



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



Department of Local Government
Western Cape Disaster Management Centre

Provincial Disaster Management Centre Annual Report 2024-25

Department of Local Government
Western Cape Disaster Management Centre

**PROVINCIAL
DISASTER MANAGEMENT
CENTRE**

**Annual Report
2024 - 25**

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ACRONYMS

APP	Annual Performance Plan
CoCT	City of Cape Town
CoGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional affairs
CWDM	Cape Winelands District Municipality
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
DMA	Disaster Management Act
DOTP	Department of the Premier
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSD	Department of Social Development
DST	Decision Support Tool
EOL	End of Life
EOS	End of Service
FBA	Fire Brigade Act
FBS	Fire Brigade Services
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRDM	Garden Route District Municipality
HOC	Head of Centre
HOD	Head of Department
HVC	Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity
IDDRR	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IMORG	Incident Management Organisation
IT	Information Technology
KNPS	Koeberg Nuclear Power Station
MDRG	Municipal Disaster Recovery/Response Grant
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NDMF	National Disaster Management Framework
NNR	National Nuclear Regulator
OCIMS	Oceans and Coastal Information Management System
PCDC	Provincial Communicable Disease Control
PDRG	Provincial Disaster Response/Recovery Grant
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
PDMAF	Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum
PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Centre
PROVJOINT	Provincial Joint Operations Centre
RDM	Rheinmetall Denel Munition
SALGA	South African Local Government Association

SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency
SAPS	South African Police Services
SASSA	South African Social Services Agency
SAWS	South African Weather Services
SDR	Spatial Data Repository
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UKZN	University of KwaZulu Natal
WCDLG	Western Cape Department of Local Government
WCDMC	West Coast Disaster Management Centre
WC: PDMC	Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre
WCSRAM	Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology
WWTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Leadership Through Uncertainty: Protecting Communities, Building the Future

It is a privilege to reflect on a year of challenge, resilience, and recovery as we present the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WC: PDMC). This report captures the province's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its people, infrastructure, and environment amid increasingly frequent and complex disasters.

The devastating storm systems that battered our province, the Swartland dam collapse, and the tragic building collapse in George reminded us all of the evolving and unpredictable nature of disaster risks. These events were not just tests of infrastructure—they were tests of governance, readiness, and compassion. And yet, our province rose to the occasion.

Thanks to the coordination led by the WC: PDMC, we ensured a comprehensive and timely response. Importantly, no fatalities were recorded in our flooding response, a testament to our growing capabilities in early warning, emergency coordination, and preparedness. Our ability to mobilise over R55 million in additional national funding in a matter of weeks was made possible by institutional trust, sound governance, and effective planning.

But recovery is not just about rebuilding, it is about building back better. That is why I am particularly proud of the strides we made in long-term resilience: updating our provincial risk profile for the first time since 2019; revising our strategic frameworks; developing our local government officials through a first-of-its-kind Learning Programme; and establishing the Inter-Departmental Head of Department (HOD) Committee to ensure strategic integration across the province.



Figure 1: Mr AW Bredell: Minister of
Local Government, Environmental
Affairs and Development Planning

We also strengthened frontline response capabilities with significant support from the Department:

- R10,541 million in grant funding was made available for firefighting vehicles, flood response equipment, hazardous materials tools, and smoke alarms,
- An additional R19 million was committed to Aerial Firefighting and Ground Support under the Integrated Fire Management Programme, and
- The Department proudly supported Drakenstein Municipality in hosting International Firefighters' Day on 04 May 2025, celebrating the service and sacrifice of fire personnel.

We must also acknowledge the Centre's commitment to transparency and accountability. The monitoring of 15 municipal recovery programmes, coupled with clear reporting and active steering committees, sets a national standard for effective disaster grant management.

As climate change accelerates and vulnerabilities shift, our mission must remain both reactive and transformative. We must empower communities,

professionalise our institutions, and mainstream disaster risk reduction into every sector of our governance.

To the team at the WC: PDMC, our local government colleagues, emergency services, and community organisations, thank you. Your work saves lives and strengthens futures.

Let us continue to build a Western Cape where disaster resilience is not an ambition, but a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bredell', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Mr A Bredell
Minister of Local Government, Environmental
Affairs and Development Planning
Western Cape Government

FOREWORD BY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Harnessing Strategic Governance for a Resilient Province

The 2024/25 reporting period once again demonstrated the strategic importance of effective disaster management in the Western Cape. As the Western Cape Department of Local Government (WCDLG), we are proud to support the WC: PDMC in delivering on its mandate to reduce risk, respond to crises, and coordinate recovery in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, and institutionally sound.

This year saw the province respond to a convergence of serious disasters, including the widespread floods from multiple storm systems, the Swartland dam failure, and the George building collapse. Each of these events required not only an emergency response but also deep interdepartmental coordination, clear governance structures, and robust oversight of public resources. The WC: PDMC facilitated these processes with professionalism and urgency, supported by this department's leadership on municipal infrastructure recovery and institutional alignment.

Strategically, 2024/25 was a year of institutional consolidation and forward-looking innovation. We convened eight multi-stakeholder platforms, including Heads of Centres and the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum, to ensure strategic alignment across departments and municipalities. The newly established Inter-Departmental HOD Committee on Disaster Management represents a major institutional milestone. It serves as a cross-sectoral oversight body, tasked with guiding disaster-related policy development, public awareness, and capacity building, areas which are essential to our shared vision of a disaster-resilient province.

To further strengthen operational capabilities, the Department supported:

- Seven Fire Safety Training Courses across district and local municipalities,
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training Courses, including Incident Management Exercise (IMT), Operations Section, and Resource Unit Leader modules, and
- A dedicated 2-day Fire Partnership Engagement held in May, aimed at fostering alignment and coordination among public and private fire sector stakeholders.



Figure 2: Mr G Paulse: Head of Department: Local Government

The Department also championed the rollout of the Disaster Management Learning Programme and internship framework, which reflect our long-term investment in capacity development at local level. These initiatives are key to professionalising the disaster management sector and ensuring that municipalities are not only reactive but prepared and adaptive in the face of growing risks.

Looking forward, we are committed to continued innovation in risk profiling, institutional capacity building, and disaster financing. The Department remains fully aligned with the provincial vision to integrate disaster risk reduction into all facets of governance, ensuring that developmental planning, service delivery, and emergency response are mutually reinforcing.

My appreciation goes to the team at the WC: PDMC, our colleagues across government, and all the partners who played a role in this year's impactful outcomes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Paulse', written in a cursive style.

Mr G Paulse
Head of Department
Western Cape Department of Local Government

FOREWORD BY THE HEAD OF PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Towards a Disaster-Resilient Western Cape

The 2024/25 financial year has once again highlighted the Western Cape's growing exposure to complex and compounding disaster risks be they climatic, structural, or socio-economic in nature. In this context, the WC: PDMC has remained steadfast in its mandate: to lead, coordinate, and support an integrated and multi-sectoral disaster management system that enhances resilience and safeguards communities across the province.

The year was marked by multiple severe storm systems, especially between April and August 2024, which caused flooding and widespread damage across the West Coast, Cape Winelands, Overberg Districts, and the City of Cape Town. The tragic dam failure in Swartland Municipality in August 2024 significantly impacted Riverlands and prompted one of our most intensive multi-stakeholder response operations to date. These disasters were managed alongside one of the most devastating structural collapses in the province's history, the George building collapse on 6 May 2024, which tested our coordination capabilities under pressure. The WC: PDMC led a multi-agency rescue operation that successfully saved 29 lives, demonstrating the effectiveness of integrated emergency management.

Our recovery efforts have been equally substantial. Over R2 billion in disaster funding from the national government has been allocated over the past five years to support municipalities and sector departments, of which a significant share was mobilised in 2024/25. The Centre provided oversight on the implementation of Municipal and Provincial Disaster Response/Recovery Grants (MDRG/PDRG), with 15 municipalities benefiting this year alone. From George's R237 million recovery programme to critical repairs in Swartland and Hessequa, the Centre ensured accountability through project site visits, detailed financial reporting, and regular coordination platforms.

Institutionally, we have made significant progress. Two assistant directors were appointed to bolster the Recovery Unit, while the province-wide Disaster



Figure 3: Mr C Deiner: Head:
Provincial Disaster Management
Centre

Management Internship Programme is already contributing to capacity development in all districts. We also launched a comprehensive Disaster Management Learning Programme, designed to build core competencies in local officials over a three-year period through 16 targeted courses.

Importantly, we have revised and aligned key policy instruments, including the Western Cape Disaster Management Framework and the Preparedness, Response and Recovery Guidelines. This was achieved through broad stakeholder consultation, ensuring relevance, practicality, and alignment with legislative updates.

None of this would be possible without our partners, from provincial departments to municipalities and community-based organisations. I extend my sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to our disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts over the past year.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Deiner', written over a light grey background.

MR C DEINER
Head: Provincial Disaster Management Centre
Western Cape Department of Local Government

OFFICIAL SIGN-OFF

It is hereby certified that this Annual Report:

- Was developed by the management of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre under the guidance of the HOD: Local Government, Mr G Paulse and the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr A Bredell.
- Was prepared in line with the current Annual Performance Plan (APP) of the WCDLG and Section 36 of the Disaster Management Act 2002, as amended.



MR C DEINER

HEAD OF CENTRE: PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE



MR G PAULSE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT



MR AW BREDELL

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides general information on the WC: PDMC legislative mandate concerning the programme's strategic overview and basic organisational structure.

1.2 PURPOSE

The Chief Directorate: Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Services aims to promote an integrated, coordinated, and multi-disciplinary Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Service.

1.3 LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

The WC: PDMC draws its legislative mandate from the amended Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 and the Fire Brigade Services Act 99 of 1987. Below are some of the central legislations applicable to Disaster Management.

1.3.1 Constitution of South Africa 1996

1.3.1.1 Chapter Two of the Constitution of South Africa

All spheres of government are obligated to ensure their citizens' social and economic development while preserving the ecosystem for future generations. If these rights are achieved, it will increase the livelihood of the most vulnerable, protect the environment from degradation, and stimulate economic development that will contribute to the necessary infrastructure that could reduce the risk of disasters or the impact of disasters. The WC: PDMC must promote Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives that ensure sustainable ecological development in the Western Cape while promoting economic and social development

1.3.1.2 Chapter Three of the Constitution of South Africa

This chapter involves the cooperative government function concerning intergovernmental relations. The WC: PDMC must ensure that it observes and adheres to the principles of this chapter concerning disaster management. The WC: PDMC should conduct its activities within the parameters outlined in this chapter concerning disaster management.

1.3.1.3 Chapter Five of the Constitution of South Africa

This chapter examines the national intervention in provincial administration when a province cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in the Constitution or legislation. The WC: PDMC needs to ensure that support is rendered to the province where applicable to ensure delivery of the deliverables of its disaster obligations.

1.3.2 Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002)

This Act provides for an integrated and coordinated approach to disaster management, focused on rapid and effective response; recovery from disasters as well as the reduction of disaster risk; the establishment of provincial and municipal disaster management centres; and a framework under which the WC: PDMC operates and liaises with municipalities and relevant stakeholders on disaster-related matters.

1.3.3 Disaster Management Amendment Act, 2015 (Act 16 of 2015)

The Disaster Management Amendment Act seeks to, amongst other

- Clarify the policy focus on rehabilitation and functioning of Disaster Management Centres
- Align the functions of the Provincial and National Disaster Management Advisory Forum to accommodate the South African National Platform for DRR
- Provide for the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Service (SAPS) and any other organs of state to assist the disaster management structures
- Strengthen the disaster risk reporting system to improve the country's ability to manage potential disasters

1.3.4 Western Cape Disaster Management Framework 2010

The framework is a legal instrument specified by the Act to address the need for consistency across multiple interest groups by providing a coherent, transparent, and inclusive policy on disaster management appropriate for the Western Cape.

1.3.5 Fire Brigade Services Act (Act 99 of 1987)

The Act provides for establishing, maintaining, employing, coordinating, and standardising the Fire Brigade Services (FBS) and related matters.

1.3.6 Public Finance Management (Act 1 of 1999)

- To regulate financial management in the national government and provincial governments
- To ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets, and liabilities of governments are managed efficiently and effectively
- To provide for the responsibilities of persons entrusted with financial management in those governments
- To provide for matters related in addition to that

1.3.7 Local Government: Municipal Finance Management (Act 56 of 2003)

- To secure sound and sustainable management of the financial affairs of municipalities and other institutions within the local sphere of government
- To establish treasury norms and standards for the local sphere of government
- To provide for matters related in addition to that

1.3.8 Local Government: Municipality Systems (Act 32 of 2000)

- To provide the core principles, mechanisms, and processes necessary to allow for progressive municipal growth towards social and economic upliftment of local communities and ensure affordable universal access to essential services for all
- To provide for how municipal authority and functions are exercised and performed
- To provide for community participation
- To establish a simple and enabling framework for the core processes of planning, performance management, resource mobilisation and organisational change, which underpin the notion of developing local government

- To provide a practical framework for the local public administration and human resource development
- To empower the underprivileged and ensure municipalities put service tariffs and credit control policies in place while considering their required needs and provide a framework for the provision of services, service delivery agreements, and municipal service districts
- To provide for credit control and debt collection
- To establish a framework for support, monitoring, and standard setting across all spheres of government
- To progressively build local government into an efficient, frontline development agency capable of seamlessly integrating all spheres of government activities with their local natural environment and for the overall social and economic upliftment of communities
- To provide for legal matters about local government
- To provide for matters incidental to that

1.3.9 The Intergovernmental Relations Framework (Act 13 of 2005)

- To facilitate the coordination between the three spheres of government through the implementation of policy and legislation
- It is a framework Act, which allows flexibility between the three spheres of meeting challenges concerned with the conduct and practices of cooperative government
- It also provides for the basic architecture of intergovernmental structures and for processes to guide the settlement of intergovernmental disputes

1.4 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

1.4.1 Vision

The vision of the WC: PDMC is to promote safer, resilient and sustainable development according to Provincial Strategic Objectives.

1.4.2 Mission

The mission of the WC: PDMC is:

- To establish and maintain integrated systems and structures for disaster management
- To conduct, identify and prioritise hazards and vulnerabilities in the province
- To develop and implement Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention mitigation and preparedness) projects and programmes
- To develop and implement effective and rapid emergency/disaster response and recovery mechanisms

1.4.3 Values

The values of the WC: PDMC, similar to those of the Western Cape Government, are:

- Caring
- Competency
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Responsiveness
- Innovation

1.4.4 The Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objectives of the WC: PDMC, as stipulated in the WCDLGs Annual Performance Plan, is depicted in Tables 1 and 2. The National Prescribed Indicator is described in Table 3. All projects have specific project plans, with 31 March 2024 as the completion date for deliverables.

The projects are as follows:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	To co-ordinate effective disaster management preparedness and recovery. To co-ordinate the reduction of potential risks posed by hazards. To improve the Fire and Rescue Services capability.
PURPOSE	To manage disaster management at the provincial and local levels to ensure the establishment of effective and efficient disaster management mechanisms.
STRATEGIC GOAL	A disaster-resilient province.

Table 1: Strategic Objectives

Programme 3: Development and Planning Sub-programme 3.2: Disaster Management and Fire Service							
Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Audited Actual Performance 2023/24	Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement for 2024/25
Safer, resilient communities and sustainable development	3.2(a) Integrated systems and structures for disaster management established and maintained	3.2.1(a) Facilitate co-ordination of disaster management partnerships	10	10	8	8	-
		3.2.2(a) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of Disaster management	1	1	1	1	-
		3.2.3(a) Development and review of the WC Disaster Management Policy Provisions	1	1	1	1	-
	3.2.(b) Effective and rapid emergency/disaster response and recovery mechanisms	3.2.1(b) Support organs of state to ensure disaster readiness and response	5	5	4	5	1
							Support includes preparedness plans such as Winter and Summer Readiness Plans, Generic Plan: Western Cape Preparedness, Response and Relief Plan (WCPRRP). Functionality of the Centre, and Debriefing Business Continuity Test for Communication during a major electrical event.

Programme 3: Development and Planning Sub-programme 3.2: Disaster Management and Fire Service								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Audited Actual Performance 2023/24	Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement for 2024/25	Reason deviations/ General comments
Safer, resilient communities and sustainable development	3.2.(b) Effective and rapid emergency/disaster response and recovery mechanisms	3.2.2(b) Co-ordinate effective disaster recovery processes to enhance resilience	3	4	1	5	4	Recovery projects implemented were: • Assessments and Verifications • Classifications and Declarations • Funding request, • Monitoring and Evaluation of funds, and • Debriefings The occurrence of disasters cannot be predicted.
	3.2 (c) Institution-alisation and advocacy of Disaster Risk Reduction	3.2.1(c) Number of Risk and Vulnerability Assessments conducted	1	2	1	2	1	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment was completed for Bergriver Municipality to pilot review and update of standardised Risk Assessment Methodology. This project was aimed at capacitating local municipalities to conduct risk assessments independently. Towards the end of the FY, additional funding became available, allowing the department to update and review the WC Provincial Disaster Risk Assessment.

Programme 3: Development and Planning Sub-programme 3.2: Disaster Management and Fire Service								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Audited Actual Performance 2023/24	Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement for 2024/25	Reason deviations/ General comments
Safer, resilient communities and sustainable development	3.2 (c) Institutionalisation and advocacy of Disaster Risk Reduction	3.2.2(c) Upgrade and maintain Disaster Management Spatial Data Repository	1	1	1	1	-	A Decision Support Tool and Dashboard Upgrade WCG PDMC was completed.
		3.2.3(c)) Number of municipalities supported in developing Disaster Risk Reduction measures in their IDPs	5	2	1	3	2	Drakenstein and Witzenberg Municipalities were supported with the development of Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction into their IDPs. Implementing the Risk Reduction and Integration into Development Planning Guideline allowed additional municipalities to be supported.
		3.2.4(c) Hazard Awareness Programme	1	1	1	1	-	The hazard awareness campaign was rolled to 40 schools across the Western Cape. Over 30,000 learners have been reached during this reporting cycle.

