

FORWARD THINKING

2021 - 2026

Swartland Municipality | Five - Year Review & Future Vision

Celebrating Our Past Achievements
Shaping the Future of Swartland



Where people can live their dreams

FORWARD THINKING

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1. INTRODUCTION

It has been a remarkable five years for the Swartland Municipality. At a time when the failings of local governments in South Africa have become more pronounced, the Swartland Municipality has shown that well-run and functioning local governments are possible. It is even possible for local governments to grow, thrive and fulfil their core functions as centres of service delivery.

It is our privilege to highlight some of the projects that Swartland has been working on over the past few years. These projects have tied in with our Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which serves as the municipality's business plan.

The IDP is a strategy drafted through various public consultations and inputs. In the end, it serves to reflect the needs and desires of our community and instructs the Municipality on which projects and areas to focus. The IDP focused on five strategic goals. These are the goals that guided the internal planning process and gave direction to prioritised projects.

The vision of the IDP is to build a Swartland for the future, where every resident can live their dream. To achieve this vision, the IDP goals focus on:

1. Community Safety and Wellbeing
2. Economic Transformation
3. Quality and Reliable Services
4. A Healthy and Sustainable Environment
5. A Connected and Innovative Local Government

As we showcase some of the projects and accomplishments of the past few years, we will also point out how these connect to the IDP's strategic goals.

The vision of building a Swartland for the future is nowhere near complete. There are many challenges that hamper progress, and many issues that we do not yet have solutions for. Some of our greatest challenges are issues that do not reside with local government, but with other levels of government, complicating and delaying solutions and effective outcomes.

Swartland Municipality has, however, clearly demonstrated its ability to navigate challenging political and economic climates and create a stable, thriving economic environment that attracts interest and investment.

As the term of office for the current council comes to a close, we are proud to provide you with a small showcase of the achievements and progress that the Swartland Municipality has made.



2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Infrastructure is about more than maintaining municipal assets. It is the foundation upon which service delivery, economic activity, public health, environmental sustainability and community development depend. For local government, strategic infrastructure investment ensures that residents have access to reliable services today while creating the capacity needed to accommodate future growth and development.

Over the past five years, Swartland Municipality has continued to invest in critical infrastructure across its towns, including water and wastewater systems, roads, waste management facilities and public infrastructure. These investments strengthen service reliability, support economic activity, improve mobility and accessibility, protect the environment and help create safer, more functional communities.

The projects highlighted here demonstrate the important role that well-planned infrastructure plays in enabling development, attracting investment and improving the daily lives of residents. They reflect a long-term approach to municipal planning that balances current needs with the future requirements of a growing and dynamic region.

2.1 AWARD-WINNING INFRASTRUCTURE THAT UNLOCKED INVESTMENT

- Winner: Public Sector Innovation Award, Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards (2025)
- Municipal Investment: R12.3 million
- 611 Permanent Jobs Enabled
- Infrastructure project implemented during 2022/2023

Swartland Municipality received the Public Sector Innovation Award at the 2025 Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards for demonstrating how targeted public infrastructure investment can unlock substantial economic development.

The award-winning project centred on the construction of a traffic circle and associated road infrastructure in Malmesbury. The intervention addressed a critical access constraint that was limiting development potential within a key growth area.

By resolving this challenge, the Municipality created the conditions required for major private-sector investment, including the development of the De Zwartland Market Shopping Centre and the Crestcare Private Hospital. These developments have already generated 611 permanent employment opportunities while expanding commercial activity and healthcare services within the region.

What distinguished the project was its proactive approach. The Municipality identified a strategic obstacle to development and resolved it through strategic infrastructure investment which unlocked much more value in private investment and proved a smart return on investment.

The success of the project demonstrates the value of forward planning and highlights the role that well-timed infrastructure investment can play in supporting economic activity, attracting investment and strengthening local economies.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Recipient of the Public Sector Innovation Award at the Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards.
- R12.3 million municipal investment unlocked significant private-sector development.
- Enabled the development of the De Zwartland Markt Shopping Centre and Crestcare Private Hospital.
- Contributed to the creation of 611 permanent jobs.
- Improved accessibility within a strategic development node.
- Invites and improves investor confidence in the Swartland region.

2.2 INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES: WWTW CRITICAL FOR FUTURE GROWTH

- R26.9 million investment in bulk water infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Commencement: February 2021
- Project Completion: June 2023
- 14 temporary jobs created

The upgrading of the bulk water supply infrastructure serving Malmesbury and Riebeek Kasteel forms part of Swartland Municipality's long-term strategy to secure sustainable water provision, support future development and ensure reliable service delivery to growing communities across the region.

The project was initiated in response to findings contained in the Municipality's Spatial Development Framework (SDF), Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) and Water Master Plan (WMP), which identified the need for significant upgrades to the existing water distribution network to accommodate future growth and increasing demand.

In response, Swartland Municipality launched a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade programme to strengthen the regional water supply network and provide long-term bulk water security.

The project included the construction of several new bulk water pipelines and associated infrastructure across Malmesbury and Riebeek Kasteel. Major works included more than 3 kilometres of new large-diameter bulk water pipelines ranging between 200 mm and 450 mm in diameter, new reservoir connections, river crossings, valve chambers and specialised micro-tunnelling installations beneath both the R45 Provincial Road and the N7 National Road.

A key engineering component of the project included the installation of large concrete sleeves beneath major transport routes using advanced micro-tunnelling techniques, allowing critical infrastructure to be installed with minimal disruption to road users and surrounding communities.

Additional upgrades included new distribution pipelines supplying the De Hoop development area, the Wesbank Reservoir Complex and surrounding neighbourhoods, as well as infrastructure improvements supporting water supply to Riebeek Kasteel.

The project further complemented subsequent municipal investments in potable water pipe replacements within Malmesbury and Riebeek Kasteel, where ageing pipelines were replaced to strengthen local distribution networks, improve operational reliability and unlock future development opportunities.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Increased bulk water supply capacity to support future residential, commercial and economic growth.
- Improved water security for Malmesbury, Riebeek Kasteel and the De Hoop Development.
- Modernised strategic water infrastructure through the installation of new large-diameter bulk pipelines.
- Enhanced network reliability and operational efficiency across the municipal water distribution system.
- Strengthened infrastructure resilience to accommodate long-term growth and development demands.
- Temporary employment opportunities created during construction and implementation phases.

2.3 DARLING WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS UPGRADE

- R65.6 million investment in wastewater infrastructure renewal
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Commencement: 8 June 2020
- Project Completion: May 2024

The upgrade of the Darling Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is part of Swartland Municipality's continued investment in sustainable infrastructure, environmental protection and reliable service delivery to growing communities across the region.

Prior to the upgrade, the Darling WWTW experienced severe operational challenges due to ageing infrastructure, limited treatment capacity and frequent mechanical breakdowns. In short, the treatment works was not operating at its full design capacity.

To improve the quality and level of services delivered to Darling, Swartland Municipality embarked on a comprehensive upgrade focused on improving sludge handling, treatment efficiency and operational reliability. The value of investment in the infrastructure upgrade was approximately R65.6 million, making it one of the largest infrastructure investment projects in Darling.

The project focused on the modernisation and expansion of the sludge handling facilities, including the construction of a new aerobic digester and upgraded dewatering facility equipped with modern dewatering technology. The existing Return Activated Sludge (RAS) pump station and holding tank were modified to improve operational performance, while new high-security perimeter fencing and upgraded mechanical and electrical infrastructure further enhanced the facility.

The upgrades are essential in making sure that Swartland's wastewater infrastructure remains capable of supporting future population growth, economic development and environmental sustainability throughout the region.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Improved sludge handling and treatment processes through the installation of modern dewatering infrastructure.
- Increased operational reliability and reduced mechanical failures through upgraded mechanical and electrical systems.
- Enhanced process control and operational efficiency to support long-term wastewater treatment performance.
- Reduced environmental and public health risks.
- Improved effluent quality and treatment compliance.
- Improved and expanded infrastructure capacity to support future residential and economic growth within the Darling area.

