

OVERBERG DAM – POTENTIAL WATER SECURITY PROJECT IN THE OVERBERG DISTRICT

PROJECT SUMMARY



The Overberg Dam is a proposed catalytic infrastructure project in the Breede River, covering an area of approximately 123 million m³. Positioned as part of the Western Cape Infrastructure Project Pipeline, the dam seeks to enhance long-term water security while driving economic growth, agricultural expansion, job creation, and regional resilience. Aligned with provincial, national, and Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA) priorities, the project will unlock new opportunities in tourism, exports, green energy, logistics and sustainable development. The project also promotes the Western Cape Infrastructure 2050 (WCIF 2050) principles as it harnesses infrastructure innovation to drive equitable economic growth, regenerative ecosystems and spatial justice.

PROJECT STATUS



The Overberg District Municipality, in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure, is requesting approval and funding to conduct a pre-feasibility study for the proposed dam. While the broader vision includes three dams, the Breede River site has been identified as the immediate priority. This study will establish viability, environmental compliance, technical feasibility, and economic impact, positioning the project as a long-term water security and growth catalyst. With national authorities confirming no new dams in the next decade, this initiative responds urgently to water security challenges. The project is a flagship JDMA (Joint District and Metro Approach) intervention with cross-sectoral benefits and strong alignment to provincial, national, and GNU priorities.

FINANCIAL NEEDS



The total project cost will be determined through a feasibility analysis. The immediate financial requirement is support for a pre-feasibility study to de-risk the project and guide evidence-based decision-making. This investment will enable the assessment of infrastructure innovation, ecological sustainability, and stakeholder value, in line with the Western Cape Infrastructure Framework 2050. By demonstrating value-for-money and inclusive returns across six capitals, the study will further refine costs, benefits, and implementation models, to lay the foundation for a major infrastructure investment.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITY

Private sector investors can engage through:



Developing agricultural expansion projects enabled by improved irrigation and long-term water security.



Investing in agri-processing, tourism ventures and logistics hubs linked to the N2 corridor.



Supporting renewable energy opportunities, including hydroelectricity linked to dam infrastructure.



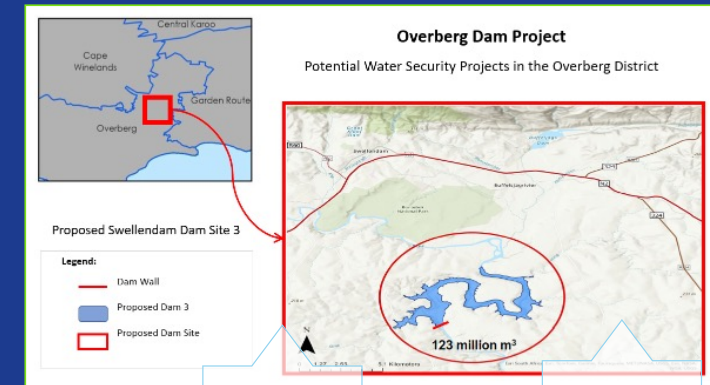
Partnering in innovative financing, management, and service delivery models for sustainable infrastructure.

KEY PARTIES



- Overberg District Municipality
- Western Cape Department of Infrastructure (DOI)
- Cape Agulhas Municipality
- Overstrand Municipality
- Theewaterskloof Municipality
- Swellendam Municipality
- Private sector partners
- National Government stakeholders (GNU priorities, water and infrastructure authorities)

TIMELINE



MAP OF THE PROJECT

OVERBERG DAM PROJECT
Potential Water Security Projects in the Overberg District