Programme 3: Development and Planning Sub-programme 3.2: Disaster Management and Fire Service							
Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Audited Actual Performance 2023/24	Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement for 2024/25
Safer, resilient communities and sustainable development	3.2(d) Fire and Rescue Services Capability improved	3.2.1(d) Number of training programmes to improve fire and life safety in the province	6	6	6	7	1
							Training programmes such as fire and safety legislation, fire risk assessments, fundamentals of design of engineering solutions, fundamentals of fire investigations, interpretation and application of local authority bylaws, examination of building plans and Peace Officer training were provided to municipalities.
		3.2.2(d) Number of training programmes to improve Emergency and Special Capacity capability in the province	4	3	3	3	-
							Training programmes to improve Emergency and Special Capacity in the Province were: • ICS Incident Management • ICS Operations Section Chief Training • ICS Resource Unit Leader Training.

Table 2: Outcomes, Outputs, Performance Indicators, Targets, and actual achievements

Programme 3: Development and Planning						
Sub-programme 3.2: Disaster Management and Fire Service						
Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Audited Actual Performance 2023/24	Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement for 2024/25	Reason deviations/ General comments
SPI:13 Number of municipalities supported to maintain functional Disaster Management Centres	6	6	6	6	-	All Disaster Management Centres in the Province are functional, the Department conducts quarterly monitoring of all District Municipalities and the Metro.
SPI:14 Number of municipalities supported with Fire Brigade Services	6	11	5	9	4	The following municipalities received Fire Capacity Building Grants. Cape Winelands, Garden Route, Hessequa, Prince Albert, and West Coast, while Beaufort, Central Karoo, Drakenstein and Laingsburg received Fire assessment support. This project varies based on budget availability.

Table 3: Strategic Performance Indicators: Outcomes, Outputs Performance Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievements

1.5 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The WC: PDMC is a Chief Directorate within the WCDLG. Figure 4 displays the organisational structure of the Chief Directorate: Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Services.

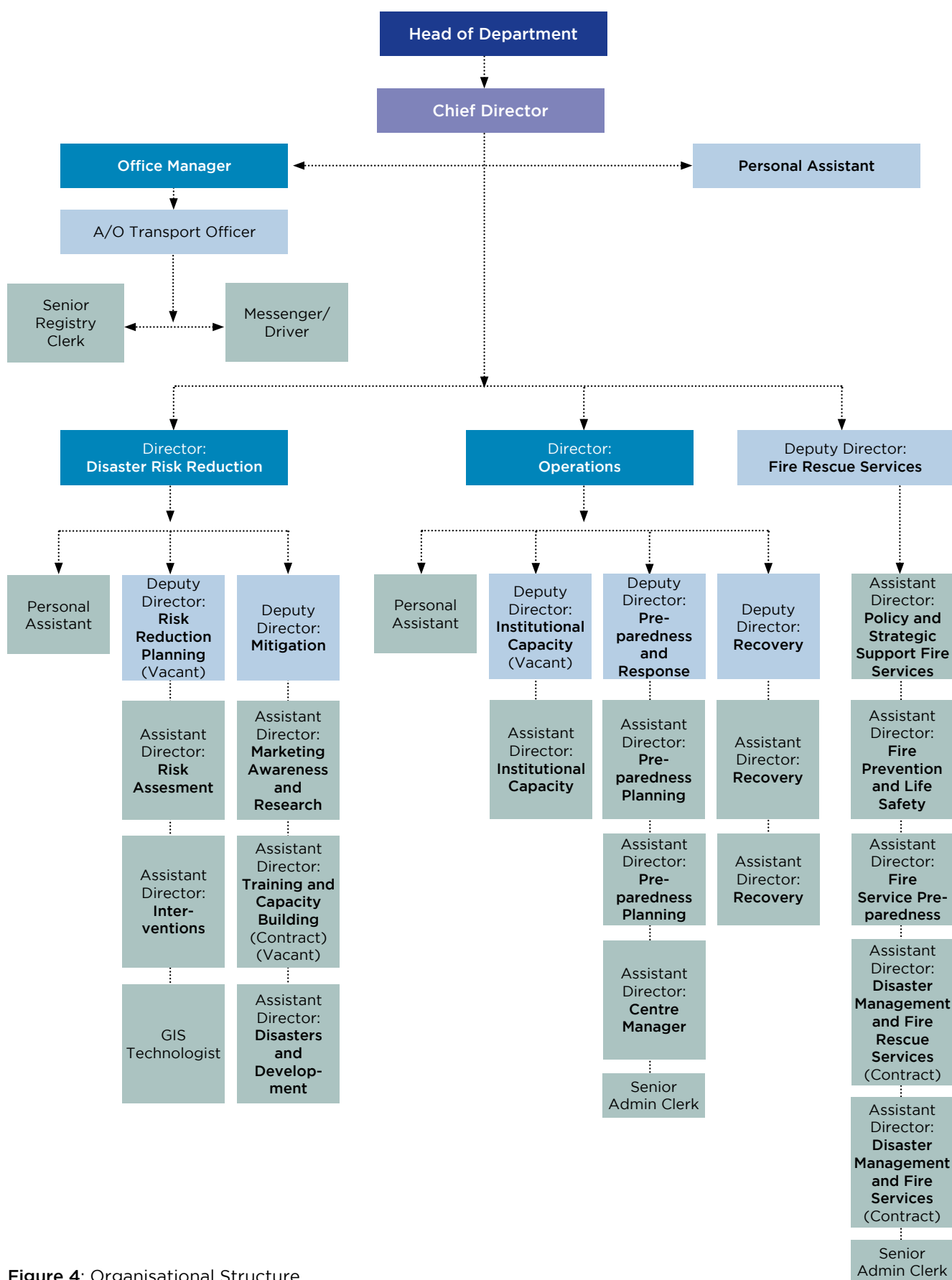


Figure 4: Organisational Structure

1.6 EXPENDITURE TRENDS

The expenditure for the WC: PDMC is reported in the Annual Financial Statements of the WCDLG. The provision of immediate relief for disasters transferred to Provincial Departments and Municipalities affected by disasters is provided through the Disaster Relief Conditional Grant funding processes. The WC: PDMC monitors these funds: as reported in Chapter 5: Disaster Response and Recovery of the Annual Report.

2

INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Integrated Institutional Capacity focuses on establishing the necessary institutional measures for implementing disaster risk management within the Western Cape. This chapter explicitly addresses applying cooperative governance principles for disaster risk management in policy formation and implementation, stakeholder engagements, international cooperation, monitoring and evaluation activities, capacity building, and challenges.

2.2 DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre has a Western Cape Disaster Management

Framework, which outlines the implementation of the Act and the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005.

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre embarked on the sixth phase of reviewing and updating the Western Cape Disaster Management Framework, considering the Disaster Management Act 16 of 2015 amendments. The WC: PDMC Framework received final comments on the framework from the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), which were considered internally by the various sub-directorates. Some of the feedback requires further discussion with the NDMC, and a meeting was requested.

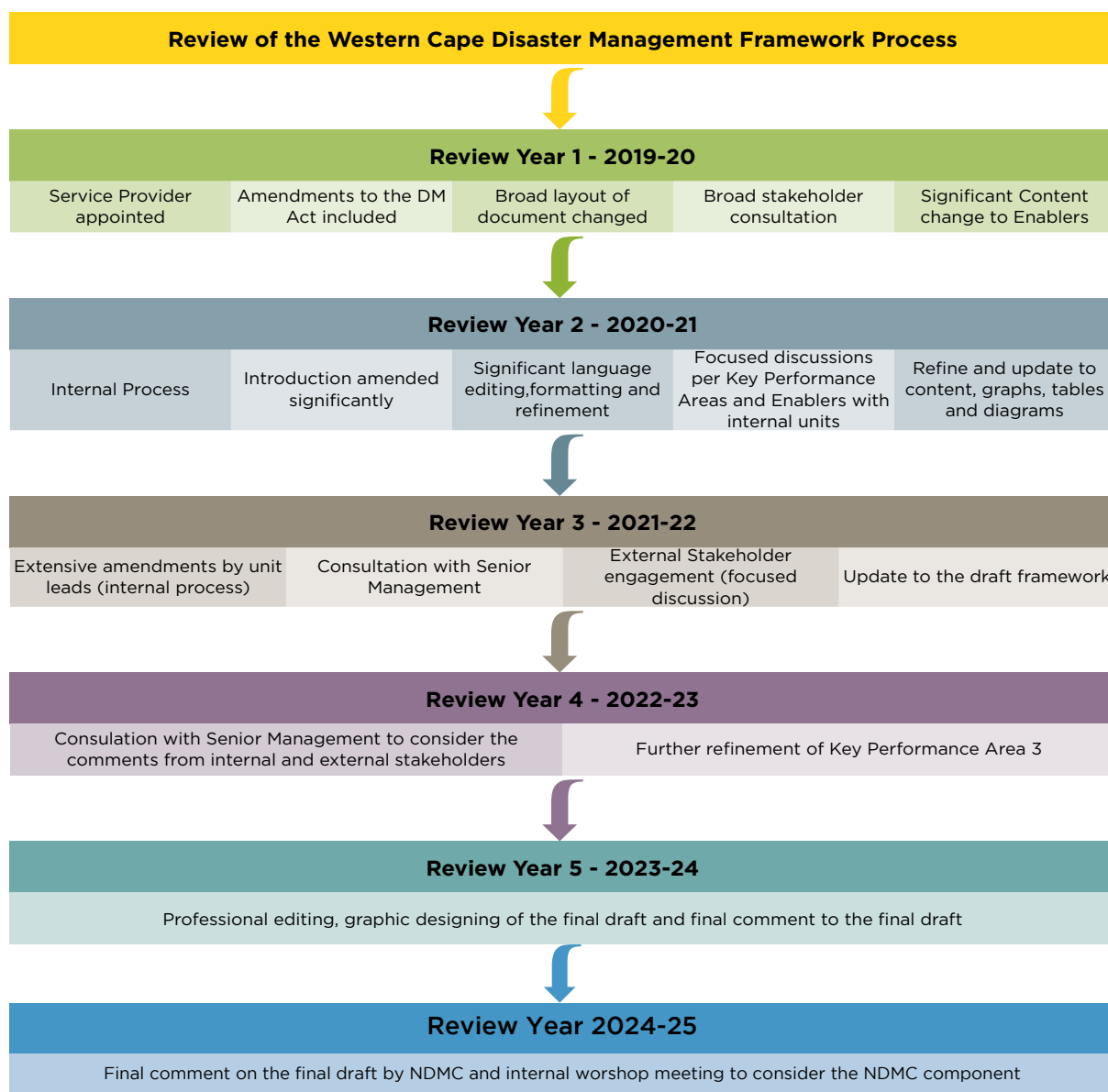


Figure 5: Western Cape Disaster Management Framework: Review process

2.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

A key feature of the WC: PDMC's approach this year involved regularly bringing together multi-stakeholder platforms to enhance coordination and exchange information among all levels of government.

In the Western Cape, various forums exist at local, provincial, and national levels to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to institutionalising disaster management, as depicted in the figure below.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDER STRUCTURES

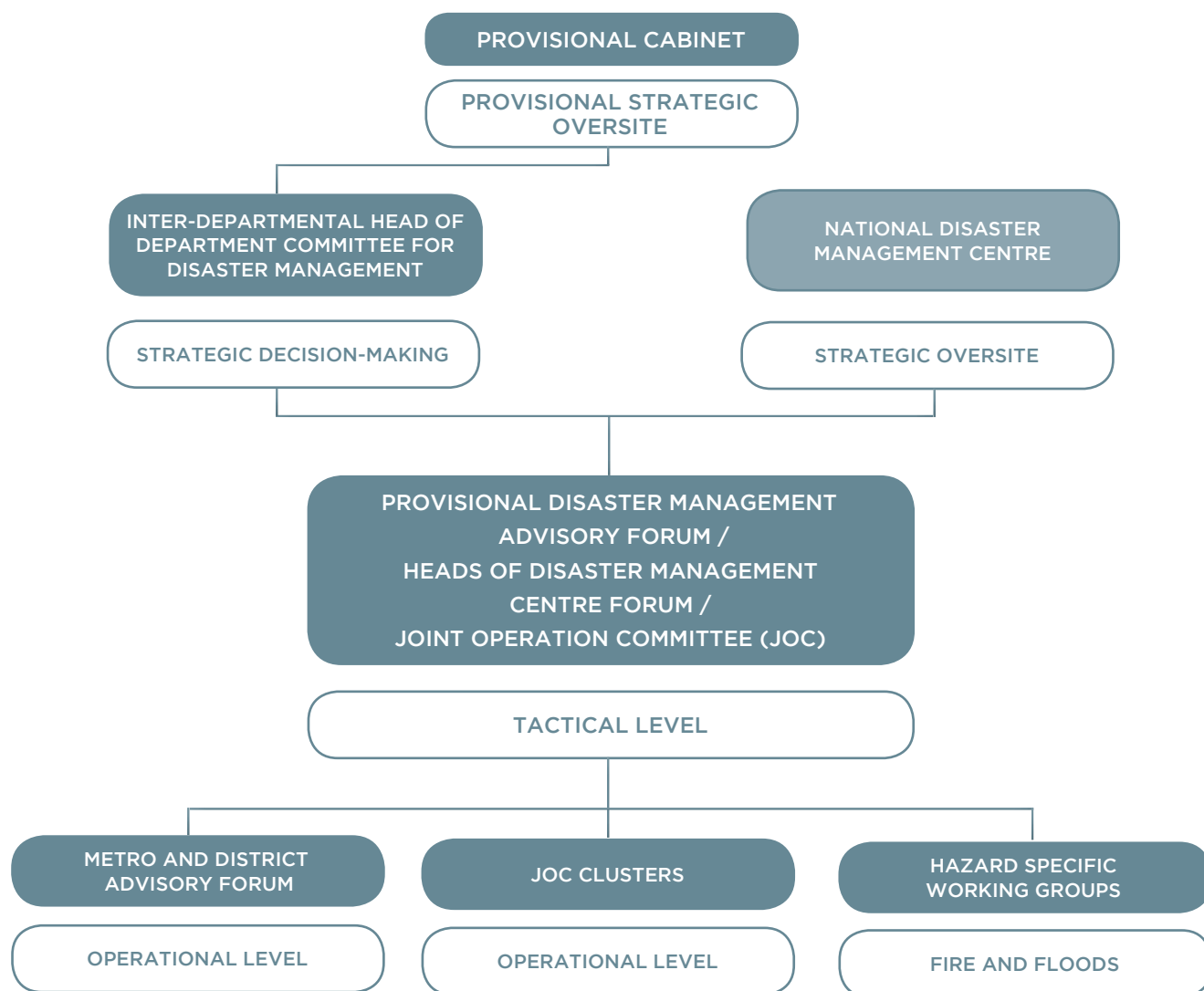


Figure 6: Disaster Management Structures

2.3.1 Heads of Centre (HOC) Forum Meetings

The HoC Forum was a key platform for engaging with Metro and District municipalities, addressing practical challenges, sharing lessons, and aligning priorities. These meetings took place on:

- **21 June 2024:** Focused on municipal disaster management updates, the humanitarian relief protocol by the Department of Social Development, the need for South African Local Government Association (SALGA) support, a proposed Swimming Pool Safety by-law, and pressing challenges in disaster recovery funding.
- **15 August 2024:** Provided a platform for reviewing municipal annual reports, discussing the Ministerial Directive on emergency housing, and introducing the Disaster Management Learning Programme.
- **8 November 2024:** Discussions turned to long-term planning, with municipalities presenting their five-year priorities, alongside a review of WC: PDMC's strategic direction. The Swimming Pool Safety By-law and forum scheduling for 2025/2026 were also addressed.
- **13 February 2025:** The final HOC Forum for the year emphasised capacity at the local government level, WC: PDMC's recent highlights, and the rollout of the SALGA WC Local Government Support Programme for the 2025/26 financial year.



Figure 7: Heads of Centre members



Figure 8: Heads of Centre Forum Meeting

2.3.2 Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum Meeting

The Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum (PDMAF) remained the WC: PDMC's principal provincial coordination platform, bringing together roughly 70–80 delegates per session to engage on disaster trends, emerging risks, and operational planning.

- **24 June 2024:** The forum examined feedback from the NDMC Advisory Forum, reviewed risk monitoring committee input, and discussed hazard monitoring, including electricity disruptions, dam levels, and public health risks. Highlights included reflections on the George Building Collapse, the Central Karoo blackout, and innovations such as smart meters and disaster nutrition products.
- **22 August 2024:** Extended earlier discussions with a focus on planning disaster risk reduction, climate change resilience, ecological infrastructure investment, and the launch of the Western Cape's 15-year Water Resilience Plan.
- **27 November 2024:** Addressed summer preparedness, veldfire planning, and reviewed foodborne illness risks related to poor hygiene.
- **20 February 2025:** Summarised key disaster events, provided a fire season update, and reviewed the forum's Terms of Reference. Hazard monitoring and the Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS) tool use continued to be key agenda items.



Figure 9: PDMAF: Mr Mark Pluke was bid a fond farewell as he retired on 31 December 2024



Figure 10: Mr Schalk Carstens (WC: PDMC) and Mr Neville van Rensburg (WCDohW) retire. Above Mr Colin Deiner and Dr Smith handing over their certificates.



Figure 11: PDMAF meeting members (Hybrid meeting)

2.3.3 Coastal PDMC Forum Management Advisory

Held on **4-5 November 2024**, the Coastal PDMC Forum convened coastal risk stakeholders to address hazards unique to the province's coastal zones. The agenda included membership selection, annual plan review, and early warning system effectiveness.

Key issues included:

- Refinement of disaster response SOPs
- Application of OCIMS tools

- Rip current modelling
- Coastal risk early warnings
- Research gaps and benchmarking

Academic partnerships were emphasised, with active collaboration from Nelson Mandela University, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN), Stellenbosch University, and Fort Hare University, highlighting the drive to integrate science and practice.