2.4 MOORREESBURG WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS UPGRADE

- R69.8 million investment in sustainable wastewater infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Contractor: Haw and Inglis Civil Engineering (Pty) Ltd
- Project Commencement: June 2020
- Project Completion: October 2024

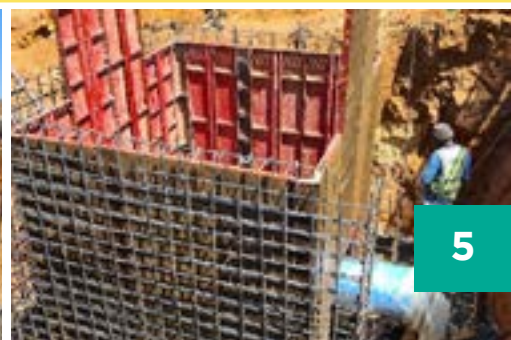
The successful upgrade of the Moorreesburg Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is another major milestone in Swartland Municipality's commitment to sustainable infrastructure development, environmental responsibility and reliable service delivery.

Serving one of the region's key agricultural towns, the existing wastewater treatment works had reached the end of its operational lifespan after decades of service. Ageing infrastructure, outdated control systems and increasing demand placed significant pressure on the facility, resulting in operational inefficiencies, high maintenance requirements and environmental compliance challenges.

To address these challenges and provide capacity for future growth, Swartland Municipality embarked on a comprehensive upgrade and modernisation of the facility.

The project included the complete replacement and upgrading of major wastewater treatment infrastructure, including a new raw sewage pump station, inlet works, advanced biological reactor technology, secondary settling tanks and upgraded disinfection facilities. New mechanical, electrical and process control systems were installed to improve operational efficiency, reliability and environmental compliance.

Additional infrastructure included modern sludge handling and dewatering facilities, new machine and control buildings, backup power generation and upgraded irrigation systems. The project also incorporated the demolition and replacement of outdated infrastructure that no longer met operational requirements.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Increased treatment capacity to support future residential, agricultural and economic growth in the region.
- Modernised process control systems enabling improved operational efficiency and real-time plant management.
- Enhanced sludge handling and dewatering capabilities to improve overall treatment performance. Improved effluent quality and restored environmental compliance, protecting both public health and natural water resources.
- Reduced operational risks and long-term maintenance costs through the replacement of ageing infrastructure.

2.5 HIGHLANDS LANDFILL SITE

- R43.4 million investment in sustainable waste management infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 4: A Healthy and Sustainable Environment
- Project Commencement: September 2024
- Project Completion: February 2026

The development of the new cell, Cell 3A, at the Highlands Landfill site marks a major strategic investment by Swartland Municipality in environmental sustainability, responsible waste management and long-term service delivery capacity.

As population growth, economic activity and development across the Swartland region continue to increase, the demand for compliant and sustainable waste disposal infrastructure has also grown significantly. In response, Swartland Municipality identified the urgent need to expand the Highlands Landfill facility through the construction of a new Class B landfill cell within the site's existing licensed footprint.

The project was funded through a combination of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding and internal municipal resources, demonstrating the Municipality's continued focus on investing in critical environmental infrastructure.

The project was implemented in two phases to facilitate effective budget expenditure and project delivery. The first phase focused on bulk earthworks and associated infrastructure, while the second phase included the specialised civil engineering and geosynthetic lining installation works required to meet strict environmental compliance standards. Both contracts were completed on time and within budget.

The project included the excavation and preparation of the new landfill footprint, installation of new sewer and leachate infrastructure, construction of a new weighbridge facility and the implementation of a sophisticated landfill lining and drainage system designed in accordance with the National Environmental Management Waste Act norms and standards.

The Municipality further undertook extensive quality assurance processes, including specialised electric leak detection testing across the entire landfill footprint to ensure the integrity of the barrier system and compliance with environmental standards.

The new cell is expected to provide between seven and eight years of additional landfill airspace capacity, ensuring continued waste disposal services for communities and businesses across the Swartland region while enabling future expansion through the planned development of Cell 3B. In anticipation of future development, the administrative processes with regard to environmental planning and studies have been completed.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Expanded landfill disposal capacity to support future residential, commercial and industrial growth across the region.
- Modern environmentally compliant landfill infrastructure constructed in accordance with national waste management standards.
- Improved leachate management and environmental protection systems to reduce pollution and safeguard natural resources.
- Enhanced operational efficiency through upgraded weighbridge, drainage and monitoring systems.
- Increased long-term waste-management capacity through proactive infrastructure planning and phased future expansion.

2.6 NEW ROADS IN SWARTLAND

- R58.4 million investment in road infrastructure upgrading
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Period: June 2021 – June 2025
- Approximately 9.3 kilometres of roads upgraded
- Approximately 75 temporary employment opportunities created

Our road infrastructure serves as the vital arteries of our economy. To upgrade a road from gravel to asphalt is not an aesthetic decision, but a strategic investment in long-term infrastructure.

Implemented between 2021 and 2025, the programme focused on improving accessibility, road safety, service delivery reliability and overall living conditions within communities by replacing ageing gravel roads with durable asphalt infrastructure.

The condition of gravel roads is severely impacted by weather conditions, which complicate access for municipal services, residents and businesses who use these roads daily.

Through investment in road surface upgrades, approximately 9.3 kilometres of road infrastructure were upgraded to asphalt standard, significantly improving all-weather accessibility and providing safer, more reliable transport routes for communities across the Swartland region.

The upgraded roads provide smoother and safer driving conditions while reducing dust pollution, potholes, corrugations and vehicle damage commonly associated with gravel surfaces. The improvements further support more efficient movement of goods, public transport and emergency services while improving connectivity between residential areas, schools, clinics, businesses and economic opportunities.

A key objective of the programme is to move away from costly short-term maintenance cycles associated with gravel roads toward more sustainable long-term infrastructure investment. Gravel roads require frequent grading, regravelling and repairs following rainfall, placing continuous pressure on municipal maintenance budgets. Asphalt roads provide greater durability, lower maintenance requirements and improved long-term infrastructure sustainability.

In addition to the infrastructure benefits, the programme created approximately 75 temporary employment opportunities during implementation and contributed to local economic activity through construction and related services.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Upgrading of approximately 9.3 kilometres of gravel roads to asphalt standard.
- Improved all-weather accessibility and transport reliability for residents and service providers.
- Enhanced road safety through improved vehicle control, visibility and smoother road surfaces.
- Reduced dust pollution and improved environmental and living conditions within communities.
- Lower long-term road maintenance requirements and improved infrastructure sustainability.
- Improved access to employment opportunities and services.
- Approximately 75 temporary employment opportunities created during construction.

2.7 RESEALING AND REHABILITATION OF ROADS ACROSS SWARTLAND

- R83.4 million investment in road infrastructure preservation and renewal
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Duration: Financial Years 2021 – 2025
- Total Road Network Improved: 78.63 km
- Implemented across the Swartland municipal area

The multi-year road resealing and rehabilitation programme is one of the Municipality's largest ongoing infrastructure preservation initiatives aimed at protecting and extending the lifespan of critical transport infrastructure across the entire municipality.

Road infrastructure remains one of the most valuable public assets within any municipality and serves as the economic arteries for the entire region.

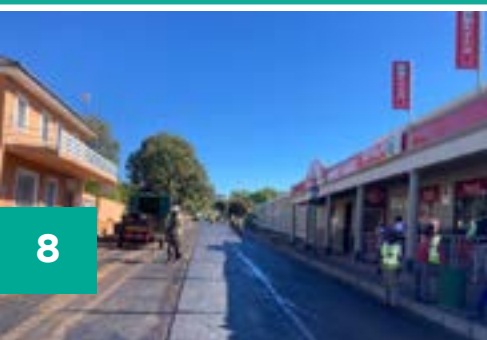
Recognising the importance of preventative maintenance, the Municipality implemented a comprehensive resealing and rehabilitation programme across the municipal area between the 2021 and 2025 financial years.

