

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, as amended (NEM: WA) requires that provincial governments and municipalities develop Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs) to ensure proper waste management planning. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Western Cape IWMP for 2022-2027 (WC IWMP) aims to provide strategic direction for waste management in the Province over the short, medium and long-term.

The specific objectives of the WC IWMP are:

- to provide an analysis of the status of implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation IWMP 2017-2022;
- to provide an overview of the achievements in the province in terms of waste management;
- to provide an overview of the identified waste management gaps and needs in the province;
- to develop a set of goals, objectives, activities and targets that respond to the identified gaps and needs; and
- to take cognisance of aspects relating to gender equality, human rights, socio-economic development, sustainability of waste services, and environmental impacts when developing goals, objectives, activities and targets.

The WC IWMP aligns with the global Sustainable Development Goals, and various key national and provincial policies. The WC IWMP specifically aligns with the National Waste Management Strategy, 2020, which promotes the waste management hierarchy and a shift towards a circular economy. The WC IWMP highlights waste management linkages and cross-cutting issues such as climate change, sustainable consumption and production, job creation, poverty reduction, and health and environmental impacts. A separate Gender Gap Analysis of the WC IWMP was undertaken, which aims to ensure that planned waste management activities are responsive to gender and human rights issues.

To obtain an understanding of the status quo of waste management situation in the province, a Situational Analysis was undertaken, which included an overview of demographic, economic and waste management aspects.

### **Socio-economic profile**

The Western Cape accounts for 12% (49% males and 51 % females) of the estimated South African total population of 59.62 million (StatsSA, 2020). The province has a larger proportion of the elderly (6.8%) compared to the national average (6.1%) but has a smaller proportion of children (24.4% provincially compared to 29.6% nationally) (Provincial Treasury, 2020). The

bulk (65.7%) of the province's population resides in the City of Cape Town (Provincial Treasury, 2020). This translates to a higher demand for services, including refuse collection. During the first quarter of 2020, the Western Cape had a narrow unemployment rate of 20.9% and an expanded unemployment rate of 24.8% (Provincial Treasury, 2020). Household income declined by 0.25% on average between 2015 to 2019 with an average annual household income growth of 1.4% that slowed to 1% (Provincial Treasury, 2020).

#### ● **Service levels**

During 2019, 99.1 % of households had access to piped water, 93.1 % of households had access to electricity, and 91.2 % had access to sanitation (Provincial Treasury, 2020). The most recent waste management service levels indicate that 96.9% of households have access to refuse removal services.

#### ● **Western Cape economy**

The Western Cape economy enjoyed continued growth over the last decade, however the average growth rate gradually slowed since 2011 to an average annual growth of 1.9% between 2010 and 2019. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns during 2020, the Western Cape economy suffered along with the rest of South Africa. The tourism and hospitality sectors suffered significant losses, while agriculture was the only sector that contributed positively to GDP growth (Provincial Treasury, 2020).

#### ● **Overview of waste management**

In the Western Cape, municipalities and industry are required to report waste disposal and diversion data on the provincial Integrated Pollutant and Waste Information System (IPWIS) on a monthly basis. The data is then uploaded to the national South African Waste Information System (SAWIS). There are however registered private and municipal facilities that consistently do not report to IPWIS.

According to IPWIS, most of the waste generated in the province is disposed of i.e. between 72% and 78% of waste was disposed of per year during 2018-2021 and 28% and 22% of waste was diverted. A large portion of garden waste and construction and demolition waste that enters Waste Disposal Facilities (WDFs) is diverted, however only a small percentage of municipal waste that enters WDFs is diverted. Municipalities have undertaken several waste minimisation initiatives to support diversion. These include separation-at-source initiatives e.g. split-bag systems, the establishment of materials recovery facilities (MRFs) as well as supporting swap shops and buy-back centres. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (hereafter referred to as the "Department") has also undertaken several waste minimisation initiatives specifically aimed at providing waste minimisation training to a wide range of stakeholders, including municipal officials and waste collection staff, Expanded Public Works Programme workers, private recyclers, and the youth working

in waste management. In recent years, the Department has focussed on organic waste diversion initiatives to assist municipalities in meeting the provincial organic waste diversion targets of 50% diversion by 2022 and 100% diversion by 2027. Other key waste types that the Department has focussed on in recent years includes household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste, e-waste and sewage sludge.