Figure 12: Coastal PDMC Forum members

2.3.4 Establishing Strategic Oversight: Inter-departmental HOD Committee

A major institutional advancement in the reporting year was the establishment of the Inter-departmental HOD Committee on Disaster Management in November 2024. Recognising the need for a whole-of-government approach, this Committee was formed to drive strategic leadership across departments.

Its core objectives include:

- **Co-ordination** across government sectors for integrated disaster risk management
- **Policy development** and framework alignment
- **Resource allocation oversight**, ensuring efficient use of funds, personnel, and equipment

- **Public awareness** campaigns to boost community resilience
- **Capacity building**, especially at the municipal level
- **Monitoring and evaluation** to assess impact and identify improvements

The Committee's inaugural meeting was held in preparation for the 2024/25 summer season, with a follow-up session being planned to focus on winter preparedness.

2.3.5 High-level and Media Engagements

The WC: PDMC maintained active visibility and leadership across multiple provincial engagements:

- **Provincial Top Management Meeting (June 2024)** – severe weather response coordination
- **Premier's Media Briefings (April 2024, 10 July 2024)** – on severe weather events and disaster response
- **Minister's Media Briefing (31 March 2025)** – on winter readiness

- **Standing Committee Engagement (3 September 2024)** – to present updates and strategic plans
- **Legal Consultations** with the Department of the Premier to define legal services support required by the WC: PDMC

These engagements helped reinforce the political and administrative importance of disaster management at the highest levels.



Figure 13: Media briefing

2.3.6 Global Partnerships and International Engagement

In line with its global outlook, the WC: PDMC worked closely with the Director of International Relations to foster connections with international partners. One highlight was the engagement with the Consular Corps, including a delegation from Turkey on 11 March 2025.

These engagements allowed the WC: PDMC to:

- Exchange knowledge and best practices
- Benchmark against international innovations
- Strengthen technical capacity
- Build a resilient global network of co-operation

By positioning itself as both a contributor to and beneficiary of global expertise, the WC: PDMC has embraced its role as a key node in international disaster risk governance.

2.3.7 Metro, District, and Municipal Disaster Management Advisory Forums

The WC: PDMC provided support to metro and district municipalities, facilitating stakeholder engagements and building partnerships to enhance disaster management efforts.

All district municipalities in the Western Cape, including Cape Winelands, Garden Route, Overberg, West Coast, and Central Karoo, as well as the City of

Cape Town, have established Disaster Management Advisory Forums and Committees. These platforms drive the implementation of disaster management initiatives within their respective areas.

The WC: PDMC actively attends these advisory forums, providing support and interventions as needed. Despite the challenges posed by frequent and severe disasters during the reporting period, the metro and districts successfully maintained their advisory forum meetings, ensuring continued collaboration and coordination in disaster management efforts.

Through this collective approach, the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre and the metro and district municipalities demonstrated their commitment to enhancing disaster resilience and mitigating the impact of disasters in the region.

2.4 Western Cape Capacity Building Initiatives

2.4.1 Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme

The WC: PDMC has implemented a range of capacity-building initiatives to strengthen disaster preparedness and response at the local level. Among these, the Graduate Disaster Management Internship Programme stands out as a flagship project designed to develop emerging talent while reinforcing municipal disaster management capabilities.



Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme Objectives

The Graduate Internship Programme is designed to:

- Equip graduates with critical skills and knowledge in disaster management
- Offer hands-on experience in real-world disaster management practices
- Strengthen the capacity of local municipalities to effectively respond and recover from disasters effectively
- Promote a culture of resilience throughout the province



Key Highlights

Comprehensive training and mentorship in disaster management principles and practices

Practical experience in conducting disaster risk assessments, emergency response and recovery operations

Collaboration with local municipalities to design and implement disaster management plans and strategies

Valuable networking opportunities with experienced disaster management professionals and key stakeholders.

Figure 14: Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme Objectives and Highlights

In 2019-20, a forward-thinking initiative took root in the field of disaster management. The WC: PDMC launched the Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme, providing a unique opportunity for a select group of graduates to develop their skills in this vital area.

In its first year, the programme supported four district municipalities – Central Karoo, Cape Winelands, West Coast, and Garden Route – with funding from the WCDLG. This enabled the appointment of four graduate interns, who set out to deepen their expertise and contribute meaningfully to improving disaster management in the Western Cape.

Despite financial constraints, the programme continued. In 2021-22, three more graduate interns were appointed, continuing the legacy. Their commitment and skills added further value to the initiative.

By 2022-23, the programme had gained momentum. Five district municipalities (Central Karoo, Cape Winelands, West Coast, Overberg, and Garden Route) received funding to host five graduate interns,

marking a significant step toward expanding disaster management capacity across the region.

The growth continued into 2023-24, with seven interns appointed. These individuals not only benefited from hands-on experience but also made meaningful contributions to strengthening the province's disaster readiness.

In 2024-25, the programme reached another milestone. Each district municipality received funding to appoint two interns, and the internship duration was extended to two years. This change ensures young professionals gain deeper, more sustained experience in the field, supporting both their career growth and the province's resilience efforts.

Through this programme, the Western Cape Government continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to the development of the next generation of disaster management professionals. As it evolves, the programme brings renewed hope for a more prepared, resilient, and sustainable future.

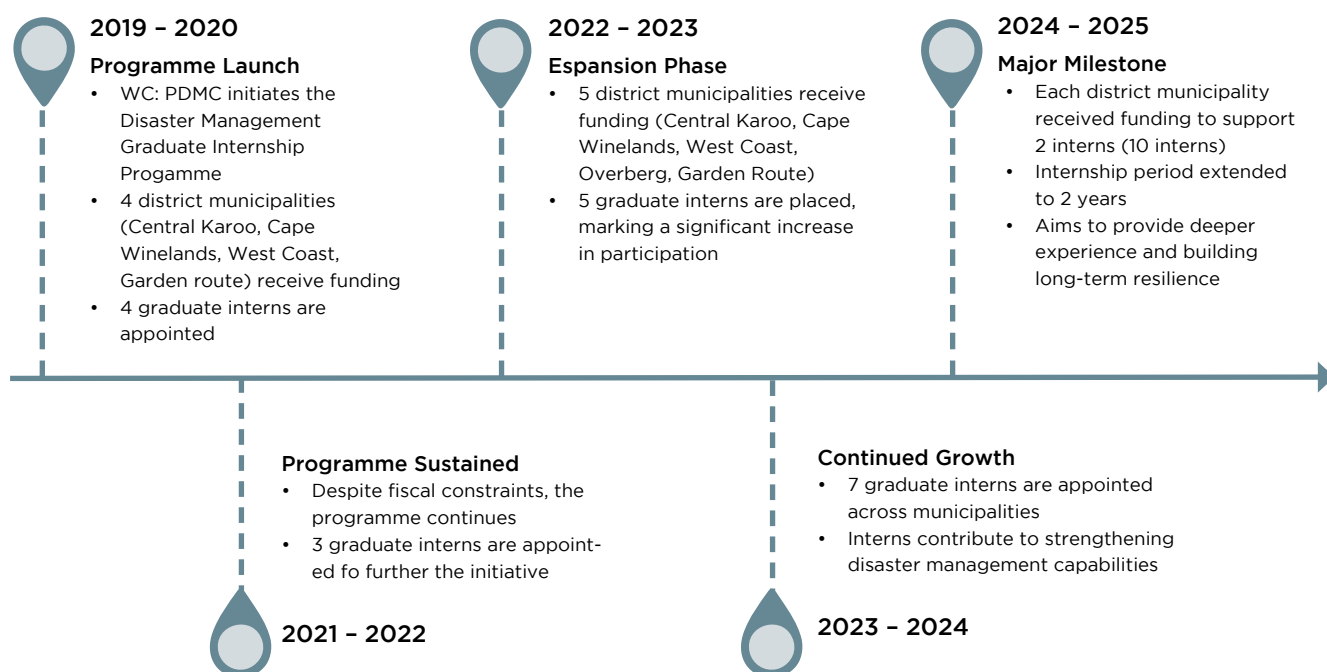


Figure 15: Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme Project Timeline

**CAPE WINELANDS
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**



Figure 16: Ms Sindisiwe Mqhobi

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Figure 17: Mr Buhle Ntshwanti



Figure 18: Ms Andiswa Mankayi

**GARDEN ROUTE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**



Figure 19: Mr Siphelele Sithole

**OVERBERG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**



Figure 20: Mr Bryland Lubbe

2.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The WC: PDMC monitored the implementation of the Disaster Management Act and the functionality of the Disaster Management Centres in the province using the NDMC Compliance Tool. Below is a summary of the implementation of the Disaster Management Act (DMA) in the Cape Town Metro as well as the district municipalities:

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARD	CITY OF CAPE TOWN	CENTRAL KAROO	CAPE WINELANDS	GARDEN ROUTE	OVERBERG	WEST COAST
HOC	Appointed	The Head of Centre is in the process of being appointed. Acting HOC in place	Appointed	Appointed	Appointed	Appointed
ANNUAL REPORT	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted
ACTIVE ADVISORY FORUM	Active and meets quarterly	Active and meets biannually	Active and meets biannually	Active and meets quarterly	Have a functional Advisory Forum	Quarterly
RISK ASSESSMENT (RA)	A comprehensive Disaster Risk Assessment was completed by Luticento Pty Ltd in 2020	Risks updated according to District Risk Assessment as reviewed by the WC: PDMC in March 2022	Priority risks were identified in risk assessments	Disaster Risk Assessments (DRA) were completed at all local municipalities. Currently updating District DRA	ODM Risk Assessment completed and updated in March 2023	RA for specific known hazards undertaken and documented as per national standards.
FRAMEWORK	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework
DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN	Has active Disaster Management Plan	Has active Disaster Management Plan	Has active Disaster Management Plan	Has active Disaster Management Plan	Has active Disaster Management Plan	Has active Disaster Management Plan

Table 4: Summary of the Implementation of the DM Act in the Cape Town Metro and District Municipalities

2.6 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY CHALLENGES

The WC: PDMC is currently in the final stages of updating the Provincial Disaster Management Framework. Valuable input was received from the NDMC, followed by a strategic engagement with the WC: PDMC staff to discuss the feedback. This critical process is aimed at aligning the provincial framework with the National Disaster Management Framework, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act of 2002, as amended in 2015.

However, the finalisation of the framework has been delayed due to the ongoing review of the disaster management system at the national level. Further engagements with the NDMC will be necessary before the updated provincial framework can be completed. One of the persistent challenges in this journey has been the issue of human capacity and adequate staffing at the municipal level. The amended Disaster Management Act recognises the necessity of qualified disaster management officials within municipalities and empowers them to make appropriate provisions to support this vital function.

In response to these challenges, the WC: PDMC has proactively worked to strengthen institutional arrangements across the province. A hybrid approach was adopted for the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum meetings, enabling effective collaboration and coordination while minimising travel costs.

As part of its ongoing commitment, the WC: PDMC also provided financial support to district municipalities, allowing them to appoint ten Disaster Management interns. Municipalities invested in the programme by placing interns in key focus areas, highlighting the growing recognition of disaster management as a critical function in the Western Cape.

As the province continues to confront the realities of compound and cascading disasters, the demand for robust, local-level disaster management has never been greater. The WC: PDMC's sustained efforts reflect a clear dedication to fostering a resilient and sustainable future, ensuring no one is left behind.

3

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Within the National Disaster Management Framework, Key Performance Area 2 sets out a uniform approach to assessing and monitoring disaster risks that will inform Disaster Risk Management Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction undertaken by the organs of state and other role-players. Within this framework, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre developed a Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology.

The WC: PDMC developed the first Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology (WC: SRAM) in the 2011-2012 performance year and aimed to ensure that all disaster risk assessments were completed uniformly and could be aligned with the Western Cape Provincial Indicative Disaster Risk Profile. This WC: SRAM provided a comprehensive disaster risk assessment approach by incorporating two components:

1. A community-based/stakeholder-based risk assessment
2. A scientific-based disaster risk assessment

Given the dynamic nature of the disaster management field, the WC: PDMC acknowledged the need to ensure that the province continued to follow the latest risk assessment best practices, which resulted in the efforts to review and update the WC: SRAM.



Figure 21: Bergrivier Municipality Risk Assessment Workshops in Velddrif

3.2 BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT

In the 2024/2025 financial year, the WC: PDMC continued its implementation of the revised Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology (WC: SRAM) through a second municipal pilot project, conducted in Bergrivier Municipality.

Building on the lessons from the 2023 Bitou pilot, the Berg River risk assessment process placed strong emphasis on collaborative data-gathering, cross-sectoral engagement, and integrating local knowledge with technical analysis. Working in collaboration with the West Coast District Municipality, the WC: PDMC facilitated a series of targeted workshops, each designed to build on the previous session and deepen the understanding of risks among stakeholders. The following workshops were conducted:

- **A Hazard Identification and Prioritisation Workshop**
This session introduced participants to the WC: SRAM hazard identification process, drawing on existing data, past events, and local knowledge to compile and rank a list of priority hazards for Berg River Municipality.
- **A Stakeholder Disaster Risk Analysis Workshop**
A two-day, in-person workshop involving cross-sectoral stakeholders, including municipal officials, provincial sector departments officials, and community representatives. Participants assessed the likelihood and impact of prioritised hazards and contributed to building a shared understanding of vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms within local communities.
- **A Hazard-specific Workshop**
Thematic discussions were held to explore selected high-risk hazards in more detail. These sessions facilitated technical input from sector specialists and local service departments.
- **A Risk Register Workshop**
Municipal officials and relevant stakeholders were introduced to the WC: SRAM, aligned Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity (HVC) tool to analyse the interaction between hazard exposure, vulnerabilities, and available capacities. This session marked a critical step in transitioning from risk identification to risk analysis and planning.



Figure 22: Participants during hazard specific workshop in Porterville

The Berg River Municipality risk assessment pilot served as a strong example of collaborative risk identification and analysis, grounded in both local context and scientific rigour. Insights and feedback gathered throughout the process are being used to refine the WC: SRAM further and will inform the development of guidance for future municipal-level risk assessments.

Between 2015 and 2020, the WC: PDMC's focus was on providing financial and technical support to the district and local municipalities in the province to undertake disaster risk assessments; to date, all district municipalities and local municipalities have been assisted. Over the next five years, the WC: PDMC seeks to shift its support to focus on the institutionalisation of risk reduction in municipalities.

3.3 WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK PROFILE UPDATE

A key strategic focus of the 2024/2025 year was the comprehensive update of the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Risk Profile, since its last review in 2019. This major undertaking sought to:

- Integrate updated data on hazards, exposure, and vulnerabilities
- Reflect current and emerging risks, including those related to and exacerbated by climate change
- Strengthen the evidence base for integrated risk reduction and resilience-building across provincial sectors

The process was officially kicked off through two wide-scale multi-stakeholder engagements held in March 2025, which brought together representatives from across the spheres of government and a wide range of sectors, including environment, human settlements, health, education, transport, energy, water, agriculture, local governance, and disaster management.

The WC: PDMC led the coordination of this multi-stakeholder process, which involved structured data requests and consultations with provincial departments, municipalities, national entities (e.g. Eskom and South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)), and civil society partners. Several key engagements were hosted, including:

- Technical sector engagements to gather and verify risk-specific data
- Focus group discussions with experts in health, infrastructure, environment, and governance
- A provincial validation workshop to consolidate inputs and test draft risk narratives and thematic maps

The updated profile is designed to support strategic planning, investment decisions, and risk-informed development across the Western Cape. It also provides a model for translating multi-level risk assessments into actionable recommendations for both sector departments and municipalities.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SPATIAL DATA REPOSITORY

The WC: PDMC has a fully functional and well-maintained Spatial Data Repository (SDR) that includes a web-based Decision Support Tool (DST); this provides decision-makers with accurate and credible information. All operational datasets are updated, maintained, and uploaded onto our central data repository.

This repository is housed at the Department of the Premier (DOTP) and is maintained on a quarterly basis. All data goes through a verification process and is checked thoroughly before it is uploaded.

3.4.1 Institutional arrangements and GIS support

- The Western Cape has moderate GIS-related human resources across the province, specifically within the WCDLG. Nevertheless, to harness capacity during a disaster, it is critical to plan by identifying potential activities to assess capacity requirements adequately
- As one of the two municipalities earmarked for piloting the updated methodology, Bitou Municipality was identified for hands-on GIS support during the review process of their Disaster Risk Assessment. As such, the WC: PDMC supported the municipality in sourcing datasets and developing a map book to visually represent indicative risks in the Bitou Municipality. Some of the datasets sourced for this process include the following:
 - Socio-economic vulnerability
 - Spatial distribution of informal settlements
 - Protected areas for conservation
 - Spatial distribution of biomes
 - River systems

3.5 RISK ASSESSMENT

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years, the WC: PDMC has recognised a growing need to build local municipal capacity to independently conduct disaster risk assessments. Increasing requests from municipalities for technical support highlighted the existing budgetary and capacity constraints faced at both local and district levels, factors that continue to limit the ability of municipalities to carry out comprehensive and recurring risk assessments.

In response, the WC: PDMC initiated a comprehensive review of the Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology (WC: SRAM), resulting in the development of an enhanced methodology. Piloting the updated WC: SRAM at municipal level, however, has not been without its challenges. The process revealed several practical limitations, including data availability, coordination constraints, and the need for adaptive improvements to the methodology itself as real-world application tested its assumptions.

Despite these challenges, the process created valuable opportunities for shared learning, capacity building, and peer exchange between provincial, district, and local role-players. The participatory nature of the engagements strengthened relationships and encouraged a more collaborative approach to understanding risk and identifying practical, locally relevant risk reduction solutions. The WC: PDMC remains committed to supporting municipalities through ongoing training, technical assistance, and methodological refinement as the process matures.

4

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The DMA (Act 57, 2000) aims to ensure that all disaster management stakeholders develop and implement integrated disaster management plans and risk reduction programmes, i.e., the Disaster Management Chapter in the Municipal Integrated Development Plan. These include long-term Risk Reduction Intervention Strategies and short-term Mitigation Intervention Strategies to alleviate the impact of disasters on communities.