The programme focused on preserving the integrity and functionality of existing asphalt roads through targeted resealing interventions, surface rehabilitation works and structural repairs where required. Roads that had reached advanced stages of deterioration underwent rehabilitation treatments aimed at restoring structural strength and improving long-term durability.

The Municipality completed approximately 78.63 kilometres of road preservation and rehabilitation works across various towns within the Swartland municipal area, significantly improving the quality, safety and reliability of the local road network.

A key objective of the programme was to prevent minor surface deterioration from escalating into major structural road failures. By implementing maintenance interventions at the correct time, the Municipality was able to preserve existing infrastructure investments while reducing future rehabilitation costs.

The programme further contributes directly to effective municipal service delivery by ensuring that critical road infrastructure remains functional and accessible for emergency services, waste collection, economic activity, public transport and daily commuting.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Preservation and rehabilitation of approximately 78.63 km of municipal road infrastructure.
- Improved road safety through enhanced skid resistance, smoother surfaces and reduced pothole formation.
- Extended lifespan of existing road infrastructure through proactive preventative maintenance.
- Reduced future infrastructure replacement and reconstruction costs through early intervention strategies.
- Improved driving conditions and reduced vehicle wear and tear for residents and businesses.
- Protection of road infrastructure against water penetration and environmental deterioration.
- Improved accessibility and mobility across towns within the Swartland municipal area.

2.8 NON-MOTORISED TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN MALMESBURY

- R15 million investment in pedestrian safety and public infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Commencement: September 2022
- Project Completion: August 2023
- 93 employment opportunities created

The project was initiated following the upgrade of the N7 to freeway status. While the freeway upgrade significantly improved regional traffic flow and transport efficiency, it also created a serious challenge for pedestrians who historically moved alongside and across the route to access schools, public transport, employment opportunities and surrounding communities.

Despite pedestrian movement within the freeway reserve becoming both dangerous and illegal, many residents continued using informal crossing points and unsafe walking routes out of necessity. This created a substantial safety risk for pedestrians exposed to high-speed traffic conditions along the N7 corridor.

Recognising the urgent need for intervention, Swartland Municipality implemented a comprehensive non-motorised transport infrastructure project aimed at providing safe, formalised and accessible pedestrian routes throughout affected areas of Malmesbury.

The project focused on the construction of dedicated sidewalks and walkways designed to redirect pedestrian movement toward safe crossings and underpasses while improving connectivity between key residential communities such as Wesbank and Ilinge Lethu and important public amenities, schools, transport routes and economic centres.

The upgraded infrastructure was further designed to accommodate universal access principles, ensuring safer movement for vulnerable road users, including children, elderly residents and persons with disabilities.

In addition to the pedestrian infrastructure improvements, the project also included the enhancement of public open spaces and the introduction of recreational elements such as outdoor gym equipment, sports-related infrastructure, seating areas, landscaping and lighting. These improvements contributed to the creation of safer and more functional public environments that encourage community interaction, physical activity and social wellbeing.

The project formed part of Swartland Municipality's broader investment into sustainable mobility, inclusive urban planning and infrastructure investment that improves quality of life within underserved communities.

A further key component of the project was its socio-economic impact during implementation. The labour-intensive nature of the works created significant local employment opportunities while also supporting skills development and participation by local labour and enterprises.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Significant improvement in pedestrian safety through the construction of formalised sidewalks and walkways.
- Reduction in unsafe pedestrian movement along and across the N7 freeway corridor.
- Improved accessibility between residential communities, schools, public transport routes and economic opportunities.
- Enhanced mobility for vulnerable pedestrians, including persons with disabilities.
- Improved public spaces through landscaping, lighting and recreational enhancements.
- Promotion of safer and more sustainable non-motorised transport alternatives.
- Creation of 93 employment opportunities during construction and implementation. Skills development and socio-economic upliftment opportunities generated through local participation.
- Improved urban functionality and connectivity within underserved areas of Malmesbury.

2.9 WARD COMMITTEE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY PROJECTS

- R4.65 million investment in local safety and pedestrian infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Period: 2021 – 2025 Financial Years
- Approximately 25 temporary employment opportunities created
- Implemented across the Swartland municipal area
- 75 speed humps constructed and approximately 1 538 metres of sidewalks developed

Swartland Municipality's Ward Committee Safety and Accessibility Projects represent a practical, community-driven infrastructure initiative focused on improving road safety, pedestrian protection and neighbourhood accessibility throughout the municipal area.

Implemented between the 2021 and 2025 financial years, the programme addressed everyday safety concerns identified directly through ward committee structures and community engagement processes. The initiative focused specifically on the installation of speed humps and the construction of sidewalks in areas where pedestrian movement, traffic safety and accessibility required urgent intervention.

A total of 75 speed humps were constructed across various towns within the Swartland municipal area to reduce speeding and improve safety in residential neighbourhoods, near schools and in areas with high pedestrian activity.

The interventions help lower accident risks, improve driver behaviour and create safer environments for residents, particularly children and vulnerable road users.

In addition to traffic calming measures, approximately 1 538 metres of sidewalks were constructed to improve pedestrian mobility and provide safer, dedicated walking infrastructure for residents.

The sidewalks play an important role in separating pedestrians from vehicle traffic and improving accessibility for school learners, elderly residents, persons with disabilities and community members who rely on walking as a primary mode of transport.

The project demonstrates the importance of investing in smaller-scale, community-focused infrastructure interventions that directly improve daily quality of life for residents. While often less visible than large capital projects, traffic calming measures and pedestrian infrastructure have a significant long-term impact on community safety, accessibility and urban functionality.

The initiative also created temporary employment opportunities during implementation and contributed to safer, more liveable public environments throughout the Swartland region.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Installation of 75 speed humps to improve traffic calming and road safety.
- Construction of approximately 1 538 metres of pedestrian sidewalks across the municipal area.
- Improved pedestrian safety in residential areas, near schools and within high-foot-traffic zones.
- Reduced speeding and improved driver behaviour through permanent traffic calming measures.
- Enhanced accessibility for vulnerable road users, including children, elderly residents and persons with disabilities.

2.10 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: THE DE HOOP SUBSTATION

- R145 million investment in local infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Start Date: June 2022
- Expected Completion: January 2028

Swartland Municipality's De Hoop 132/11 kV Substation Project is one of the municipality's most significant strategic infrastructure investments, designed to secure long-term electricity capacity for the continued residential, commercial and industrial growth of Malmesbury.

With an estimated project value of approximately R145 million, the project began in June 2022 and is expected to be completed by January 2028, with the core substation infrastructure targeted for commissioning by the end of 2026.

This project shows the Municipality's intention to deliver quality and reliable services while creating an environment for sustainable economic growth and development. Strategically positioned to accommodate increasing electricity demand, the new substation will support major existing and future developments across Malmesbury.

Once operational, the De Hoop Substation will enable the reallocation of electrical load from the existing Pieter Bergh, Malmesbury Main and Klipfontein substations. This will release critical network capacity in other parts of the town and unlock opportunities for additional industrial expansion, commercial investment and residential development in areas such as Bokomo Road, Klipfontein and the northern parts of Malmesbury.

Key developments that will benefit from this expanded electricity capacity include the new shopping centre, hospital developments, the Mount Royal Estate and future retail expansion initiatives.

Swartland Municipality successfully applied to Eskom for this new supply point, which will enable the Municipality to operate its own 132 kV/11 kV substation. In the longer term, the project is part of a broader strategic vision to expand the municipal 132 kV network and reduce reliance on Eskom's existing 11 kV supply infrastructure.

In an innovative and cost-saving approach, Swartland Municipality also applied to Eskom for permission to self-build a 4.5 km double-circuit 132 kV power line and associated switching station infrastructure. The project is partially funded through the Department of Electricity and Energy via the Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) Grant.

