enforcement Working Group, (under Operation Phakisa: Initiative 5), the Department participated in “Operation 30 Days at Sea”. This is the INTERPOL led global law enforcement operation

targeting marine and coastal pollution crimes, particularly illegal discharges from land and vessels, as well as illegal dumping at sea. The operation was conducted in three provinces simultaneously, over the period of 10 - 16 October 2019, in which the Western Cape Enforcement Agencies focused on the Port of Cape Town and Overberg Area (where marine poaching is prevalent).

The Department entered into a collaboration agreement with SANBI to appoint additional specialist resources to assist, with the responses to unlawful clearing and biodiversity matters. The Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement (D:ELE) appointed a specialist botanist and three graduate interns with botanica and conservation backgrounds to bolster the skills set.

Through this project, the Department was able to improve its response to unlawful clearing by conducting its botanical investigations, without relying on other parties and therefore was able to critically review the reports that were submitted. With the additional botanical expertise, the Department was able:

- to improve its biodiversity-investigation capacity;
- incorporate biodiversity priorities into enforcement activities;
- develop and present training and awareness on biodiversity-related impacts of unlawful clearing; and
- develop operational procedures when attending to clearing matters.

**79** site inspections  
**4** awareness raising interventions  
**2** blitz enforcement operations

At the South African Eco Logic Awards Ceremony, the hard work and efforts of the Department’s D:ELE SANBI Team won Silver in the Biodiversity Category and Phil McLean, the SANBI Botanist, won Gold in the Eco Warrior category.

This project enabled the D:ELE to improve networking and capacity-building; and to include biodiversity parameters into its case database, to improve recording impacts on biodiversity.

# Efficient, Effective and Responsive Governance

The primary aim for the Department is to ensure that the audit opinion obtained is unqualified, an indication that the Department manages its finances effectively and complied with all the relevant financial prescripts. The Department via this output, will ensure that it strengthen and maintain governance and accountability.

## The Vision-Inspired Priorities



A province in which we all feel safe.

**SAFETY**



A province in which our hard work and dedication brings us success.

**ECONOMY**



A province in which our children grow up healthy and are prepared for tomorrow's economy.

**EMPOWERMENT**



A province in which people can live with dignity.

**TRANSPORT AND SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION**



A province in which we embrace new ideas, and always do the right thing.

**INNOVATION & CULTURE**

# Gender Mainstreaming Forum

The Gender Mainstreaming Forum drives the gender mainstreaming agenda, directs strategic engagement in order for the Departmental activities, projects and programmes to be transformed appropriately and provides guidance with respect to the Department's Gender Mainstreaming efforts.



# OUR CORE VALUES

These values are our guiding principles for what we stand for and believe in.



## Caring

To care for those we serve and work with.



## Competence

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



## Accountability

We take responsibility.



## Integrity

To be honest and do the right thing.



## Innovation

To be open to new ideas and develop creative solutions to problems in a resourceful way.



## Responsiveness

To serve the needs of our citizens and employees.

### CONTACT US

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