4.1.1 Early Warning Systems

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is the legally mandated authority in South Africa responsible for determining and distributing Impact-based Severe Weather Warnings. The WC: PDMC, plays a crucial role in ensuring that early warnings are disseminated to broader stakeholders to ensure they can take the necessary steps to avoid or reduce the risk and prepare for an effective response.

In August 2020, the SAWS officially implemented its Impact-based Weather Warning System to warn the

public of possible impacts due to hazardous weather. It is the movement from communicating “what the weather will be” to informing the public of “what the weather will do”.

4.1.2 Impact-based Weather Warning Scale

The SAWS Impact-based Weather Warning Scale is used to help forecasters and disaster managers determine the warning level based on its potential impacts.

The colour coding and the numbering are determined by combining the level of impact with the likelihood of that impact occurring. It means that the forecaster will decide the possible result because of a particular hazard (rainfall, for example), with input from the local disaster managers. Then, the likelihood of that impact is established using the numerical weather prediction models as well as local knowledge of the antecedent conditions (any previous rainfall) (SAWS, 2021).

Likelihood	High		2	6	10
	Medium		1	5	9
	Low			4	8
	Very Low			3	7
		Minimal	Minor	Significant	Severe
		Impact			

Figure 23: Impact-based Weather Warning Scale

4.2 IMPACT-BASED SEVERE WEATHER EARLY WARNING DISSEMINATION

The WC: PDMC, in collaboration with the SAWS, the District Disaster Management Centres, and the City of Cape Town developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the dissemination of impact-based severe weather warnings across the province.

As part of this process, the WC: PDMC convened workshops with each district municipality to understand their specific approaches to early warning dissemination. These engagements informed the development of tailored, district-specific protocols which were then consolidated into the Standard Operating Procedure for Severe Weather Early Warning in the province. The final document reflects an agreed-upon set of procedures and responsibilities, enhancing coordination and clarity across all spheres of government.

In support of improved coordination, the WC: PDMC also reviewed and amended the provincial Early Warning SOP during the financial year. The updated SOP was redistributed to all Heads of Centres (HOCs) to ensure clarity with regard to roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols during early warning activation and severe weather events.

During the 2024/25 financial year, SAWS issued several early warnings for severe weather events, many of which are outlined below. These warnings were successfully disseminated by the WC: PDMC and supported the various District Disaster Management Centres in implementing timely preparedness and response measures. The effectiveness of this system has highlighted the value of coordinated early warning protocols in reducing disaster risk across the province.

Notable Impact-Based Forecasting Warning Disseminated

April 2024:

- Level 6 for Disruptive rain for: City of Cape Town and Overberg regions
- Level 4 for Disruptive rain for: West Coast, Cape Winelands, Central Karoo and Garden Route regions
- Level 6 for Damaging winds for: Overberg, City of Cape Town and Cape Winelands regions
- Level 4 for Damaging winds: West Coast, City of Cape Town, Garden Route, Overberg and Central Karoo regions

June 2024:

- Yellow Level 4 warning: Disruptive rain over southern West Coast, Western Cape Winelands, City of Cape Town and Western Overberg

July 2024:

- Yellow Level 4 and Orange Level 6: winds over the interior and coast
- Yellow Level 4, and Orange Levels 6, 7 and 8 for Disruptive rain
- Weather advisories were issued for light snow, thundershowers, veld fires ahead of the cold front in the City of Cape Town, West Coast, Cape Winelands and Overberg, Garden Route and Central Karoo Districts

October 2024:

- Orange Level 6: Disruptive rain over the Cape Winelands and Overberg Districts of the Western Cape

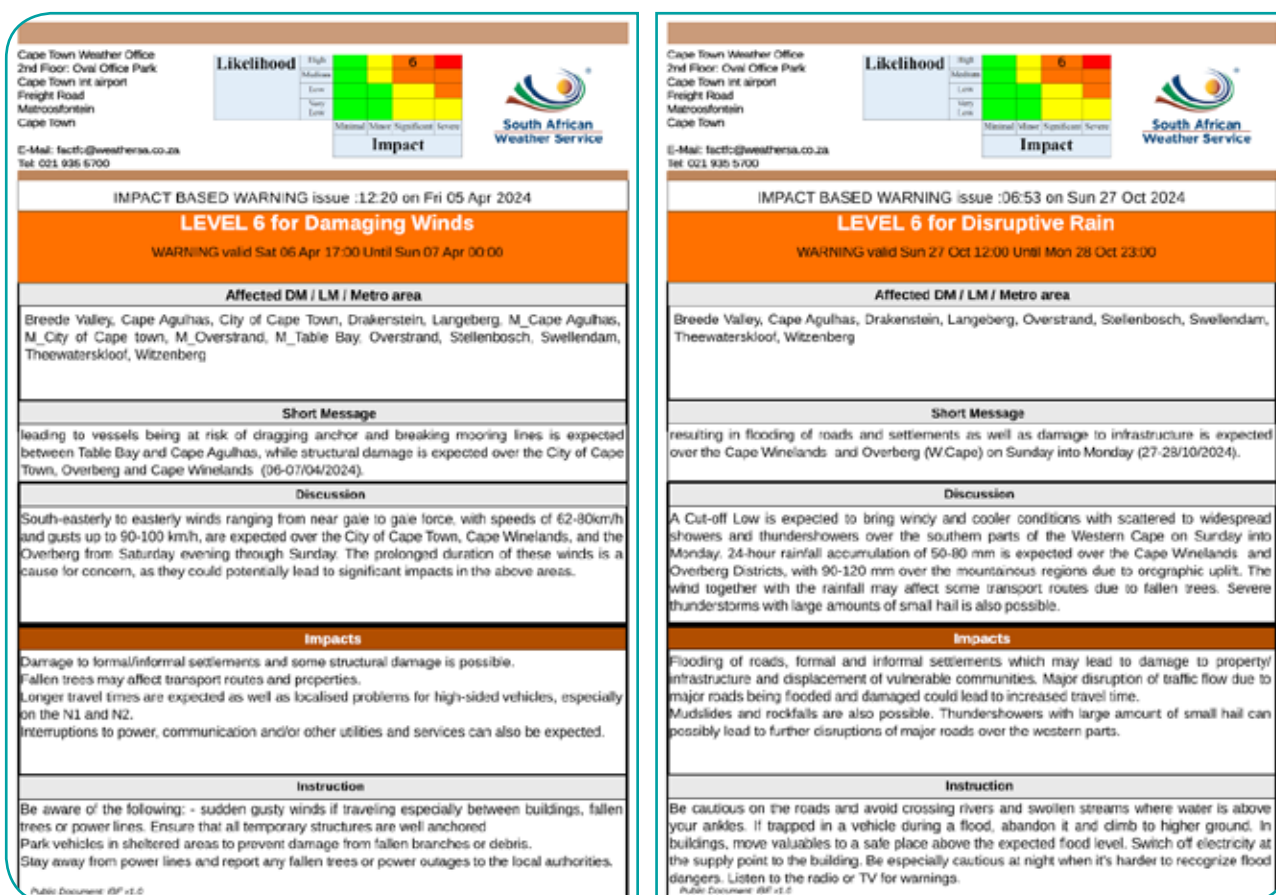


Figure 24 Examples of detailed weather warning information

4.3 MITIGATION INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

4.3.1 Hazard Awareness Programme

The Hazard Awareness Programme is a multifaceted awareness programme that aims at educating the public about reducing the risks in their communities.

4.3.1.1 Disaster Awareness Campaign

The Disaster Awareness Campaign is in the form of an interactive play, that features the Disaster Management mascot, Gerry the Giraffe. The play, which has been developed for primary school learners, focuses on hazards that are prevalent in all communities across the Western Cape and aims at instilling a culture of hazard avoidance amongst our

young learners. Safety and prevention messages are conveyed with humour and song to teach the learners about do's and don'ts around loadshedding, flooding and fire. The learners are also taught emergency numbers to ensure that they know who to contact in an emergency.

The Disaster Awareness Campaign was rolled out to 40 schools and reached 30,116 learners. Between 12-26 July 2024, 4 schools in each of the five districts were visited. Between 2-18 October 2024, 20 schools were visited in Cederberg and Swartland Municipalities in the West Coast.



Figure 25 Disaster Awareness Campaign for primary school learners

4.3.1.2 Social Media Hazard Awareness

Social media is an effective medium to create awareness around hazards in the province. Prevention and preparedness messages are communicated to targeted audiences. Social media was used to create awareness around:

- Heatwaves: heat wave warnings and prevention message graphics were used to target areas having heatwaves
- Flood: prevention and preparedness messages were communicated
- Summer safety campaign: Local Government Communications assisted with the implementation of a Summer Safety Campaign focusing on drowning prevention, structure fires and wildfires. The campaign reached over 6.1m people
- World Drowning Prevention Day: the day was commemorated by creating awareness about drownings with a focus on flooding and dams



Figure 26: World Drowning Prevention Day commemoration on social media

4.3.2 Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: Community Resilience Building Programme

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is commemorated annually on 13 October. This day promotes a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. The 2024 theme was Empowering the next generation for a resilient future, which looked at the role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.

The WC: PDMC in collaboration with Fire Rescue Services launched a new training initiative aimed at building resilience in isolated communities. The programme seeks to capacitate communities about how to become more resilient to fires and floods and be able to respond while emergency services are getting to the scene. Participating communities were chosen due to their remote locations where emergency services are required to travel far distances to respond to incidents.

As part of building resilience, community members and school support staff were taught how to use the resources available in the community to respond to fires. The participants were given both theoretical

information and practical demonstrations of fire extinguishers and fire hoses to enable them to try and contain the fires and prevent them from getting out of control.

The programme was rolled out in:

- Wupperthal in Cederberg Municipality in the West Coast District
- McGregor in Langeberg Municipality in Cape Winelands District
- Genadendal in Theewaterskloof Municipality in Overberg District

The training in Wupperthal formed part of the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre's commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR). As part of the celebration, the annual Disaster Awareness Campaign was rolled out to Wupperthal Primary School.

During the IDDRR commemoration, 170 smoke alarms were provided to the Wupperthal community. This early warning system will greatly increase the resilience of this isolated community which suffered from a devastating fire on New Year's Eve 2018 which destroyed 53 houses and 5 businesses.



Figure 27: Community Resilience Building Programme in Wupperthal

4.3.3 Support for municipalities

During the financial year, the WC: PDMC supported numerous municipalities with the provision of awareness materials. Awareness materials in the form of pamphlets, rulers, pencils, and lanyards are distributed to municipalities to assist them in raising their awareness efforts.

Awareness materials are designed to assist municipalities with creating awareness both during community outreaches and on social media. Hazard specific social media collateral was designed around flooding, informal settlement fires and wildfires. These materials were designed so local municipalities can co-brand to assist with their awareness messaging.



Figure 28: Disaster Management awareness materials

4.4 DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre is mandated by Enabler 2 of the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005 to conduct and support research proposals that strengthen the strategic research agenda in the province. Within this mandate, the WC: PDMC has established relations with universities to collaborate in terms of research and information sharing; and, as such, has availed itself for the benefit of postgraduate students conducting research, as well as sharing information through lectures.

The WC: PDMC has also further initiated a process to establish a disaster management research

needs database primarily influenced by research requirements from which the District Disaster Management Centres and their municipalities can benefit.

The WC: PDMC supported the Stellenbosch University's Research Alliance for Disaster and Risk Reduction with the initiation and implementation of a post-event analysis of the September 2023 Flooding in Stellenbosch Municipality. This project stemmed from the Disaster Risk Reduction Plan which was conducted in their area.

4.5 DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Following the development of a Guideline for Risk Reduction Planning and the Integration into Development Planning in 2022-2023, the WC: PDMC initiated a project to support municipalities with the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Planning project was rolled out in Witzenberg and Drakenstein Municipalities, where Disaster Risk Reduction Plans were developed for these municipalities. Stakeholder workshops and one-on-one interviews were undertaken with identified role players, to get an understanding of the current and future risk reduction initiatives for priority risks. Each municipality was presented with a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for inclusion in the Disaster Management Plan.

4.6 DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN THE WESTERN CAPE

The departure points for all Disaster Risk Reduction activities that resources invested today can prevent human and financial losses that outweigh the initial investment many times over. One of the priorities of the WC: PDMC is to support municipalities in realising that this approach can be materialistically achieved by focusing on incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction within the IDP, as well as by coordinating Disaster Risk Reduction through the IDP's phases, mechanisms, and processes.

The IDP is also an approach to plan involving the entire municipality and its citizens in finding the best solutions to achieve good long-term and sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental development). This approach also applies to Disaster Management Planning and how it interacts and synergises with the Integrated Development Plan. It mainly applies to the IDP process, mechanisms, and phases, where Disaster Management Planning should run parallel with the IDP cycle.

During the reporting period, the WC: PDMC supported the Witzenberg and Drakenstein Municipalities with the development of a compliant disaster management chapter for the IDP. This support is done at the conclusion of the Disaster Risk Reduction Planning Project to ensure that risk reduction initiatives are included in the IDP.

The WC: PDMC is responsible for the assessment of the Disaster Management Chapter in the IDP. The WCDLG, through the Directorate: Integrated Development Planning, coordinates and facilitates annual assessments of municipal IDPs. Sector Departments assess the IDPs' content, relevance, and quality according to their IDP indicators, which are based on legislative requirements.

A guideline was developed to inform municipalities as to what should be included in the IDP Chapter. This guideline is used as the basis for the assessments conducted by the WC: PDMC. Annual reviews of the five-year IDP should reflect on the progress made on institutional arrangements, risk assessment updates, risk reduction projects and interventions, and any changes to the disaster management preparedness, response, and contingency plans.

4.7 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

This section shares preparedness strategies implemented, as well as the response activities of the WC: PDMC.

4.7.1 Disaster Management Plans

Disaster management plans incorporate elements of preparedness, response, and recovery appropriate to the respective functional areas of the different organs of the state. All finalised plans are uploaded onto the UNITI software, making them easily accessible.

During the reporting year, the WC: PDMC supported the development and updating of the following plans:

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANS: UPDATED/

Plan	Update/Comment
Development of the WC: DMC Taxi Strike/Violence Plan	Cape Town has experienced frequent outbreaks of violence and civil unrest due to conflicts between minibus-taxi associations, individual operators, and disputes with the City of Cape Town. The impact of these taxi strikes is most acutely felt in the metropolitan area of Cape Town, with fewer occurrences in other regions of the province. In response, the WC: PDMC, in collaboration with key stakeholders, developed the Taxi Strike/Violence Contingency Plan, which was approved on 26 March 2025. This plan is specifically designed to address the risks associated with taxi strikes, particularly when violence and unrest cannot be quickly managed through standard safety and security measures. It details the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, services, and departments that are best positioned to handle specific actions. The plan does not replace existing safety and security protocols in terms of unrest and violence.
CapeNature Draft Level 1 Disaster Management Plan	Provided comment on the plan during March 2025.
Department of Social Development: Social Relief Disaster Protocol	Stemming from severe weather incidents during 2023 and 2024, gaps were identified in terms of humanitarian relief during an incident/disaster. The WC: PDMC arranged a workshop with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and South African Social Services Agency (SASSA) to address the identified gaps. As result of this engagement, the DSD developed the Social Relief Disaster Protocol. The purpose of this protocol is to give effect to the implementation of applicable and relevant legislation related to disaster management and to outline the steps for the DSD in responding to disasters that impact the lives of the most vulnerable communities.
Summer Readiness Plan 2024	
Winter Readiness Plan 2025	
Provincial Disaster Management Plan	Commenced with the review of the plan.
Western Cape Preparedness, Response and Relief Plan.	During 2024, the WC: PDMC successfully redesigned and printed the plan. This update reflects the Centre's ongoing commitment to improving disaster preparedness and response strategies in the province.

Table 5: Disaster Management Plans: Updated/Developed

DEVELOPED/COMMENTED ON

5 DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This key performance area includes the implementation of priorities concerned with disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation in the province of the Western Cape. It addresses the requirements in the Act for an integrated and coordinated policy that focuses on rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery. When a significant event or disaster occurs, or is threatening to occur, there must be clarity in roles and responsibilities and the necessary procedures to be followed. It describes measures for effective disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation planning.

5.2 DISASTER RESPONSE

The Western Cape Province experienced an unprecedented number of flooding events during the period under review.

During the 2024/25 financial year, a series of severe weather events occurred that caused flooding that led to infrastructure failures. Below is brief overview of the activations:

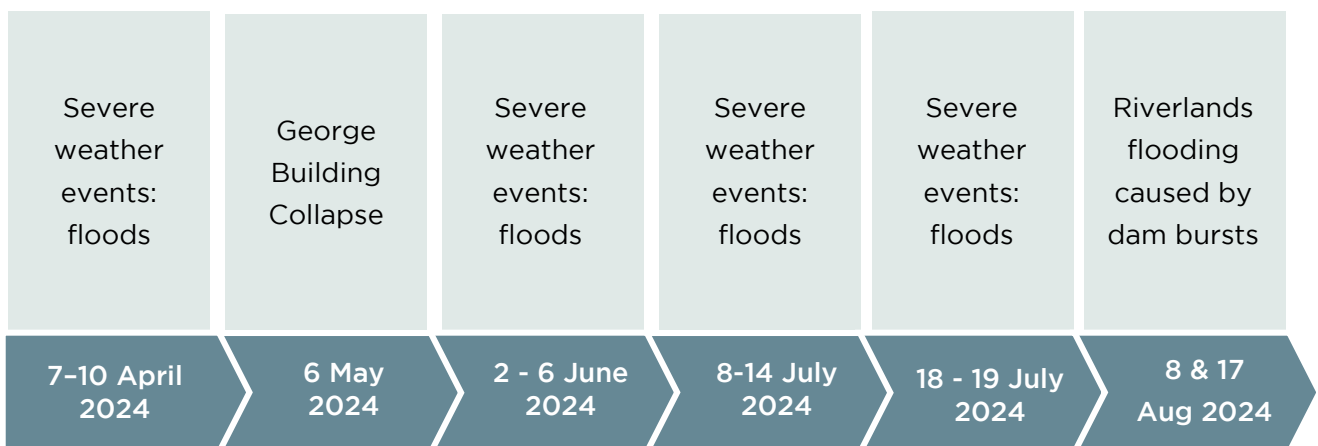


Figure 29: Timeline

5.2.1 Severe Weather

The first flooding incident occurred from 7 to 10 April 2024 with a weather warning level of 4, 6 and 9 issued on 4 April 2024. The WC: PDMC held a briefing on severe weather conditions on 5 April 2024 with all stakeholders and briefed the cabinet on 6 and 7 April 2024. On 7 April 2024, a decision was taken to close the schools on 8 April 2024 in Cape Town, Helderberg area and on 8 and 9 April 2024 in the Overberg and Cape Winelands areas.