Beyond its technical significance, the De Hoop Substation Project demonstrates Swartland Municipality's proactive approach to long-term planning, infrastructure resilience and service delivery excellence. The project contributes to economic transformation, sustainable development, investment attraction and improved quality of life for residents.

The project strengthens Swartland Municipality's reputation as a development-friendly municipality that invests in strategic bulk infrastructure to unlock growth and create opportunities for future generations.

FORWARD THINKING



2.11 ONLINE ELECTRICITY SALES

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Start date: July 2024
- Date of Completion: January 2025

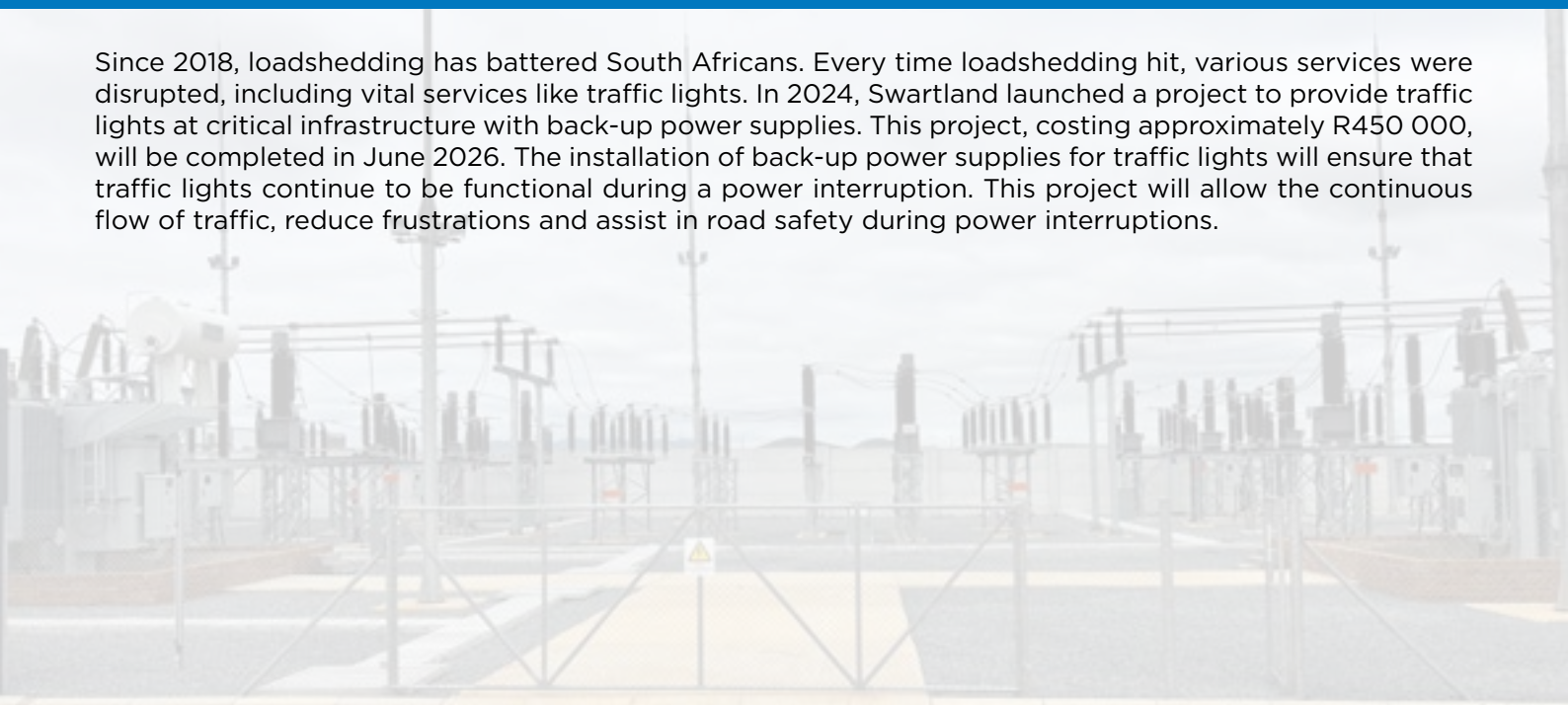
Swartland Municipality makes every effort to deliver services in a way which is accessible and affordable to residents. The use of technology is key in these endeavours. To that end, and by listening to the needs of the community, Swartland Municipality made online prepaid electricity services available to municipal electricity clients. This convenient 24-hour service has made it possible for residents to buy electricity tokens from the comfort of their own homes, at any time, via online banking apps or relevant internet portals. This service is made possible by a service provider appointed via a multi-year contract. This service launched in January 2025, and it has proven to be an extremely popular service for residents. Conventional sales are still available to residents who prefer to pay directly for services.

It has been one of the most requested services by residents. The Municipality is proud to make this service available to residents and improve the way services are made available to residents.

2.12 TRAFFIC LIGHTS BACK-UP POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

- Total budget of project: R450 000
- IDP Strategic Goal 1 & 3: Community safety and Wellbeing & Quality and Reliable Services
- Start date: July 2024
- Date of Completion: June 2026

Since 2018, loadshedding has battered South Africans. Every time loadshedding hit, various services were disrupted, including vital services like traffic lights. In 2024, Swartland launched a project to provide traffic lights at critical infrastructure with back-up power supplies. This project, costing approximately R450 000, will be completed in June 2026. The installation of back-up power supplies for traffic lights will ensure that traffic lights continue to be functional during a power interruption. This project will allow the continuous flow of traffic, reduce frustrations and assist in road safety during power interruptions.



2.13 SARAH BAARTMAN WATER & SEWER PIPES CONSTRUCTION

- Total budget of project: R6.2 million
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Start Date: September 2024
- Project Completion: May 2025
- Approximately 13 temporary jobs created

Swartland Municipality completed the Sarah Baartman Water and Sewer Pipes Construction Project as part of its ongoing efforts to support sustainable residential growth and reliable service delivery in Malmesbury.

The project included the construction of new bulk and network potable water pipelines to supply water to the De Hoop low-cost housing development and surrounding neighbourhoods. The infrastructure comprised approximately 0.5 km of 450 mm diameter bulk pipeline, together with approximately 1.15 km of network pipelines ranging between 110 mm and 250 mm in diameter.

In addition, the project included the installation of approximately 220 metres of new sewer infrastructure to serve the new school and adjacent erven within the development area.

This investment significantly improves water security and bulk service capacity for the De Hoop development and a large surrounding area of Malmesbury, while also supporting future residential expansion and community development.

2.14 SCHOONSPRUIT SEWER PIPE REPLACEMENT

- Total budget of project: R12.1 million
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Start Date: May 2023
- Project Completion: May 2026
- Approximately 30 temporary jobs created

Swartland Municipality launched the Schoonspruit Sewer Pipe Replacement Project as part of its ongoing investment in critical underground infrastructure renewal and reliable service delivery in Malmesbury.

The project involved the replacement of approximately 815 metres of ageing 315 mm diameter sewer pipeline located along Schoonspruitweg and Industriesingel. The existing pipeline had deteriorated significantly over time, resulting in repeated collapses, operational failures and growing public safety concerns.

The replacement of the sewer infrastructure was urgently required to restore the integrity and reliability of the sewer network serving the area, while also reducing maintenance risks and preventing future service disruptions.

This important infrastructure investment improves public safety, strengthens the long-term reliability of the municipal sewer system and supports sustainable urban development within Malmesbury.



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2.15 CONSTRUCTION OF ABLUTION FACILITIES FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 30 JUNE 2023

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total budget of project: R854 959.13
- Project end date: June 2023

Swartland Municipality implemented a multi-year programme to construct and upgrade ablution facilities across various towns within the municipal area as needs arose and funding became available.

The initiative improved access to safe and functional public sanitation infrastructure within community and recreational spaces while supporting dignity, hygiene and improved public amenities for residents across Swartland.