One of the key drivers for moving away from waste disposal is the limited landfill airspace availability in municipalities. Since many of the existing WDFs will run out of airspace within the near future, municipalities will have to bear higher development and operational costs to increase available airspace. Some municipalities are currently struggling to ensure that existing WDFs meet their Waste Management Licence conditions, which could lead to environmental and health impacts. Other key compliance issues that remain a challenge in the province is widespread illegal dumping and littering. Various measures have been put in place by municipalities to tackle this issue. During 2021/22, the Department developed a Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping in the Western Cape Province, which will be rolled out over the next few years.

The NEM: WA requires the designation, in writing, of provincial and municipal waste management officers (WMOs) to coordinate waste management matters. To improve the governance of waste management in the province, the Department maintains regular contact with WMOs e.g. through the establishment of a Provincial WMOs' Forum where feedback is provided on the issues emanating from the various District WMOs' Forums. Currently, 26 of the 30 municipalities have designated WMOs. The provincial WMO is Mr Saliem Haider.

In terms of waste management planning, approximately half of municipalities in the province have IWMPs which are endorsed. Municipalities within the Central Karoo District are being assisted with funding to develop their IWMPs through the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Challenges include that some municipalities have outdated IWMPs, which must be reviewed to ensure that they are still relevant. Further challenges are that IWMP/Integrated Development Plan integration needs to be improved and there needs to be improved monitoring and reporting to ensure that planned activities are implemented.

A gap and needs analysis was undertaken which identified the waste management challenges in the province.

## ● **Gap and needs analysis**

A gap and needs analysis identified waste management gaps and needs in the province that need to be addressed to achieve the desired-end state for waste management. The identification of waste management gaps was from the following sources:

- An analysis of the extent of implementation of the WC IWMP 2017-2022;
- Situational Analysis;
- Gender Gap Analysis; and
- Consultation and engagement with internal and external stakeholders.

Priority needs were formulated based on the gaps identified and are indicated below:

- Accurate and consistent (reliable) waste data from industry and municipalities.
- Targeted waste education and awareness programmes, which include various role-players.
- Improved access to waste collection services, specifically in underserved areas.
- Improved promotion of prevention, reduction, re-use and recovery of waste to support a circular economy.
- Integrated waste management infrastructure for recovery, treatment and disposal and an increase in compliance with waste management legislation.
- Strengthened governance and partnerships and ensuring sustainable financial management.
- Respond to the needs of women and other vulnerable groups.

The prioritised needs above informed the development of strategic goals and objectives.

## ● **Strategic goals and objectives**

Four strategic goals were identified and align to the NWMS, 2020. Each goal has objectives, which will assist in meeting the goal. The strategic goals and objectives are indicated below:

- *Goal 1: Strengthened education, capacity, awareness and advocacy towards Integrated Waste Management*
  - Objective 1: Facilitate industry responsibility in integrated waste management;
  - Objective 2: Create awareness and education of integrated waste management; and
  - Objective 3: Build and strengthen integrated waste management capacity.

**Expected outcome:** Improved waste management and the prevention of pollution, litter and illegal dumping.

- *Goal 2: Improved integrated waste management planning and implementation for efficient waste services, technologies and infrastructure*

- Objective 1: Facilitate municipal integrated waste management planning;
- Objective 2: Promote industry waste management planning and the circular economy;
- Objective 3: Promote the establishment of integrated waste management infrastructure and services; and
- Objective 4: Ensure effective and efficient waste information.

**Expected Outcome:** All citizens of the Western Cape live in clean communities and have access to well managed and financially sustainable waste services.

- *Goal 3: Effective and efficient utilisation of resources*

- Objective 1: Minimise the consumption of natural resources and promote the circular economy;
- Objective 2: Stimulate job creation within the waste economy; and
- Objective 3: Increase waste diversion through reuse, recovery and recycling.

**Expected outcome:** The reduction of waste to landfill through increased re-use, recycling, recovery, refurbishment and alternative waste treatment.

- *Goal 4: Improved compliance with the environmental regulatory framework*

- Objective 1: Strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement;
- Objective 2: Facilitate the rehabilitation of Waste Management Facilities

**Expected outcome:** Creating a culture of compliance with zero tolerance towards pollution, littering and illegal dumping.

Actions for implementation were identified to support the strategic goals and objectives and included in an implementation plan. Timeframes, responsibility and output indicators for each activity is included in the implementation plan. Activities will be monitored to ensure implementation.

- **Monitoring, Review and Reporting**

Monitoring the implementation of the WC IWMP must be undertaken as it is an essential part of the planning process. The implementation plan includes output indicators, which will be used to assist with monitoring. Annual performance reports will be used to monitor progress and to ensure that actions are implemented.