The WC: PDMC received severe weather warnings for level 4 for disruptive rain and level 2 for wind and waves where the Centre was activated between 2 and 6 June 2024. Areas affected were the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) (mostly), Overberg, West Coast, Cape Winelands District Municipalities' and City of Cape Town. During this period there were several impacts that affected the District Municipalities and the Metro. There were evacuations in the GRDM, where communities were cut off and one

fatality. Furthermore, Rescue operations took place in the GRDM and Cape Winelands District Municipality (CWDM) road closures and low-water bridges were flooded. There were water and electricity disruptions and dam spillage that impacted Oudtshoorn.

In July 2024 the South African Weather Services issued warnings for levels 6, 4 and 2 for waves; level 4 and 2 for winds (interior and coastal winds); levels 4, 6, 7, 8 and 2 for disruptive rain; light snow, thundershowers, and veld fire ahead of the cold fronts. The centre was activated for these warnings from 8-14 July and 18-19 July 2024, to coordinate efforts across the province. Areas impacted by these warnings were City of Cape Town (mainly informal settlements), West Coast District (Cederberg: Citrusdal and Wuppertal), Cape Winelands, Overberg, Garden Route and Central Karoo Districts (Laingsburg). Schools were once again closed in the Cape Winelands and Overberg Districts on 12 July 2024.



Figure 29: School closure notice



Figure 30: Major road damage to the entrance of Citrusdal

During the July event, there were three fatalities two CWDM and one CoCT. Informal housing was affected due to strong winds and localised flooding. Ad-hoc evacuations and rescues, extensive road closures, and electricity disruptions took place across the province. The severe weather also impacted sea vessels where the Ultra Galaxy Vessel ran aground in the Matzikama Municipal area, 60 nautical miles from Doringbay on 8 July 2024.

5.2.2 Swartland Riverlands Dam break

On 8 August 2024, a catastrophic event struck the Swartland Municipality when a dam wall collapsed, triggering a chain reaction of failures across other connected dams in Riverlands. The overflow from the initial breach led to the failure of additional dam walls, causing severe flooding in the area. As a result, many residents were forced to evacuate their homes. In response, the Swartland Municipality took swift action to prevent further flooding. However, the devastation left many people in urgent need of assistance, with over 200 individuals requiring temporary accommodation after their homes were either flooded or completely destroyed. Given the scale of the damage, a provincial disaster was declared on 1 October 2024.



Figures 31: Damage caused by the multiple dam wall break in Riverlands, Swartland

5.2.3 George Building Collapse

In addition to the severe weather events, the province dealt with its largest-ever building collapse. On 6 May, 2024, a 5-story building under construction collapsed in George. The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre coordinated a multi-agency search and rescue response, involving numerous NGOs, municipal search

and rescue officials, and provincial and national departments. This collaborative effort resulted in the successful rescue of 29 individuals. The Department also provided R2.5 million in financial support to the George municipality for demolition costs.



Figure 32: Shortly after the building collapsed



Figure 33: Search and Rescue activities



Figure 34: Visit by President Ramaphosa



Figure 35: Incident command bus

5.2.4 Other response

The WC: PDMC assisted with the following response activities and ensured the necessary situation reporting where applicable:

Elections 2024

The South African general elections were held on 29 May 2024. As part of the WC: PDMC Elections plan for 2024, WC: PDMC officials participated in the SAPS Provincial Joint Operations Centre (PROVJOC) meetings leading up to the elections. The WC: PDMC was also represented during the activation of the SAPS PROVJOC for the elections. Additionally, the

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) took part in the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum, where information was shared with all relevant stakeholders, including municipal representatives. All the WC: PDMC staff remained on standby in case the Centre needed to be activated.

Rabies in Seals

On 05 November 2024, the WC: PDMC facilitated a virtual information session, hosted by the Department of Agriculture (State Veterinary Services) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness (Communicable Disease Control). The

session, attended by the Heads of Centres from the coastal districts, focused on critical issues related to rabies in Cape Fur Seals. The following topics were discussed:

- Understanding rabies and its implications
- Preparedness measures for seal attacks on beaches
- Awareness initiatives for the upcoming festive and summer seasons
- Public health measures to prevent human rabies

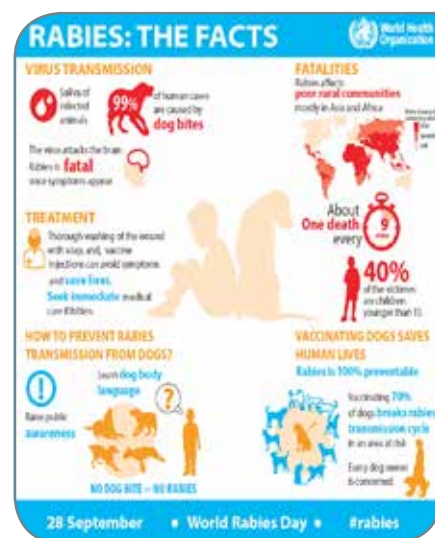


Figure 36: Rabies Awareness Poster

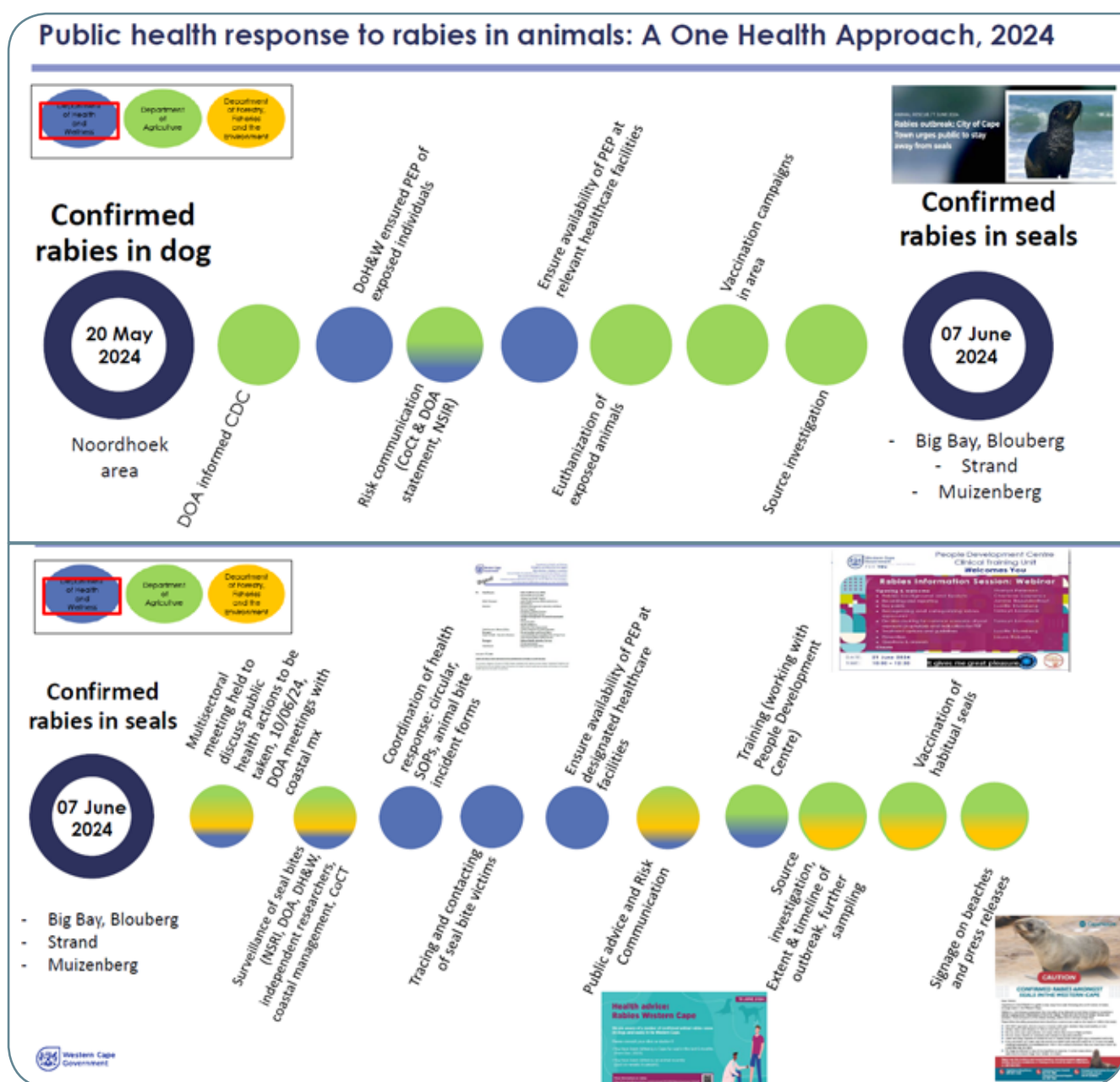


Figure 37: Rabies Investigation Timeline. Source: The Western Cape Provincial Department of Health and Wellness

5.2.5 Koeberg Nuclear Power Station Exercises

Annually, the City of Cape Town conducts a full-scale **Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) Emergency Exercise** alongside a biennial **National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) Exercise**, to test the City's **Radiological Release Response Procedure**. This procedure outlines the arrangements designed to safeguard the public and mitigate the impacts of any potential nuclear incident at Koeberg.

In 2024, the **Annual Station Exercise** took place on **24 October 2024**, followed by the biennial NNR Exercise on **19 November 2024**. The WC: PDMC was actively involved in the planning meetings for both exercises and participated in the exercises on the respective days.



Figures 38: NNR Exercise 2024

5.2.6 Rheinmetall Denel Munition Emergency Response Plan Exercise – 16 October 2024

On 16 October 2024, the WC: PDMC participated in the Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) Emergency Response Plan Exercise. This exercise was designed to simulate an emergency scenario involving the Rheinmetall Denel Munition facility, which plays a crucial role in the region's industrial sector.

The exercise aimed to test and refine emergency response protocols, coordination among various stakeholders and the readiness of local emergency services in managing potential incidents. By participating in this exercise, the WC: PDMC further strengthened its collaborative efforts with key partners, ensuring a well-prepared and coordinated response to industrial emergencies in the future.



Figures 39: Rheinmetall Denel Munition exercise 2024

5.3 DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING COMMITTEES

The WC: PDMC participates and is represented on numerous committees which ensures preparedness such as the following:

- Provincial Communicable Disease Control (PCDC) Stakeholders Committee
- Incident Management Organisation (IMORG) Operation Phakisa
- IMORGT training Working Group
- IMORG National Oil Spill Working Group
- Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee (Koeberg)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (Koeberg)
- Anti-gang Strategy for the Western Cape
- Social Relief Workgroup
- Provincial G20 committee meetings
- Rheinmetall Denel Munition Planning Meetings
- Protection Working Group Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Chair: Drowning Prevention Steering Committee
- City of Cape Town's Flood and Storm Task Team
- Ad-hoc Provjoc meetings held by SAPS

5.4 CENTRE ACTIVITIES

5.4.1 Readiness of the WC: PDMC

The centre received communication from the Department of Health and Wellness regarding the necessity for the centre, which is currently based on Tygerberg Hospital premises, to be relocated due to the reconstruction of a new hospital. During the financial year numerous engagements have taken place between Department of Infrastructure (DoI), and WCDLG whereby premises have been identified as suitable. The DoI put in an offer to purchase, and the project is ongoing.

The Centre initiated an Information Technology (IT) refresh, which involved the procurement and installation of twenty new computers. This upgrade was essential for the Centre's operations, as the previous computers had reached their End of Life (EOL) and End of Service (EOS) stages. Additionally, the GIS workstation was upgraded with a cutting-edge Lenovo X1 laptop to enhance performance and efficiency.

The Centre is currently utilising audio-visual equipment that has been in place since 2011. One of the key projects underway is the replacement of this outdated infrastructure, which involves the decommissioning of the existing system and the supply, installation, and configuration of state-of-the-art audio-visual communication technology. The tender for this project was publicly advertised in November 2024 and awarded on 31 March 2025.

The Centre collaborated with Police Oversight and Community Safety to enhance technical communication capabilities. As part of the Eyes and Ears Initiative (E2), the Centre was provided with a Halo radio, enabling communication throughout the province.



Figure 40: Halo radio

The plotter is a vital piece of equipment in the centre that enables the printing of large-scale maps. These maps are utilised for not only activation but also for exercises. The WC: PDMC pro-actively advertised the specification for the maintenance and support of the plotter which is due to expire in March 2025. All supply chain processes were followed, and CSX solutions was duly appointed as the service provider and entered into a three-year agreement which will commence on 1 April 2025.

5.4.2 Standard Operating Procedures

The WC: PDMC tested, reviewed and updated the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the 2024-2025 financial year by means of activations, internal debriefs, and consultation with the Chief Directorate. It was evident that the SOPs required further reviews, and updates, which is still ongoing.

Besides the six centre activations for the coordination of major incidents and disasters, the centre was utilised as a Joint Operations Centre to coordinate various major events and activities, such as the Cape Town Cycle Tour, the Two Oceans Marathon and the Sanlam Marathon. The photographs below depict the events and activities hosted throughout the financial year.

A briefing on severe weather conditions by the Premier regarding the pending Level 9 warning to all stakeholders and Ministers on 6 and 7 April 2024. These briefings take place proactively to ensure all provincial departments are placed on high alert. Discussions and proactive decision making take place such as the decision to close schools.



Figure 41: 7 April 2024 Briefing on severe weather conditions to Provincial Top Management and Cabinet for Level 9 weather warning

The National Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Mr Velenkosini Hlabisa together with the Deputy Ministers, Dr Dickson Masekela received a Severe Weather situation briefing at the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre on 15 July 2024. Mr Hlabisa and the national delegation also visited areas within the Cape Town Metropole area that were impacted.



Figure 42: Severe weather briefing to National Minister on 15 July 2024



Figure 43: Brief to the Standing Committee for Local Government on the recent flood and storm disasters in the Western Cape – 3 September 2024



Figure 44: Media briefing

On 8 October 2024, Minister Anton Bredell held a media briefing to highlight the importance of preparing for the summer season. He emphasised the government's commitment to improving disaster management and keeping our communities safe



Figure 45: The Cape Town Sanlam Marathon, held on Sunday, 20 October 2024, was coordinated from the WC: PDMC



Figure 46: On 28 January 2025, the Legal Service branch of the Department of the Premier: Directorate Social Cluster, engaged with the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre to gain an understanding of the business processes and specific needs when it comes to rendering legal advice and assistance. The objective is to overcome challenges the Centre may encounter and to better informed



Figure 47: The annual Cape Town Cycle Tour is coordinated from the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, together with the relevant stakeholders, such as Emergency Medical Services, Traffic Services, South African Police Services, Fire Services, Medi-Clinic et cetera, to name but a few. The 47th Cape Town Cycle Tour took place on Sunday, 9 March 2025 and this year sees the third year of the short route (42km). Entry numbers for the 109km route is 27,000 and 3,000 for the short route, the entry numbers increased substantially after the Covid-19 pandemic



Figure 48: On 11 March 2025, the Consul General of Turkey visited the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre to share best practices and form collaborations with the WC: PDMC.

5.6 DISASTER RESPONSE CHALLENGES

The lack of a national major electricity disruption plan remains a challenge. The NDMC needs to ensure planning at the national level should the entire country experience a major electricity disruption or a prolonged loadshedding incident. All provinces will compete for the same national resource, therefore National Planning is vital.

The shortage of SANDF resources poses challenges in terms of response specifically around aerial support and the capability to respond to a mass decontamination emergency.

An additional challenge is the alignment of disaster management information systems due to the NDMC not implementing an information system. The WC: PDMC procured the UNITI software; however, any newly procured or utilised systems must be interoperable.

5.7 DISASTER RECOVERY

5.7.1 Damage Assessments and Verifications

Two major events affected the province during the reporting period. The first occurred between 5 and 16 July 2024, when severe weather caused widespread infrastructure damage, particularly in the City of Cape Town, and the West Coast, Cape Winelands, Overberg, and Garden Route District Municipalities. The second took place between 8 and 17 August 2024, when the failure of four dams led to severe flooding in Riverlands (Swartland Municipality). In both cases, the affected organs of state conducted immediate preliminary damage assessments.

In line with Section 23 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), the WC: PDMC in collaboration with the Municipal Infrastructure Directorate, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), and technical teams from the affected municipalities and sector departments, are responsible for conducting damage assessments to verify the extent and impact of significant incidents that may qualify as disasters. These assessments focus on quantifying damages to provincial departments and affected municipalities, with particular emphasis

on critical infrastructure requiring extensive repairs and service restoration to be supported by funding from the national government.

Additionally, the WC: PDMC, in collaboration with the NDMC, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and technical teams from the Department of Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture, and CapeNature, conducted a verification of identified projects for the three organs of state. These verifications took place between 10 and 14 February 2025 and were intended to aid the NDMC's decision-making on whether to further consider these departments for additional funding apart from the initially ringfenced R 947 million, through the Infrastructure Fund. The decision on whether funding will be allocated to these departments is scheduled for the 2025/26 financial year.