2.16 SUPPLY AND ERECT FENCING IN KALBASKRAAL AND RIEBEEK WEST

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total budget of project: R1 206 406.02
- Project start date: April 2022
- Project end date: May 2022

Swartland Municipality completed strategic fencing projects in Kalbaskraal and Riebeek West aimed at improving land management, safety and infrastructure demarcation.

In Kalbaskraal, the project established clear boundaries between newly developed affordable housing erven and existing properties, supporting orderly development and future community growth. In Riebeek West, fencing was installed around the former landfill site to improve safety, security and environmental management.



2.17 FENCING OF CHATSWORTH OXIDATION PONDS

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total budget of project: R1 315 840.90
- Project start date: January 2024
- Project end date: May 2024
- Jobs created: 4 temporary positions

Swartland Municipality completed the installation of new high-security fencing around the Chatsworth oxidation ponds to improve public safety and environmental protection.

The project involved the construction of a new 2 m-high concrete palisade fence to prevent public access to potentially hazardous wastewater infrastructure. The fencing reduces the risk of children entering the ponds and prevents animals from accessing contaminated water, contributing to improved safety and environmental management within the area.

2.18 FENCING OF THE NEW MOORREESBURG CEMETERY

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total budget of project: R533 046.60
- Project start date: October 2023
- Project end date: November 2023

Swartland Municipality completed the installation of a new perimeter fence at the New Moorreesburg Cemetery to improve security, site management and protection of municipal infrastructure.

The project included the installation of a new 2 m-high diamond mesh boundary fence around the cemetery property, contributing toward improved maintenance, controlled access and long-term preservation of the facility.

2.19 CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALLS AT RIVERLANDS AND ILINGE LETHU SPORTS GROUNDS

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total budget of project: R458 873.75
- Project start date: May 2025
- Project end date: June 2025

Swartland Municipality improved safety and infrastructure protection at the Riverlands and Ilinge Lethu sports grounds through the construction of new boundary walls.

The project included the construction of durable brick boundary walls at both facilities to improve access control, protect municipal assets and strengthen the overall functionality and safety of these important community facilities.

FORWARD THINKING



3. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Safe, resilient and inclusive communities require more than effective emergency response. They depend on strong partnerships, preventative interventions and support systems that help residents navigate both physical and social challenges.

While many aspects of public safety fall outside the direct mandate of local government, municipalities play an important role in creating environments where people can live, work and raise their families with dignity and security. This includes investing in emergency preparedness, supporting crime prevention initiatives, assisting vulnerable residents and strengthening the networks that connect communities to essential services and support.

In Swartland, community safety is approached as a shared responsibility. Through collaboration with law enforcement agencies, government departments, community organisations and volunteers, the Municipality contributes to a safer and more resilient region while addressing broader social challenges that impact community wellbeing.

The projects featured here highlight investments in emergency response, disaster preparedness, fire prevention, community development and support services. Together, they demonstrate how practical interventions and community partnerships can strengthen resilience, improve wellbeing and help create safer communities for all residents.



3.1 SAFETY FIRST: EXPANSION OF FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

- More than R5.2 million investment in firefighting and emergency response infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Fleet Expansion: 2022 – 2025

Swartland Municipality has continued to strengthen its firefighting and emergency response capabilities by expanding the capacity and capabilities of the Swartland Fire and Rescue Service. During the past five years, it has been an important focus for the Executive Mayor and the Municipality to expand the service and extend its capacity and efficiency in all major hubs.

As part of this ongoing investment programme, the Municipality acquired multiple new firefighting vehicles between 2022 and 2025 to improve operational capacity, emergency response times and service sustainability within the Swartland region.

The first major fleet addition was introduced during 2022 through the acquisition of a new firefighting vehicle valued at approximately R1.55 million.

The vehicle significantly upgraded the Municipality's operational capabilities and replaced ageing equipment previously in service. The major pumper truck was specifically equipped to meet the operational requirements of Swartland's firefighting services and included a 3 000-litre water carrying capacity, advanced pumping systems and improved storage and response functionality.

This investment was followed by the acquisition of an additional modern firefighting and rescue vehicle in 2025 at a total cost of approximately R3.7 million, partially funded through a R926 000 contribution from the Western Cape Provincial Government.

The new emergency vehicle was specifically designed to strengthen the Municipality's response to structural fires, emergency incidents and rescue operations. In addition to carrying 3 000 litres of water and 250 litres of firefighting foam, the vehicle was equipped with specialised rescue equipment capable of supporting responses to serious motor vehicle accidents and other emergency situations.

The investments form part of Swartland Municipality's broader strategy to improve internal firefighting and emergency response capacity while reducing reliance on external support services during critical incidents.

The expansion and improvement of the Swartland Fire and Rescue services also included the appointment of additional staff and improvement of existing infrastructure at fire stations across the Swartland. In the coming years, significant improvements and expansions are planned for this service and the budget and planning for the next financial years will reflect the ongoing investment in community safety.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Expansion and modernisation of the municipal firefighting fleet.
- Improved emergency response capacity for structural fires and rescue incidents.
- Increased operational readiness and disaster response capabilities.
- Enhanced firefighting efficiency through modern equipment and upgraded vehicle systems.
- Improved municipal self-sufficiency through reduced reliance on external emergency support.
- Improved public safety through faster and more effective emergency response services.

3.2 SMOKE ALARM PROJECT

- R750 000 investment in proactive community fire protection
- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Programme Launch: October 2024
- Rollout Commenced: May 2025
- 2 685 smoke alarms allocated for high-risk communities

Swartland Municipality has committed to protecting vulnerable communities through the implementation of a large-scale Community Smoke Alarm Rollout Programme aimed at reducing fire-related deaths, injuries and property losses within high-risk residential areas.

The programme was introduced in response to the significant risks posed by fires within informal settlements, flats and densely populated neighbourhoods where fires can spread rapidly and often with devastating consequences.

Recognising the need for proactive intervention, Swartland Municipality secured a R500 000 grant from the Western Cape Government's Disaster Management Centre for the procurement of smoke alarms, while the Municipality committed an additional R250 000 toward expanding the programme and increasing the number of installations across the municipal area.



Smoke alarms are critical early-warning systems that immediately detect smoke and alert residents through high-volume alarm signals, providing valuable time for evacuation and emergency response. This is particularly important during nighttime incidents when smoke inhalation poses the greatest risk to human life.

The alarms are equipped with long-life batteries designed to operate for up to 10 years, ensuring sustainable long-term protection for residents living within high-risk areas.

The rollout officially began in 2025, beginning in Illegelethu, with installations prioritised in communities where the risk of rapid fire spread is highest.

The initiative reflects Swartland Municipality's broader approach to disaster risk reduction and community resilience by focusing not only on emergency response capacity, but also on preventative interventions that protect lives before disasters occur.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Rollout of 2 685 smoke alarms within vulnerable and high-risk communities.
- Improved early-warning capacity for residents living in densely populated areas and informal settlements.
- Improved fire prevention and disaster risk reduction initiatives across the municipality.
- Increased community awareness regarding fire safety and emergency response procedures.

3.3 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH STRATEGIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- 432 Joint Law Enforcement Operations conducted between 2022 and 2026
- 1 067 Arrests made through joint operations
- 14 979 units of drugs seized
- Home to the only municipal K9 Unit on the West Coast

While the primary responsibility for criminal law enforcement rests with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Swartland Municipality's Law Enforcement Department plays an important supporting role in strengthening community safety through visible policing, crime prevention initiatives and joint operations with law enforcement partners.

Between 2022 and 2026, Municipal Law Enforcement participated in 432 joint operations with SAPS and other stakeholders. These operations resulted in 1 067 arrests and the seizure of 14 979 units of illegal drugs, contributing to ongoing efforts to combat crime and improve safety within communities across the municipal area.

A key contributor to these successes has been the Swartland Municipal K9 Unit. As the only municipal K9 unit operating within the West Coast region, it provides a specialised capability that is regularly utilised during joint operations and targeted enforcement activities. The unit has become a valuable resource in supporting crime prevention and law enforcement efforts throughout the district.