5.7.1.1 July 2024 Severe Weather Events

On 19 July 2024, the WC: PDMC distributed a damage assessment template to municipalities and sector departments to support the efficient evaluation and documentation of damages from the severe weather event. Affected organs of state reported that the scale of the floods, strong winds, and storm surges exceeded their capacity to respond using their own resources. As a result, the WC: PDMC requested the submission of business plans and funding requests on 31 July 2024. From 26 August to 6 September 2024, the WC: PDMC, conducted damage verifications in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders. Organs of state were asked to identify areas of significant damage for verification sampling. The following sections summarises the observations from the multi-stakeholder verifications.

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Widespread infrastructure damage occurred across the Metropolitan area. Excessive stormwater runoff caused erosion of riverbanks, cemetery embankments, roads, stormwater infrastructure, and both formal and informal structures. Sir Lowry's Pass Village was particularly affected, although previously funded flood mitigation structures remained intact. Several rivers and canals overflowed, worsening flooding in vulnerable areas.



Figure 49: City of Cape Town damages

WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Cederberg Municipality

The municipality experienced significant damage to infrastructure, including boreholes, roads, electrical systems, and coastal structures. In Lamberts Bay, coastal damage prompted a request for a Section 30A Directive and/or an Environmental Impact Assessment. Initial repair plans were revised following expert input, recommending the use of gabions to strengthen road surfaces and walkways against erosion. Other damage included broken pipes at a river intake supplying the Clanwilliam reservoir, damage to a retention pond in Citrusdal threatening the main road, and widespread potholes caused by storms in Citrusdal.



Figure 50: Cederberg Municipality damages

Saldanha Bay Municipality

The storm caused extensive damage to asbestos roofs, leading to leaks and structural deterioration, primarily affecting municipal facilities. Repairs to the main municipal building were partially completed as renovations were already underway by the time the assessments were underway. Damage to the roof of the Multipurpose Centre in Saldanha Bay was identified as a priority, as the facility also served as a Thusong Centre.



Figure 51: Saldanha Bay Municipality damages

CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Matzikama Municipality

The municipality suffered significant coastal infrastructure damage during the July 2024 severe weather event. In Strandfontein, stormy seas severely compromised the integrity of the one kilometre retaining wall built to protect the access road and adjacent land. As a result, the coastal road became largely washed away and partially inaccessible, with ongoing erosion threatening stormwater infrastructure, parking areas, roads, the caravan park, and nearby properties. Continued coastal erosion also impacted on the local economy, which relied heavily on tourism.



Figure 52: Matzikama Municipality damages

Witzenberg Municipality

The event in Witzenberg caused widespread infrastructure and environmental damage, including structural failures, roof damage, fallen trees, and deteriorated roads. In Ceres, emergency water releases from Koekedouw Dam led to severe erosion and riverbank collapse along the Dwars and Titus Rivers, threatening over 150 individuals and 30 households. In Tulbagh, erosion along the Klein Berg River endangered municipal infrastructure, private property, and public health, affecting over 50 individuals and 10 households. The municipality allocated R1,183,000 in internal funding for urgent riverbank rehabilitation to protect infrastructure, minimise long-term costs, and ensure community safety.



Figure 53: Witzenberg Municipality damages

Breede Valley Municipality

Breede Valley Municipality experienced severe damage to critical infrastructure, significantly impacting access to key water treatment and storage facilities. The access roads to Stettynskloof Dam, Bokrivier Water Treatment Works (WTW), and Fairy Glen Dam were washed away, along with widespread erosion, blocked drainage systems, and damaged or destroyed culverts. The water supply line and canal to Bokrivier water treatment works were also damaged or rendered inoperable. These disruptions compromised access to essential water sources for Worcester, Rawsonville, and Touwsrivier. The uninsurable nature of the damage, coupled with the municipality's limited financial capacity, posed significant challenges to recovery and the continuation of vital water services.



Figure 54: Breede Valley Municipality damages

Langeberg Municipality

Langeberg Municipality suffered significant infrastructure damage during the July 2024 disaster. The McGregor and Hout Bay River embankments encroached on properties, damaging a recently repaired sewer pump station and WTW. The Municipality sought funding for gabion walls and other protective measures to prevent further erosion. Electrical lines also sustained damage, with limited insurance coverage for the pipelines and electrical systems. The Breede River Pump Station in Ashton, which had already been impacted in September 2023, suffered additional damage, including flooding of the pump station, generator, and distribution board.



Figure 55: Langeberg Municipality damages

Stellenbosch Municipality

Floodwaters from heavy rainfall caused significant erosion along the Banghoek River, damaging the Wemmershoek Bulk Water Supply pipeline that served the Dwarsrivier Valley. The erosion exposed and damaged the 300mm pipeline, leading to its decommissioning. As this pipeline was the sole water supply to the region, the municipality had to act quickly to restore water by temporarily re-routing the pipeline through a farmer's vineyard. The municipality identified the need to replace the damaged section with a more durable pipe, install it underground, and implement riverbank restoration measures to mitigate further erosion.



Figure 56: Stellenbosch Municipality damages

Drakenstein Municipality

The storm caused extensive damage, including the need for repairs to banks, roads, bridges, and inlet structures, as well as borehole pumps, berms, and wall protection. Damage to the Berg River berm at Paarl Wastewater Treatment Works was also reported. It should be noted that this flood protection berm was overtopped by the severe weather events of 2023, with erosion worsening following the 2024 severe weather event. Additional cracks in the slope indicated potential for further failure, delaying permanent repairs.



Figure 57: Drakenstein Municipality damages

OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Overstrand Municipality

The municipality sustained damage to infrastructure, including roads and stormwater systems. While repairs were made after the event, they did not meet current engineering standards. Areas such as Caesar Road in Pringle Bay required formalisation of stormwater channels, and an access road to a reservoir was washed away, necessitating re-graveling. At Court Road, sections of the road and a river embankment collapsed. To address immediate repairs, the municipality reprioritised R460,000 and internal financial contributions were also allocated to mitigate the impact of the disaster.



Figure 58: Overstrand Municipality damages

GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Knysna Municipality

The July 2024 disaster caused significant damage to the municipal road in Noetzie and the sea wall at the Buffalo Bay campsite. The campsite operator requested repairs to ensure safe operations. The estimated repair costs were close to R25,000 for the stone seawall and just over R103,000 for the Noetzie road. Following verification and recommendations, the total cost of repairs was revised to just under R325,000.

SECTOR DEPARTMENTS

Department of Health and Wellness

The extreme weather conditions revealed weaknesses in the Department of Health and Wellness' facilities and maintenance preparations. Damages included roof leaks, ceiling collapses, water damage, uprooted trees, and collapsed fencing. To ensure patient safety and continued service delivery, the Department requested financial assistance for repairs and highlighted the need for ongoing corrective and capital maintenance projects. Internal funds amounting to R3.4 million were allocated to address the impacts of the disaster.



Figure 59: Department of Health and Wellness damages

Department of Education

The Department of Education reported damage to over 400 schools due to the severe weather in July 2024. To maintain continuity in teaching, 107 schools undertook immediate repairs using reprioritised Norms and Standards funding of approximately R44million. The damage was primarily to asbestos roofing, which had deteriorated due to breakages and water leakage, leading to the need for complete roof replacements at several schools.



Figure 60: Department of Education damages

Department of Agriculture

Flooding at Hex River in Breede Valley caused significant damage to agricultural infrastructure, including a cellar, and impacted access to farms, disrupting business processes. The same river systems had been affected by severe weather in 2023, and repair work was partially funded through previous allocations. The Department sought national funding to undertake river protection works, including stabilisation, maintenance, and rehabilitation, to prevent further damage. Additionally, concerns were raised about the impact of flooding on crop and orchard production, particularly in relation to grain and harvesting.



Figure 61: Department of Agriculture damages

Department of Infrastructure: Roads Infrastructure

The Department of Infrastructure faced significant challenges due to extensive damage to the road network, with major and minor roads still closed or under stop/go arrangements. The July 2024 event exacerbated existing infrastructure issues, creating substantial funding difficulties for both ongoing and future repairs. Many repairs from previous weather events remained incomplete due to resource limitations, adding to the backlog. Financial constraints further complicated efforts to address the damage, and the department struggled to manage both current and outstanding infrastructure needs effectively. Internal financial contributions of R27 million were allocated to mitigate the impacts, but additional funding and resources were required to ensure road safety and complete necessary repairs.



Figure 62: Department of Infrastructure damages

Department of Water and Sanitation

The Department of Water and Sanitation reported damage to the Hex River gauging station due to scouring and erosion at the Glen Heatlie station. This station, crucial for flood monitoring and determining water volumes, became non-operational as large water flows severely damaged the riverbank and compromised parts of the structure, requiring replacement.



Figure 63: Department of Water and Sanitation damages

August 2024 Dam failures

Following the dam failures in Riverlands in August 2024, the WC: PDMC conducted initial damage assessments on 6 September 2024 in collaboration with the municipality. This process was supported by the distribution of a standardised assessment template and the issuance of a formal request for business plans and funding submissions on 2 October 2024. The assessments confirmed that the damage caused by the resulting floods exceeded Swartland Municipality's capacity to respond using its own resources. On 17 December 2024, the WC: PDMC, together with relevant stakeholders, conducted a verification of the significant impacts to support the NDMC's decision-making on the funding request.

The flooding caused by the dam failures in Riverlands resulted in extensive damage across multiple sectors within the Swartland Municipality. Infrastructure impacts included severe disruptions to the electricity and water supply networks, affecting approximately 8,000 residents in Riverlands, Chatsworth, and

Silvertown. Swartland Municipality restored the water supply by October 2024 using internal resources for emergency repairs.

In the agricultural sector, the floods destroyed crops and livestock, leading to significant income losses for local residents. Road infrastructure also sustained substantial damage, with several roads washed away. The Municipality carried out temporary repairs by compacting sand and patching affected roads to ensure basic accessibility.

Riverlands Primary School experienced minor flood damage to classrooms, fencing, and the feeding kitchen. An adjacent church, previously used as an additional teaching space, was also damaged and rendered unusable. The floods had significant social impacts, with displaced residents temporarily accommodated in local facilities. The community sports field, regularly used by the school and residents, was completely destroyed.

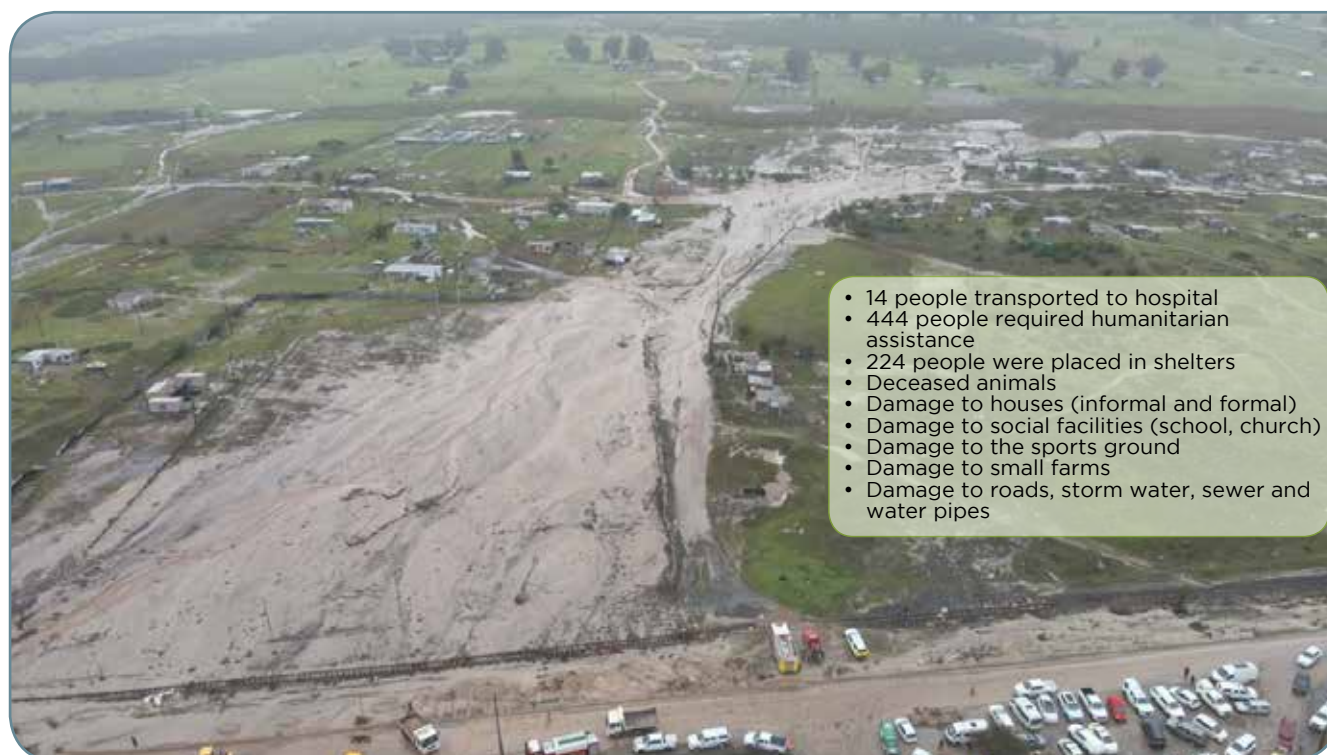


Figure 64: Aftermath of the dam failures

- 14 people transported to hospital
- 444 people required humanitarian assistance
- 224 people were placed in shelters
- Deceased animals
- Damage to houses (informal and formal)
- Damage to social facilities (school, church)
- Damage to the sports ground
- Damage to small farms
- Damage to roads, storm water, sewer and water pipes



Figure 65: Damages in Riverlands

5.7.2 Funding Requirements for Disaster Events in 2024/25

The WC: PDMC reviewed the submitted business plans detailing proposed response and recovery intervention projects in line with the national disaster grant framework. Funding requests were required to reflect only damages directly attributable to the specific disaster event, excluding any costs related to pre-existing infrastructure deficiencies or deferred maintenance. Affected organs of state were also instructed to request only augmentation funding, following the mandatory reprioritisation of internal

budgets and the completion of immediate emergency repairs by the relevant line departments.

All potential beneficiary organs of state undertook feasible internal reprioritisation and budget reallocation, considering concurrent responses to other adverse events. Consequently, infrastructure already covered by insurance was also excluded from the disaster funding requests. Outlined in Tables 6 and 7 are summaries of funding applications submitted to the NDMC for the two significant incidents.

Municipality/ Department	Total Preliminary Damages	Preliminary Shortfall	Verified Total Damages	Contribution/ Reprioritised	Verified Shortfall	Approved Funding
Local Government						
Knysna	R138,860	R138,860	R324,963	R0	R324,963	R113,897
Overstrand	R2,450,000	R2,450,000	R12,230,000	R460,000	R11,770,000	R0
Drakenstein	R36,276,000	R36,276,000	R36,276,000	R0	R36,276,000	R1,976,000
Witzenberg	R33,815,000	R32,552,000	R27,792,000	R1,183,000	R26,609,000	R3,612,000
Matzikama	R12,000,000	R12,000,000	R44,800,000	R0	R44,800,000	R0
Breede Valley	R54,692,800	R54,692,800	R45,498,507	Not indicated	R45,498,508	R7,265,767
Langeberg	R23,023,828	R23,023,828	R29,847,709	R125,000	R29,572,709	R3,612,000
Stellenbosch	R5,769,838	R4,877,838	R6,000,000	R892,000	R5,769,838	R6,000,000
Saldanha Bay	R2,110,000	Unknown	Damaged infrastructure adequately insured. Pending submission of insurance claims.			R590,000
Cederberg	R20,750,000	R20,750,000	R20,750,000	R0	R20,750,000	R6,100,000
City of Cape Town	R40,127,000	R38,806,650	R42,407,000	R350,000	R42,057,000	R17,544,000
Total	R231,153,32	R225,567,976	R265,926,17	R3,010,000	R263,428,018	R46,813,664
Provincial Department						
Infrastructure	R223,165,000	Unknown	R261,120,570	R27,700,000	R233,420,570	R571,000,000
Agriculture	R2,558,435,041	R460,000,000	R460,000,000	R0	R460,000,000	R300,000,000
Education	R157,403,000	R157,403,000	R84,914,449	Unknown	R84,914,449	R70,000,000
Health, and Wellness	R9,792,720	R9,792,720	R9,966,184	R3,479,984	R6,486,200	R6,500,000
Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: Cape Nature	R383,520,000	R383,520,000	Pending further assessments	R0	Pending	R0
Water and Sanitation	R2,760,000	R2,760,000	R2,984,000	R0	R2,984,000	R0
Total	R3,335,075,761	R1,013,475,720	R818,985,203	R31,179,984	R787,805,219	R947,500,000
GRAND TOTAL	R3,566,229,087	R1,239,043,696	R1,084,911,382	R34,189,984	R1,051,233,237	R994,313,664

Table 6: Cost of damages resulting from July 2024 floods and associated approved allocations

Municipality/ Department	Total Preliminary Damages	Preliminary Shortfall	Verified Total Damages	Contribution/ Reprioritised	Verified Shortfall	Approved Funding
Local Government						
Swartland	R16,000,000	R16,000,000	R9,241,000	R0	R9,241,000	R9,241,000
Total	R16,000,000	R16,000,000	R9,241,000	R0	R9,241,000	R9,241,000

Table 7: Cost of damages resulting from dam failures in Riverland and associated approved allocations

5.7.3 Disaster Classifications and Declarations

The two events that underwent assessments and verification led to provincial disaster declarations during the review period. On 12 July 2024, the NDMC, in consultation with the WC: PDMC, classified the July 2024 severe weather event as a provincial disaster under Section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002). This classification was formalised by the Premier of the Western Cape on 19 July 2024. Although the Riverlands dam failure incident was spatially confined, its significant impact and the municipality's limited capacity to manage the response and recovery independently led to its classification as a provincial disaster on 30 September 2024. The Premier of the Western Cape officially declared the Riverlands Dam failure a provincial disaster on 13 December 2024.

These declarations are essential for mobilising resources, coordinating efforts, and implementing measures for disaster management and recovery. In response to the extensive damages caused by the July 2024 severe weather and August 2024 dam failures, and the verified funding shortfall, the WC: PDMC, on behalf of the affected municipalities and sector departments, urgently requested financial assistance of R1.05 billion and R9.2 million, respectively. This funding is critical for both disaster response and building long-term resilience for future disasters. It's worth noting that following the NDMC's review, some projects were not approved, either because they did not meet the grant framework conditions or due to limited funds. Not all municipalities and sector departments that requested funding received allocations, and in some cases, the amounts allocated were less than requested.

5.7.4 Provincial Steering Committee

Following the declaration of the Riverlands dam failure as a provincial disaster, the WC: PDMC established a Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) to coordinate the recovery efforts. Within this committee, the WC: PDMC is responsible for overseeing the implementation of recovery activities across multiple sectors and ensuring alignment with relevant mandates. The PSC meets regularly to review progress on the Swartland Municipality's Intervention Plan, facilitate coordination among municipal, provincial, and national stakeholders, and identify any operational challenges or delays. It also ensures that all recovery actions comply with disaster management regulations and that regular updates are provided to the appropriate authorities, thereby promoting transparency and accountability throughout the recovery process.

5.7.5 Municipal Disaster Recovery/Response Grants

The Municipal Disaster Response/Recovery Grants (MDRGs) are intended to support municipalities in responding to and recovering from declared disaster events. They provide financial assistance for urgent, unforeseen damages, enabling municipalities to address critical community needs and restore essential services. The grants play a key role in ensuring timely and coordinated responses, reducing the impact on affected communities, and building resilience in disaster-prone areas. Response-related interventions must be implemented within six months, while recovery-related interventions are allocated within 12 months.

During the reporting period, four MDRG allocations were active, three were transferred in previous financial years and required rollover processes:

- The first allocation, transferred in March 2023 (2022/2023 financial year), supported recovery efforts following the November–December 2021 flooding.
- The second, transferred in February 2024 (2023/2024 financial year), supported response efforts after the September 2023 flooding.
- The third, transferred in March 2024 (2023/2024 financial year), supported response efforts related to the May–June 2023 severe weather and September 2023 storm surges.

- The fourth, transferred during the 2024/2025 financial year, supported response activities following the severe July 2024 weather and August 2024 dam failures.

Figure 66 shows the municipalities funded under each allocation and the number of projects per municipality in brackets, while Graph 1 shows the total number of projects per allocation.

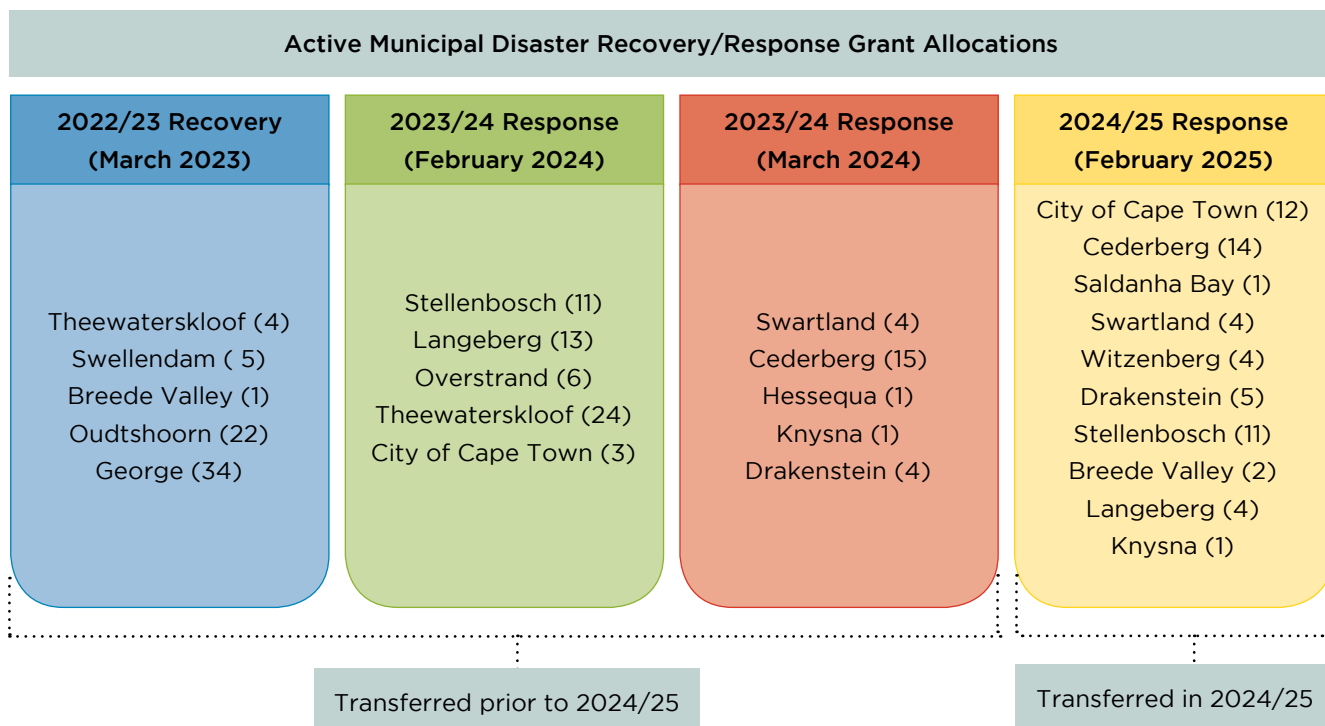
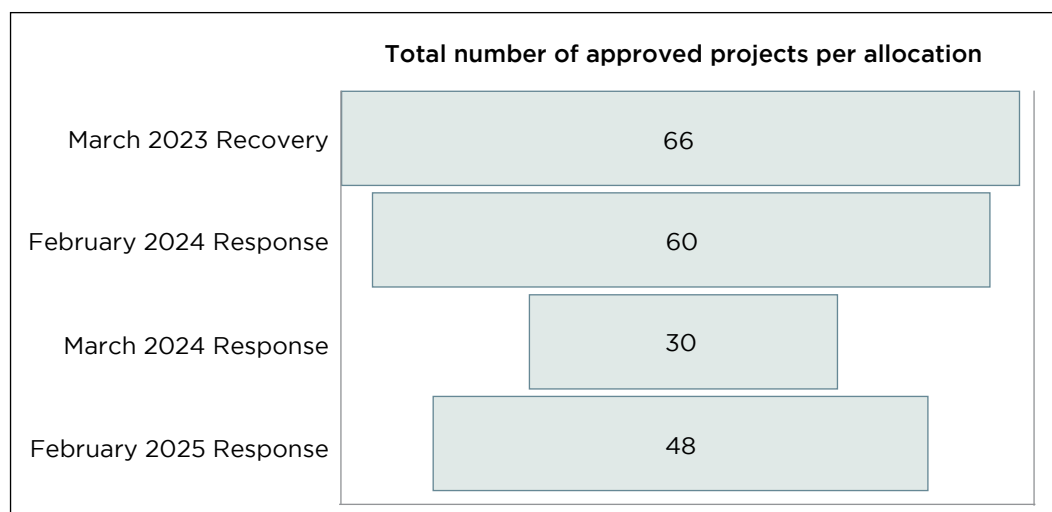


Figure 66: Funded municipalities across the four active MDRGs in 2024/25

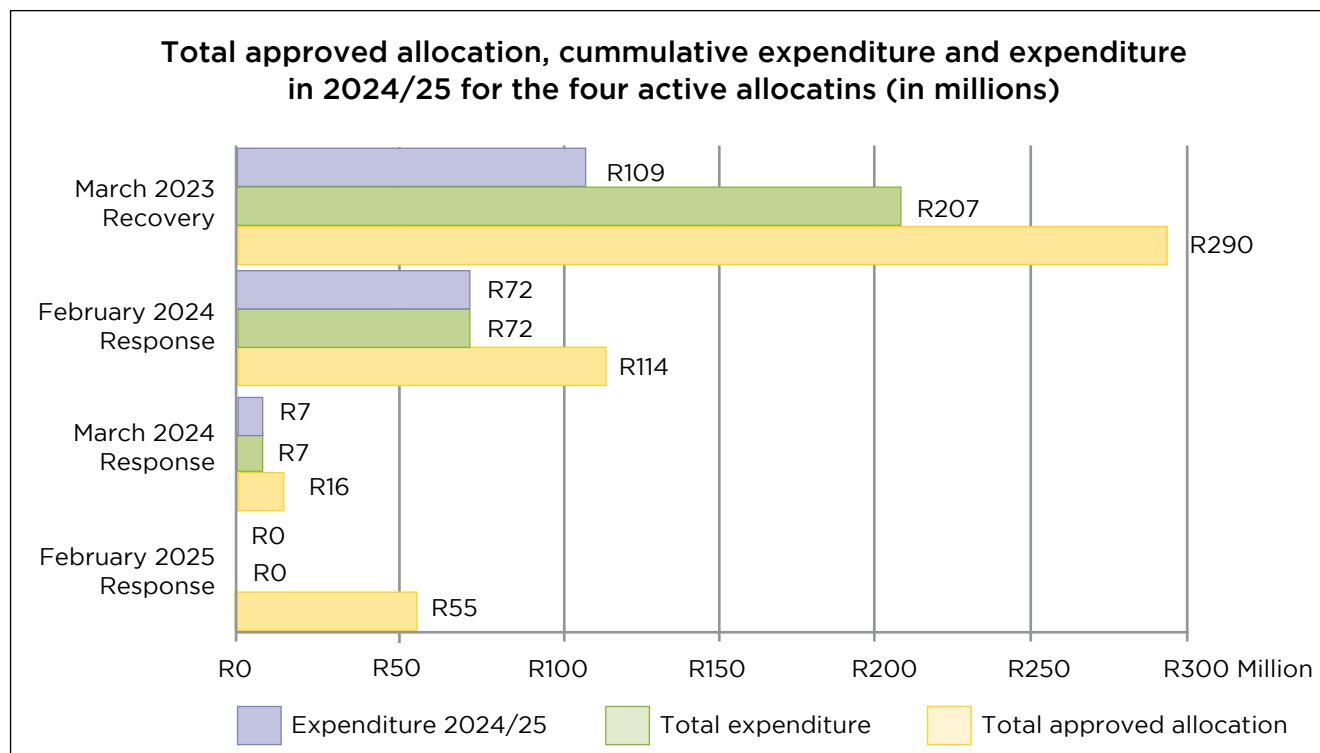


Graph 1: Total number of approved projects per allocations

Of the 15 individual municipal allocations transferred in previous financial years, only Breede Valley Municipality had completed its projects and closed out its allocation before the start of the 2024/25 financial year. Consequently, in 2024/25, 24 sets of projects—comprising 204 individual projects—remained under active monitoring across 15 municipalities and one metro, covering 64% of the province's administrative areas. During the reporting period, Theewaterskloof Municipality was instructed

to surrender their allocations for both the 2022/23 and 2023/24 MDRGs.

Before 2024/25, the NDMC transferred R420.3 million to Western Cape municipalities, with an additional R55.2 million transferred during the reporting period. By March 2025, total expenditure from pre-2024/25 grants reached R287.2 million, 66% of which was incurred during the reporting period.



Graph 2: Total approved allocation, cumulative expenditure and expenditure in 2024/25 for the four allocations (in millions)

No expenditure was recorded by the end of March 2025 for the MDRG allocation transferred in February 2025 (2024/25 financial year), primarily due to administrative and legislative delays following the transfer. Table 8 summarises the approved projects for each municipality under this allocation.

2024/25 MUNICIPAL DISASTER RESPONSE GRANT (MDRG)		
MUNICIPALITY	DESCRIPTIONS OF PROJECTS	APPROVED FUNDS
Saldanha Bay		R590,000
Swartland	Flooding damaged roads, foundations, kerbs, sidewalks, and stormwater pipes. Reconstruction is needed for 800m of gravel roads and three streets, including resurfacing repairs.	R9,241,000
Knysna	Flooding damaged vehicle and pedestrian beach access. Repairs include reinforcing the vehicle ramp with gabions and restoring the beach path with stone steps.	R113,897
Cederberg	Flooding damaged roads, stormwater drainage, water lines, and electrical infrastructure. Repairs include road reconstruction, erosion control, borehole restoration, transformer replacement, and network upgrades for safe, reliable operation.	R6,100,000
City of Cape Town	Flooding damaged canals, rivers, roads, and stormwater systems. Repairs include canal walls, embankments, erosion protection, road reinstatement, and stormwater rehabilitation across multiple locations.	R17,544,000
Langeberg	Flood damage requires rebuilding the 11kV line, strengthening poles, repairing and elevating the pumphouse, replacing the transformer, and restoring fencing.	R2,847,709
Stellenbosch	Flood damage requires planning, design, and construction of a bulk water pipeline, river maintenance, environmental approvals, and contractor appointment for repairs.	R6,000,000
Drakenstein	Bridge and inlet structures require repairs, with bank failure stabilisation needed on the stream and river. Borehole pump replacement necessary.	R1,976,000
Witzenberg	Damages include earth furrow repairs, roof and pump station repairs, and road layer and culvert reconstruction over 30 metres.	R3,612,000
Breede Valley	Damages include road regravelling, stone-pitched side drains, culvert reinstatement, water pipeline replacement, excavation, and new infrastructure.	R7,265,767
TOTAL		R55,290,373

Table 8: Breakdown of Disaster Response Grant allocated to the municipalities within the province during the financial year 2024/25

5.7.6 Monitoring Funded Projects

All MDRG-funded municipalities are required to submit financial and non-financial performance reports to the NDMC via the WC: PDMC to support effective monitoring of implementation progress. In addition to reviewing these reports, the WC: PDMC conducts quarterly site visits to verify reported activities on the ground. To further strengthen oversight and coordination, the WC: PDMC, in collaboration with the NDMC and other stakeholders, convenes monthly PSC meetings. These meetings provide a platform for municipalities to present verbal progress updates, address operational challenges and escalate issues requiring strategic intervention. The forum also facilitates the exchange of ideas and good practices to support accelerated implementation and improved project delivery.

Oversight of the 24 sets of projects across 15 municipalities and one metro required sustained and structured engagement by the WC: PDMC Recovery Team. This included rigorous monthly assessments of progress and expenditure reports, supported by ongoing communication with municipalities to verify report accuracy, confirm expenditure, and resolve discrepancies. Given the wide spatial distribution of projects, quarterly site visits were strategically planned to ensure comprehensive monitoring. Furthermore, as many allocations spanned multiple municipal financial years, the WC: PDMC facilitated the submission and processing of rollover and implementation extension requests. This enabled continued fund utilisation beyond the municipal year-end and the initial implementation period stipulated by the MDRG framework. These oversight activities were critical in ensuring that MDRG allocations were administered in accordance with legislative requirements and delivered the intended recovery outcomes.

5.7.7 Post-disaster Debriefings

The National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF) of 2005, particularly Key Performance Area 4 (KPA 4: Response and Recovery), requires routine comprehensive studies following significant events and disasters. These debriefings capture operational insights, assess coordination and response effectiveness, and identify systemic gaps. The goal is to derive actionable lessons that drive continuous improvement in preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery strategies, strengthening disaster management systems at all government levels.

Post-disaster debriefings follow a structured process. Initially, stakeholders receive an overview of the event, including timelines, impacts, and response actions. They are then divided into thematic working groups, where curated discussion questions facilitate in-depth dialogue and reflection. Each group reports on key points, and a collective exercise formulates actionable recommendations. The resulting report is circulated to participating municipalities and departments for input before finalisation.

During the reporting period, two formal debriefing processes were conducted to review four major disaster events. The first, held in mid-2024 by the WC: PDMC in collaboration with the Research Alliance for Disaster and Risk Reduction (RADAR) at Stellenbosch University, focused on three severe weather incidents from 2023: flooding (14–19 June), a storm and storm surge (16–17 September), and heavy rainfall and high winds (23–24 September). In June and July 2024, five one-day workshops were held across the Cape Winelands, Garden Route, Overberg, and West Coast Districts, as well as at the provincial level, with stakeholders from disaster management structures, municipalities, and provincial departments. The workshops used a set of standardised thematic questions developed by the WC: PDMC to identify operational lessons and inform improvements in disaster management mechanisms. The key findings and recommendations from the weather-related events in 2023 are summarised as follows:

Thematic Area	Key Findings	Recommendations
Decision-making	Incomplete data integration hampered evidence-based decisions.	Strengthen data platforms (e.g. UNITI), improve access, and build capacity for interpretation.
Planning and preparedness	Plans exist but are uneven in quality and often outdated.	Update and test plans regularly; improve inter-agency alignment and public engagement.
Early warning	Warnings were timely but poorly understood and unevenly disseminated.	Simplify messaging, expand languages, use low-tech tools, and build capacity to interpret alerts.
Communication and coordination	Coordination was strong in places but inconsistent across regions.	Formalise communication channels, improve real-time information-sharing, and empower JOC members.
Resource mobilisation	Resource mobilisation was uneven; national support was difficult to activate.	Allocate dedicated budgets, build NGO partnerships, and streamline access to relief and recovery funding.
Funding and recovery	Delays in reimbursement and limited awareness of funding processes.	Improve training on funding mechanisms and clarify procedures across spheres.
Cross-cutting issues	Recurring events and climate change outpace current planning frameworks.	Mainstream risk into infrastructure planning; prioritise mitigation and resilience in development.

Table 9: Debriefing of 2023 Weather-Related Events: Summary Findings and recommendations

The second debriefing session, held on 19 March 2025 at the West Coast Disaster Management Centre (WCDMC) in Moorreesburg for the Riverlands dam failures provided a platform for stakeholders to reflect on response and recovery processes, identify challenges, and document lessons to inform

future interventions. The session also served as an opportunity to expose WCDMC interns to the nature of discussions typical within the Disaster Management discipline. A draft debriefing report will be circulated for stakeholder input prior to its finalisation and distribution in the next financial year.