The Municipality's approach demonstrates the importance of collaboration in addressing safety challenges. By working alongside SAPS and other partners, Municipal Law Enforcement helps increase visibility, strengthen operational capacity and support initiatives aimed at creating safer communities.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 432 joint law enforcement operations conducted.
- 1 067 arrests resulting from joint operations.
- 14 979 units of illegal drugs seized.
- Ongoing support to SAPS and other law enforcement agencies.
- Operation of the only municipal K9 Unit in the West Coast region.
- Enhanced visible policing and crime prevention capacity.

3.4 CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- IDP Strategic Goals 1-5: Community Safety and Wellbeing; Economic Transformation; Quality and Reliable Services; A Healthy and Sustainable Environment; and A Connected and Innovative Local Government
- Project years: 2024-2025
- Thousands of residents reached through social development, youth empowerment, skills development and community support programmes across the Swartland municipal area

During the 2024/2025 financial year, Swartland Municipality continued to invest in people-centred development initiatives aimed at strengthening communities, expanding economic opportunities, supporting vulnerable residents and empowering youth across the municipal area.

The Community Development Division implemented a broad range of programmes aligned to the Swartland Municipal Social Development Policy and Strategy as well as the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The programmes focused on six key development areas:

- Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- Child and youth development
- Economic empowerment
- Collaboration and stakeholder coordination
- Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) interventions
- Support services for vulnerable communities

These initiatives directly supported the Municipality's long-term vision of building safer, more connected, economically active and socially resilient communities.

STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Municipality's dedication to child development and educational support, ECD capacity-building sessions are presented every year, with 15 sessions just in the 2024/2025 financial year. These sessions focus on governance, compliance, parenting support and institutional capacity building for ECD facilities and caregivers across the Swartland region.

The Municipality further assisted numerous ECD facilities with registration and compliance processes in line with the Children's Act and national standards. As a result, for the 2024/2025 financial year:

- 3 ECD facilities obtained full registration certificates
- 18 facilities received conditional registration certificates

This continues to build on the achievements of previous financial years, making sure local ECDs are correctly registered and certified accordingly.

These interventions contribute directly to IDP outcomes linked to social wellbeing, educational support and improved opportunities for children during their critical developmental years.

INVESTING IN CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Swartland Municipality continues to prioritise safe and constructive opportunities for children and youth through educational holiday programmes, life skills initiatives and leadership development projects.

Working with 13 community-based organisations, the Municipality facilitated school holiday programmes that reached 2,144 children while also creating opportunities for 161 youth volunteers to gain experience and participate in community development activities.

THE PROGRAMMES FOCUSED ON:

- Child safety awareness
- Anti-bullying interventions
- Substance abuse prevention
- Gender-based violence awareness
- Positive social engagement and leadership development

Additional youth-focused initiatives included youth worker training and leadership camps that empowered young people with skills, mentorship and personal development opportunities.

EXPANDING CAREER GUIDANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Economic inclusion and youth employability are major focus areas for the municipality. Although the Municipality cannot create jobs, it can create opportunities and help to equip residents with skills to make them more employable.

Through career exhibitions, support sessions and employment interventions, the Municipality's Youth Office assisted more than 5 200 people in the 2024/2025 financial year with:

- Career guidance
- Job application support
- Access to training opportunities
- Information on economic and employment opportunities

THE MUNICIPALITY ALSO:

- Assisted 35 youth and adults to secure employment opportunities
- Facilitated 23 training programmes benefiting 1,019 community members

TRAINING PROGRAMMES INCLUDED:

- Computer literacy
- Job preparedness
- Business and financial training
- Retail and entrepreneurship training
- AI online training
- Democratic education and youth dialogues

These interventions directly support the Municipality's IDP objectives relating to economic transformation, skills development and expanding access to opportunities for young people and emerging entrepreneurs.



BUILDING SAFER AND MORE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

The Municipality further expanded social development and community safety interventions through the work of the Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC) and the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) programme.

The LDAC coordinated awareness campaigns, stakeholder training and recovery support interventions aimed at addressing substance abuse and strengthening community support systems.

GBVF programmes included:

- Awareness campaigns
- Courageous Conversations sessions
- Child protection interventions
- Human trafficking awareness training
- Stakeholder coordination meetings
- Community safety and support initiatives

YOUTH DIALOGUE HELPING SHAPE THE FUTURE

Through the “Forward Thinking 2040” Youth Dialogues, young people across the Swartland municipal area were given the opportunity to engage directly on issues affecting their communities and future aspirations.

Key issues raised by participants included:

- Employment and economic opportunities
- Community safety and crime
- Skills development and entrepreneurship
- Access to healthcare and education
- Internet connectivity and technology access
- Improved municipal service delivery

IMPROVING ACCESS THROUGH MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES

The Municipality’s Thusong Mobile Outreach Programme continued bringing government and municipal services directly to communities throughout Swartland.

Thousands of residents have accessed critical government services closer to where they live.

The outreaches included services from:

- Home Affairs
- SARS
- SASSA
- Disaster Management
- Municipal service departments

The programme improved accessibility for vulnerable and rural communities while reducing barriers to essential government services.



MAYORAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Over the past five years, the Executive Mayor has championed a range of initiatives aimed at creating opportunities, strengthening social cohesion and assisting residents in need across the Swartland.

The annual Swartland Sport Festival has become one of the most visible of these initiatives. Launched in 2023 as a rugby tournament, the festival has since expanded to include rugby, netball, soccer and traditional sporting codes. Hosted in different towns across the municipality, the event promotes healthy competition, community pride and social interaction while bringing together clubs and supporters from throughout the Swartland.

Recognising the importance of early childhood development and education, educational resources including books, puzzles and learning toys were distributed to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. Additional assistance was provided to Grade 1 learners through the distribution of writing boards and school supplies made possible through sponsorship partnerships.

Efforts to address period poverty have ensured that sanitary products are available at schools across the Swartland. Working through educators and school support structures, these resources help learners remain in the classroom and participate fully in their education.

Senior citizens have also benefited from ongoing donations of essential care items, including adult diapers, to facilities caring for elderly residents. The reintroduction of the Golden Games in 2025 further created opportunities for older residents to remain active, engaged and connected within their communities.

The Municipality has continued to recognise educational excellence through the annual Dux Learner Awards and Matric Top Achiever Awards, which acknowledge the achievements of top-performing learners and the contribution of parents, teachers and schools to their success.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Growth of the annual Swartland Sport Festival into a multi-code community event.
- Educational resources distributed to ECD centres and schools.
- Support provided to Grade 1 learners through educational resource initiatives.
- Improved access to sanitary products for learners in need.
- Assistance provided to elderly care facilities through donations of essential care items.
- Reintroduction of the Golden Games for senior citizens.
- Continued recognition of academic excellence through learner achievement awards.

3.5 BEST PRACTICE: THE GBVF WARD AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

- Municipality-wide community initiative addressing gender-based violence and femicide
- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Programme Launch: August 2022
- Active across all wards in the Swartland municipal area

In August 2022, Swartland Municipality introduced its GBVF (Gender-Based Violence and Femicide) Ward Ambassador Programme as part of long-term efforts to strengthen local responses to gender-based violence and femicide through direct community involvement and support.

The programme marked a strategic shift in the Municipality's approach to GBVF by moving beyond the traditional awareness campaigns toward a more structured, community-led intervention model. Through the initiative, dedicated ambassadors were appointed in each of the 12 wards to serve as local points of contact, advocates and awareness champions within their communities.

The ambassadors were selected from existing ward committees, allowing the Municipality to build a network rooted in the community.

Ambassadors assist by helping residents navigate available support structures, encouraging reporting, facilitating referrals and strengthening communication between communities, councillors and municipal leadership specifically about gender-based violence, domestic violence and femicide.

An important element of the programme is its ward-based approach, recognising that communities experience different social challenges and therefore require interventions that are locally relevant and responsive to their unique circumstances. This flexible approach enables ambassadors and stakeholders to focus on practical solutions and engagement strategies best suited to their communities.

To ensure ambassadors are equipped for their role, training and support were provided in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Social Development. Ongoing workshops, information sessions and capacity-building initiatives continued to strengthen the programme and support ambassadors in their work.

The programme has since developed into a recognised community support model and has been replicated by the Western Cape Department of Social Development in various municipalities across the province. The ambassador programme, with its roots in Swartland, is now considered a model of best practice by the Western Cape Provincial Government.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Establishment of dedicated GBVF ambassadors in all 12 wards.
- Increased community participation in addressing gender-based violence and femicide.
- Improved awareness of available support structures and reporting mechanisms.
- Enhanced cooperation between residents, ward committees, municipal leadership and government support services.
- Sustainable integration of social support initiatives within existing community structures.
- Ongoing skills development and training through intergovernmental partnerships.
- Expanded local advocacy and support networks for vulnerable residents.

3.6 THE DAHLIA CENTRE

- Community investment in social support and victim empowerment services
- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Official Opening: August 2025
- Facility Location: Malmesbury

As part of its dedication to addressing gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), Swartland Municipality officially opened the Dahlia Centre in August 2025. This dedicated support facility aims to strengthen assistance, coordination and community-based responses for women and children affected by violence.

The centre serves as a safe, confidential and supportive environment where victims of gender-based violence can access guidance, support and referrals to relevant government departments and professional support services. The facility further creates a dedicated space where awareness initiatives, group discussions and educational programmes can be facilitated to strengthen community understanding and prevention efforts.

The development of the centre was made possible through strong collaboration between municipal officials, volunteers and community stakeholders. Community fundraising initiatives, donated services and volunteer contributions played a significant role in equipping and preparing the facility for operation, reflecting the support and intention of the entire community to address GBVF.

The Dahlia Centre also provides a dedicated operational space for the Municipality's GBVF Ambassadors Programme, which was launched in 2022 and has since gained recognition as a best-practice model adopted by municipalities across the Western Cape. The facility enables ambassadors to access resources, receive guidance and debrief effectively in support of their ongoing community work.

Swartland Municipality continues to work closely with strategic partners including the Western Cape Department of Social Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and civil society organisations to strengthen coordinated responses to gender-based violence and child protection across the region.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Establishment of a dedicated support facility for victims of gender-based violence and femicide
- Improved access to confidential support, guidance and referral services for vulnerable residents. Increased coordination between municipal services, government departments and community organisations.
- Expanded support capacity through the Municipality's GBVF Ambassador network.
- Creation of a safe and functional space for awareness programmes, support initiatives and community engagement.
- Recognition and expansion of Swartland Municipality's GBVF Ambassador Programme as a best-practice model within the Western Cape.



4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

Through efficient administration, innovative spatial planning and a commitment to enabling investment, the Municipality continues to create an environment where businesses can grow, residents can prosper and communities can thrive.

From processing development applications in record time to unlocking major economic investments, expanding housing opportunities and guiding future growth through sound planning principles, Swartland Municipality is actively shaping a future of sustainable growth, economic resilience and shared prosperity for all its residents.

To support this development and growth, Swartland is also working to promote and support small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME).

The SMME Development and Entrepreneurship Programme has significantly enhanced local economic participation by creating practical support pathways for entrepreneurs, emerging businesses and aspiring business owners across the Swartland municipal area.

By investing in entrepreneurship, skills development and business support networks, Swartland Municipality is helping to stimulate local economic activity, encourage innovation and create sustainable opportunities for employment and economic inclusion.

4.1 PLANNING FOR GROWTH: ENABLING DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

- IDP Strategic Goal 2: Economic Transformation
- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- More than 350 land use decisions processed annually
- Industry-leading turnaround times for development applications
- Billions of rand in new investment enabled across the Swartland region

Behind every new housing development, school, business expansion, renewable energy project and investment opportunity lies a planning system that must be efficient, responsive and future-focused.

Swartland Municipality has established itself as one of the leading municipalities in the Western Cape in this regard, creating an enabling environment that supports growth while maintaining high standards of governance and spatial planning.



FOCUS ON RED TAPE REDUCTION

The Municipality's Development Management section plays a critical role in facilitating development and investment. While legislation allows municipalities up to 30 days to finalise building plans smaller than 500 m² and up to 60 days for plans larger than 500 m², Swartland consistently exceeds these requirements by a substantial margin with a conscious effort to reduce red tape.

Category	Legislative Timeframe	Municipal Target	Actual Average
Buildings < 500m ² (2023/24)	30 days	20 days	11.8 days
Buildings < 500m ² (2024/25)	30 days	20 days	13.86 days
Buildings > 500m ² (2023/24)	60 days	30 days	12.79 days
Buildings > 500m ² (2024/25)	60 days	30 days	17.50 days

These turnaround times provide certainty to investors, developers, businesses and residents, reducing delays and helping projects move from concept to construction more quickly. This efficiency contributes to economic activity, job creation and investor confidence within the municipal area.

Unlocking Economic Growth Through Land Use Planning

Each year, more than 350 land use applications are considered and approved by the authorised official and Municipal Planning Tribunal. These decisions are far more than administrative processes. They unlock investment, facilitate development and create opportunities for economic growth and employment.

Recent landmark projects enabled through the Municipality's planning processes include:

- The 19.9 MW Darling Renewable Energy Project.
- The 19.5 MW Malmesbury Renewable Energy Project.
- The expansion of Mount Royal, including a full 18-hole golf course and clubhouse.
- The Klipfontein residential expansion in Malmesbury.
- The Cavalier meat processing and packaging facility.
- The Darling Green Estate residential development.
- The Allesverloren residential development in Riebeeck West.
- The Weskus Villas residential development in Yzerfontein.
- Mixed-use residential and commercial development in Riebeeck Kasteel.
- Various Breaking New Ground (BNG) housing projects currently under construction in Malmesbury, Moorreesburg and Darling.
- New schools in Moorreesburg, Darling, Chatsworth and Malmesbury.
- The expansion of Darling Romery by nearly 4 800 m².
- Major commercial investments including De Zwartland Markt, the Crestcare Private Hospital, the Toyota dealership and new residential apartment developments adjacent to the hospital precinct.

Together, these projects represent significant private and public sector investment that continues to strengthen the Swartland economy while creating employment opportunities and supporting sustainable growth.



Planning Today for Tomorrow's Growth

In 2023/2024, Swartland Municipality approved an updated Spatial Development Framework (SDF) to guide future growth and identify areas with the greatest potential for development and economic expansion. As a key sector plan of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the SDF ensures that growth occurs in a coordinated and sustainable manner. All land use decisions are assessed against the principles and objectives of the framework, ensuring that development supports long-term municipal goals while protecting valuable resources and maintaining the unique character of communities across Swartland.

Growing Value, Growing Confidence

One of the clearest indicators of confidence in the Swartland region is the continued growth in property values.

The Municipal General Valuation Roll increased by:

- 39% between 2015 and 2019.
- 31% between 2019 and 2023.

Following the implementation of the latest General Valuation Roll on 1 July 2024, ongoing supplementary valuations have already increased the total value of the roll by an additional **R1.75 billion**.

This growth reflects sustained investment, development activity and market confidence in the Swartland region. It also demonstrates the success of the Municipality's long-term approach to infrastructure provision, spatial planning and economic development.

Revitalising Communities Through the Regional Socio-Economic Programme

Through the Regional Socio-Economic Programme (RSEP), Swartland Municipality, with the backing of the Western Cape Provincial Government, has been able to invest in projects that create opportunities and improve quality of life within local communities.

Since 2021, the RSEP programme has delivered various projects within Swartland, creating life-changing moments for residents.

The De Vlei complex in Darling is the biggest of these projects. It encompasses the amphitheatre, the economic hubs which host several local entrepreneurs and their businesses, as well as a play space and skatepark.