Figure 67: Riverlands dam failure debriefing workshop

5.7.8 Disaster Recovery Challenges

Municipalities faced several implementation and administrative challenges that delayed the timely use of the MDRG allocations. One initial issue was the lack of detail and clarity in funding request documentation, which resulted in repeated clarifications and exchanges between municipalities, the WC: PDMC, and the NDMC. This iterative process, while not the sole cause, contributed to delays in business plan approvals and the subsequent transfer of funds.

In addition, many municipalities reported slow physical and financial progress in implementing projects after allocations were transferred. Although this trend was common, the underlying causes varied in scale and complexity. Contributing factors included local capacity limitations, procurement constraints, and external operational issues. The table below summarises some of the key challenges identified across the four active MDRG allocations during the reporting period.

Challenges	Challenge details
Procurement delays due to SCM requirements	The time lag between the occurrence of a disaster and the transfer of funding prevents municipalities from utilising emergency procurement procedures. As a result, municipalities must follow standard Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes, which are more time-consuming and contribute to delays in project implementation.
Inaccurate monthly reporting	Inaccurate expenditure reporting remains a challenge, primarily due to municipalities excluding value-added tax (VAT) from their reported figures, despite the MDRG being a VAT-inclusive grant, which leads to under-reporting. Additionally, some municipalities report expenditure based on invoices rather than actual payments, resulting in duplicate reporting when the same invoice is later processed through financial systems.
Uncertainty in MDRG gazettement	Municipalities face uncertainty regarding whether the MDRG funds may be utilised prior to formal gazettement. Although national guidance suggests the funds may be used upon transfer due to urgency, legal and budgetary requirements under the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) necessitate clearer direction to avoid implementation delays – particularly in relation to the 2024/25 MDRG allocation transferred in February 2025.
Delays in budget adjustments and council approvals	The MDRG funds must be incorporated into adjusted municipal budgets, which requires council approval. The dependency on council meeting schedules often delays the finalisation of adjustments, affecting the timely initiation of recovery projects.
Funding reallocation requests post-implementation	Due to the lag between when a disaster occurs and the transfer of the MDRG allocation, municipalities that initiated emergency repairs using internal funds may later request reallocation of the MDRG funds to other priority projects or to cover shortfalls. These reallocation requests involve multiple levels of review and supporting documentation, which can cause further implementation delays.
Prescribed implementation timeline constraints	The six-month implementation window is not adequate due to overlapping financial year-end processes and time-consuming procurement procedures. The delay between disaster occurrence and fund transfer limits access to emergency procurement, reducing the practical timeframe for implementation.
Delays caused by statutory obligations	Environmental approval processes required by legislation often takes time to complete. Delays in securing these approvals during the planning phase of the projects affected construction timelines and contributed to slow financial and physical progress.

Table 10: Summary of key challenges faced during 2024/25

5.7.9 Disaster Recovery Successes

For most of the reporting year, the WC: PDMC had only one official dedicated to disaster recovery activities. Given the extensive workload, this situation proved unsustainable. In December 2024, two additional officials were added to the team, which

enabled more in-depth scrutiny of municipal recovery reports and more effective coordination, follow-up, and support across affected municipalities. The following table summarises some of the successes achieved during the reporting period.

Successes	Success details
Project close-outs	Despite generally slow implementation progress and expenditure across three active MDRG allocations transferred in previous financial years (March 2023, February 2024, and March 2024), seven municipalities (50%) successfully completed all their projects in the 2024/25 financial year.
Roll-over and implementation extension requests	Given that MDRGs span across municipal financial years, all affected municipalities through the WC: PDMC requested roll-overs of their MDRG allocations. These requests were granted, allowing municipalities to utilise their allocation.
Funding requests	In collaboration with affected municipalities, the WC: PDMC submitted funding requests for the two disasters declared during the reporting period. As a result of this coordinated effort, 10 municipalities secured MDRG funding to implement critical response interventions—demonstrating a successful and timely mobilisation of resources to support recovery on the ground.
Debriefings	The WC: PDMC Recovery Team successfully conducted debriefings on four significant disaster events through two dedicated workshops. One workshop was held in collaboration with an external partner, RADAR, while the other was conducted internally within the WC: PDMC. These sessions strengthened institutional learning and enhanced the province's recovery planning capacity.
Reporting improvements	While the MDRG monthly reporting is still not perfect, there is a notable improvement in the detail and accuracy of reporting, that is partly due to increased engagement with the WC: PDMC Recovery team following the addition of capacity, and partly due to municipalities incorporating lessons.

Table 11: Summary of key successes achieved during 2024/25

6 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

6.1 PROVINCIAL FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES CAPACITY

The Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987) (FBA) is the primary legislation regulating fire services and provides for establishing, maintaining, employing, coordinating, and standardising fire brigade services.

The Fire Rescue Services is a dedicated sub-directorate within The Chief Directorate of Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services in the WC: DLG of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. A deputy director is responsible for the sub-directorate, Fire and Rescue Services, reporting in terms of the line function to the Chief Director of Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services. The WC: PDMC, as the competent authority, provided for the administration of the FBS Act and concomitant legislation for and on behalf of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape.

The FBSA provides for the establishment, maintenance, employment, coordination and standardisation of fire brigade services in the country. The Sub-directorate Fire Services currently comprises 1 x Deputy Director (Permanent), 1 x Deputy Director (Seconded), 2 x Assistant Directors (Permanent), 1 Assistant Director (Contract) and 1 x Clerk and is responsible for, among other things:

- Regional coordination of fire service activities
- Establishment of national fire services institutional structures
- Provision of targeted support to municipal fire service structures
- Development of Regulations in terms of the Fire Brigade Services Act
- Development and review of regulatory frameworks for the fire services
- Provision of secretariat/logistical/technical support to the Fire-related forums
- Development and support implementation of national fire safety and prevention strategies/frameworks

6.2 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES FORUMS

The Sub-Directorate Fire Rescue Services supports the secretariat function of the following committees:

- Category of Authorised Persons Committee
- Western Cape Chief Fire Officers Committee
- Provincial Veld Fire Committee
- Dangerous Goods Response (Hazmat) Work Group
- Aerial Fire Fighting Work Group
- Fire Safety Work Group
- Incident Command Systems (ICS) Work Group
- Training Work Group
- Ground Crew Work Group
- Public Education and Awareness Task Group
- Uniform Task Group

6.3 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

The capacity of fire services varies from one municipality to another. To enhance the capacity of the WC: PDMC, various memorandums of understanding and mutual agreements have been facilitated to assess the status of fire services, raise awareness to mitigate impacts, strengthen urban search and rescue response, and improve communications during fire events.

CURRENT MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

BETWEEN		PURPOSE
WC: DLG	Breede Valley Municipality	Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative agreement
	Cape Nature	Fire awareness campaign
	Kishugu Aviation (Pty)Ltd	Aerial Fire Fighting
	Garden Route District Municipality	Aerial Fire Fighting
	Overberg District Municipality	Aerial Fire Fighting
	City of Cape Town Municipality	Aerial Fire Fighting
	Cape Winelands District Municipality	Aerial Fire Fighting
	West Coast District Municipality	Aerial Fire Fighting
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	West Coast District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Cape Winelands District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Overberg District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Eden District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Central Karoo District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Astron Energy	Fire and other large-scale events
	Port of Cape Town	Fire and other large-scale events
	Eskom (Koeberg)	Fire and other large-scale events
	ACSA-Cape Town international Airport	Fire and other large-scale events
	Rheinmetall Denel-Munitions	Fire and other large-scale events
	South African National Parks	Fire and other large-scale events
Cape Winelands District Municipality	Mountains to Oceans/CapeNature	Fire and other large-scale events
Mossel Bay Municipality	Petro SA	Fire and other large-scale events
WC: DLG	Volunteer Wildfire Services NPC	Support Services to WC: DLG in the event of fires and large-scale events
	Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA)	On site surveys of the Fire Stations of the Western Cape
	HAMNET	Communication in the event of fires or disasters
	Dubai Civil Defence	Firefighting and Civil Defence

Table 12: MOUs and agreements between the WC: PDMC, and municipalities



Figure 68:
Inauguration
Memoranda of
Understanding
(DUBAI)

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS		
BETWEEN		PURPOSE
WCDLG	NCC Environmental Services	Ground Fire Fighting (3-year contract)
	Kishugu Aviation (Pty) Ltd	Aerial Fire Fighting (3-year contract)

Table 13: Service Level Agreements

6.4 WESTERN CAPE VELD FIRE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Fire is a natural and essential ecological process in most of the Western Cape’s fynbos. However, as vividly illustrated, during the past fire seasons, it can also have undesirable social and economic impacts, threatening human health, safety, and property. Balancing the potential benefits and risks of veld and forest fires are complex for land, natural resources, and fire managers. It is also a task that is vital to public safety and the sustainable management of fynbos and catchment areas in the province.

The main objective of this plan is to prepare for an out-of-control wildfire in the defined area. Operational

and Safety briefing; General Plan; Objectives; General Command considerations, and Specific Command considerations are just some of the topics covered in the plan.

The Western Cape Provincial Government recognised that a strategic shift is needed to proactively manage the benefits and risks of veld and forest fires to meet the immediate and long-term societal needs and preserve a healthy fynbos ecosystem while protecting our catchment areas. The Western Cape Veld Fire strategic objectives are as follows:

WESTERN CAPE VELD FIRE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES	
1	To establish a well-coordinated early detection and rapid response strategy that is financially sustainable.
2	To develop and maintain a Knowledge Management System that can be used by all spheres of government and other agencies involved with fire management that will ensure well informed decisions relating to fire and fuel load management.
3	To ensure the sustained availability of appropriate fire management resources to efficiently practice integrated fire management in terms of knowledge, personnel, and equipment quality and quantity.
4	To ensure a sustained budget to address the long-term integrated fire management activities, that include alien vegetation management.
5	To develop and strengthen effective partnerships with relevant government bodies, agencies, and departments as well as private entities to support integrated fire management.
6	To ensure that integrated fire management plans protect our critical infrastructure, natural ecosystems, and catchment areas.
7	To develop awareness strategies that will raise awareness of the importance of integrated fire management at an organisational, municipal, and provincial level to reduce the incidence of ignitions and property loss.

Table 14: Western Cape Veld Fire Strategy Objectives

6.5 PROVINCIAL FIRE SERVICES TRAINING

It is important for the WC: PDMC to build capacity through skills development to ensure that municipalities are equipped with the required knowledge and skills to improve their fire services capability. The WC: PDMC facilitated various training sessions, reaching 170 people.

TRAINING COURSES				
COURSE NAME	FROM	TO	PLATFORM	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Fire and Risk Assessment	8 July 2024	16 July 2024	Online	15
Interpretation and Application of Local Authority Bylaws	12 August 2025	20 August 2025	Online	15
Fundamentals of Fire Investigation	26 August 2024	30 August 2024	Online	15
Fundamentals of Design and Evaluation of Engineered Solutions	09 September 2024	17 September 2024	Online	15
Examination of Building Plans	14 October 2024	18 October 2024	In Person	15
Peace Officers	04 November 2024	12 November 2024	Online	15
Resource Unit Leader	07 October 2024	10 October 2024	In Person	15
Operation Section Chief	07 October 2024	10 October 2024	In Person	15
All Hazard Incident Management Exercise	16 October 2024	18 October 2024	In Person	50

Table 15: Fire Training Statistics



Figure 69: Resource Unit Leader training



Figure 70: Operation Section Chief training



Figure 71: All Hazard Incident Management exercise training

6.6 INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The project seeks to provide aerial support and ground firefighting support to the District Fire Services. The objective is to develop and maintain a specialised, proactive and reactive response capability to wildfires in the Western Cape. The sub-directorate also hosted the opening of a Summer Fire Readiness event during the first week of December at the Stellenbosch Airstrip. It was a joint event together with our Disaster Western Cape Life Saving and National Sea Rescue Institute on safety and prevention methods in preparation of the summer season.

6.7 FIRE RESPONSE

The Western Cape Province is required to have a tender in place for the provision of aerial firefighting support during the high fire season which is from 1 December up to and including 31 March each year. This has been determined through years of evidence which has shown to have the most fires during the summer season in the province. However, some regions experience intense fires outside of this period and the remainder of the year are referred to “as and when required”, namely from 1 April up to and including 30 November (low fire season), and requires coverage.

A 3-year tender has been put in place to provide aerial support to prevent the spread of fires, with the focus being on the initial first hour attack to stop the spread of fires.

The current 3-year tender that is in place for Ground Support expires at the end of November 2025 and processes are in place to readvertise and renew this tender for another 3 years.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR AERIAL SUPPORT			
FINANCIAL YEAR	BUDGET	PROVINCIAL FIRES AUTHORISATIONS	EXPENDITURE
2024/2025	R19,080,000.00	63	R19,258,130.38

Table 16: Aerial Budget Expenditure

TOTAL EXPENDITURE PER DISTRICT FOR AERIAL SUPPORT		
MUNICIPALITY	EXPENDITURE PER DISTRICT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
City of Cape Town	R155,870.68	R9,392,057.17
West Coast DM	R1,515,695.15	
Overberg DM	R3,614,138.25	
Garden Route DM	R1,306,884.34	
Cape Winelands DM	R2,799,468.75	
Central Karoo DM	R0.00	

Table 17: Aerial Budget Expenditure per District for 2024/25

6.8 FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY BUILDING

The Fire Service Capacity Building initiative aims to provide funds to municipalities for hazardous material as well as the flood response equipment capacity along the major routes and firefighting capacity across the province. The WC: PDMC provided the following funding during the reporting year:

MUNICIPALITY	PROJECTS	AMOUNT	Gazette 8892 dated 07 March 2024 Grant Allocation: Fire Service Capacity Grant
Breede Valley	Urban Search and Rescue: Cache	R118,000.00	
West Coast DM	Dangerous Goods	R500,000.00	
Cape Winelands DM	Dangerous Goods	R500,000.00	
Overberg DM	Dangerous Goods	R500,000.00	
	Capacity Building	R1,000,000.00	
Garden Route DM	Dangerous Goods	R500,000.00	
	Flood Response	R2,500,000.00	
Central Karoo DM	Dangerous Goods	R500,000.00	
	Capacity Building	R1,000,000.00	
Hessequa	Capacity Building	R558,000.00	
Bitou	Capacity Building	R980,000.00	
Laingsburg	Capacity Building	R557,000.00	
Prince Albert	Capacity Building	R980,000.00	
Umbrella Fire Protection Association		R3,000,000.00	

Table 18: Fire Service Capacity-building



Figure 72: Central Karoo District Municipal Vehicle handover



Figure 73: Hessequa Vehicle handover

6.8.1 Smoke Alarm Campaign

The project's main objective is to identify, purchase, and install the most appropriate smoke alarm for high-risk environments and occupancies. Municipal Fire and Rescue Services staff will develop operational guidelines for the individual smoke alarm installation programmes consistent with the municipality's fire prevention policy. The activities associated with the smoke alarm installation programme include a combination of the following:

- Providing smoke alarm and home fire escape planning information
- Providing or replacing smoke alarms and/or batteries

- Promoting regular testing and maintenance of smoke alarms
- Encouraging residents to regularly maintain their smoke alarms
- Educating residents about the smoke alarms
- Effectively tracking and evaluating the smoke alarm installation programme
- Modifying the programme where necessary to ensure success

This was the first year that the Department made use of grants in order to procure standardised smoke alarms across the province.

GAZETTE	GRANT ALLOCATION	MUNICIPALITY	AMOUNT
8892 dated 07 March 2024	Fire Service Capacity Building Grant	Breede Valley	R348,000.00

Western Cape Government **Expands Smoke Alarm Initiative in Langeberg**



THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE FIRE SAFETY IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES RECEIVED A SIGNIFICANT BOOST ON THE 11 MARCH 2025 WITH THE HANDOVER OF 1,316 SMOKE ALARMS TO THE LANGEBERG MUNICIPALITY.

On 11 March 2025, the Western Cape Government handed over 1,316 smoke alarms to Langeberg Municipality as part of its fire safety initiative. Led by Minister Anton Bredell, the initiative aims to reduce fire risks in vulnerable communities.

So far, nearly 30,000 smoke alarms have been procured, with over 19,000 already installed in high-risk areas to enhance early fire detection and save lives.



View the article here: <https://dxp.westerncape.gov.za/local-government/article/western-cape-smoke-alarm-initiative-keeps-langeberg-residents-safe>

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Figure 74: Smoke alarm poster



Figure 75: The official roll out of smoke alarms was held at Swartland Municipal Fire Station on 06 May 2025 for a grant received in the 2024/25 financial year, which enabled the purchase of 1,705 smoke alarms.

7 CONCLUSION

The Provincial Disaster Management Annual Report was developed by the management of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre under the guidance of Mr. G Paulse, HOD of Local Government, and Mr. A. Bredell, the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

A number of provincial disaster were declared during the 2024/2025 reporting year as can be seen in Chapter 5 of this report. The report examines the activities from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. In recent years, the Western Cape has seen a significant increase in the severity and frequency of disaster incidents, which damaged roads, the agricultural sector, and various areas across the province.

The department's coordination role in ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, and maintaining infrastructure is noteworthy. We highly appreciate the commitment of all governmental and non-governmental partners who passionately serve the people. In a challenging fiscal climate, forming

partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to drive initiatives in municipalities is not just crucial, but also a testament to the value we place on our partners. This requires a strategic shift in reducing, mitigating, and preparing for disasters.

Provincial declarations were declared for the July 2024 floods (declared on 19 July 2024) as well as the Riverlands dam failure (declared on 30 September 2024). The declarations assisted in the mobilization of resources, coordination of recovery and rehabilitation efforts and the implementation of measures for disaster management and recovery. Financial assistance to the amount of R1 059 200 000.00 which is critical for increasing resilience when facing future disasters.

The department intends to continue investing in risk reduction measures to build resilience in the province, support municipalities in their mandates, and advocate for an all-society approach.

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