Economic hubs were also opened in Riebeeck Kasteel and Riebeeck West where new entrepreneurs were given custom spaces and equipment to start their new businesses.

These investments have improved community facilities, created opportunities for small business development and strengthened socio-economic development across the Swartland.



4.2 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES: SMMEs DEVELOPMENT

- Award-winning municipal initiative supporting entrepreneurship and local economic growth
- IDP Strategic Goal 2: Economic Transformation
- Programme Launch: 2023
- Implemented across the Swartland municipal area

Recognising the important role that small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) play in economic growth, innovation and job creation, the Swartland Municipality adopted a proactive approach to strengthening local entrepreneurship through targeted support initiatives, training opportunities, business networking and strategic partnerships.

The principle is simple: Municipalities cannot create sustainable jobs, entrepreneurs can. As a local government, Swartland can, however, facilitate a positive environment for entrepreneurs to create businesses, as well as help to establish support systems where especially can meet, network and learn from stakeholders in the space.

The programme was officially launched in 2023 with the Municipality's first SMMEs Summit, which laid the foundation for a sustainable long-term economic development strategy focused on empowering local entrepreneurs, improving access to opportunities and strengthening support systems for emerging businesses across the Swartland region.

The summit made way for the annual Swartland SMMEs Indaba that has developed into a flagship economic development platform that connects entrepreneurs with government departments, funding institutions, business support agencies and private sector stakeholders. Through partnerships with organisations such as SEDA, SEFA, NYDA, Standard Bank, local business chambers and the Western Cape Government, entrepreneurs are provided with direct access to training, mentorship, funding guidance and market opportunities.

As part of the SMMEs support initiative the Municipality also created a dedicated municipal SMMEs database and referral system to improve coordination and ensure entrepreneurs can more easily access relevant support services and development opportunities.

In 2025, Swartland Municipality further expanded opportunities for local entrepreneurs through a partnership with the International Start-up Tribe Institute, enabling businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs to access free international-level online business training. By March 2025, 226 entities had already participated in the programme.

Over the past four years, the programme delivered measurable impact across the Swartland region by:

- Providing dedicated SMMEs training sessions to hundreds of interested SMMEs.
- Entrepreneurship and business development support to several hundred individuals.
- Online business training programmes provided for free via the online Swartland Start Up Academy.
- Referred businesses to SEDA for further development assistance.
- Economic business hubs were established in Malmesbury, Darling and the Riebeeck Valley to create supportive environments for emerging enterprises.

The success of the Municipality's approach has also received provincial recognition. Swartland Municipality's SMMEs Development Programme received a Bronze Award at the Western Cape Government Service Excellence Awards and was the only municipal project of its kind shortlisted within the category.



KEY OUTCOMES

- Establishment of a structured municipal SMME support and entrepreneurship development programme.
- Successful hosting of annual SMME Indabas connecting entrepreneurs with funding and development opportunities.
- Creation of a municipal SMME database and referral support system.
- Delivery of entrepreneurship and business development training programmes across the municipal area.
- Establishment of business hubs supporting entrepreneurs in Malmesbury, Darling and the Riebeeek Valley.
- Improved access to mentorship, funding information and institutional support for emerging businesses.
- Expansion of international-level business training opportunities for local entrepreneurs.
- Provincial recognition for innovation and excellence in local economic development.





FORWARD THINKING

2021 - 2026

Swartland Municipality | Five - Year Review & Future Vision

5. HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Although housing is a national and provincial government mandate, municipalities play a critical role as implementing agents. Housing delivery depends on funding from provincial and national government, while municipalities are responsible for planning, approvals, the provision of bulk infrastructure and advocating for projects that address local housing needs.

Swartland Municipality's ability to align planning, approvals and bulk infrastructure investment helps accelerate housing projects and ensures that funding can be translated into completed homes for residents.

5.1 MOORREESBURG HOUSING PROJECT

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total Project Investment: R169.895 million
- 653 Housing Opportunities
- 405 Temporary Jobs and 10 Permanent Jobs Created
- 20 Unemployed Youth Receiving Skills Training

Upon completion, 653 beneficiaries will receive tenure and home ownership, providing families with the security and stability that comes with owning a home.

The development is being implemented over two financial years. During the 2025/2026 financial year, 280 houses will be constructed at a cost of R77 million, followed by a further 373 houses during the 2026/2027 financial year at a cost of R92.895 million. Together, these investments represent a total project value of R169.895 million.

The project generated 405 temporary employment opportunities, including subcontractors, as well as 10 permanent jobs. The project is also being used as a platform for skills development, with 20 unemployed young people between the ages of 18 and 34 receiving training in carpentry, plumbing and bricklaying during the construction process.

By combining home ownership, employment creation and skills development, the project delivers both immediate social benefits and long-term economic value for the Moorreesburg community.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 653 housing opportunities created.
- R169.895 million invested in housing development.
- Home ownership and tenure security for beneficiaries.
- 405 temporary jobs and 10 permanent jobs created.
- Skills training opportunities for 20 unemployed youth.
- Contribution to sustainable community development and improved living conditions.



5.2 DE HOOP HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING A NEW COMMUNITY FOR MALMESBURY

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Planned Investment (Phase 1–3): R181.4 million
- 829 Houses Planned During Initial Three Phases
- 1 986 Housing Units Planned Across the Development
- Approximately 400 Temporary Jobs Created During Initial Phases

The De Hoop Housing Development is one of the most significant housing initiatives ever undertaken within the Swartland municipal area. Located in Malmesbury, the project is being implemented through the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) and will ultimately provide 1 986 housing units, with the potential to create up to 3 590 residential opportunities through future phases.

Construction is planned over multiple phases, subject to the availability of funding from the Department of Infrastructure. The first three phases will deliver 829 houses, with an investment of approximately R181.4 million between 2025 and 2028. The project commenced on 1 July 2025 and is scheduled to continue through to 30 June 2028.

Beyond housing delivery, the development is designed to create a fully integrated and sustainable community. The project includes the installation of major civil engineering services, internal roads, water infrastructure and electrical networks. Provision has also been made for future community facilities, educational facilities, business and retail opportunities, places of worship, healthcare services and public amenities.

A key component of the development is the construction of the Western Ring Road, which will connect Darling Road in the north with Agri Industria and the N7 corridor in the south. This strategic route will improve mobility, support future growth and strengthen connectivity across Malmesbury.

The project seeks to address longstanding housing demand within communities such as Ilinge Lethu, Saamstaan and Wesbank, where many residents have spent years on housing waiting lists. It also supports the Municipality's broader objective of accommodating population growth through planned urban expansion rather than unmanaged informal settlement development.

In addition to providing housing opportunities, the project is expected to generate approximately 400 temporary employment opportunities during the initial phases, including opportunities specifically targeted at women working within the construction sector.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Development of a major integrated residential community in Malmesbury.
- 1 986 housing units planned across the development.
- 829 houses planned during the first three phases.
- R181.4 million investment across the initial implementation phases.
- Installation of supporting water, electricity and road infrastructure.
- Construction of the Western Ring Road to improve connectivity and mobility.
- Approximately 400 temporary employment opportunities created.
- Provision for future educational, healthcare, business and community facilities.



5.3 DARLING HOUSING PROJECT

- IDP Strategic Goal 3: Quality and Reliable Services
- Total Project Investment: R34.1 million
- 139 Housing Opportunities
- 200 Temporary Jobs and 5 Permanent Jobs Created

The Darling Housing Project expands access to secure housing and creates sustainable living environments. The project will provide 139 households with tenure and home ownership, giving families greater security, stability and an improved quality of life.

Implemented during the 2025/2026 financial year, this is an investment of R34.1 million in the future of the Darling community. In addition to providing housing opportunities, the project is creating employment through the construction phase, generating approximately 200 temporary jobs, including subcontractors, as well as 5 permanent employment opportunities.

By combining housing delivery with employment creation, the project contributes to both social upliftment and local economic development while helping to address housing demand within the community.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 139 housing opportunities created.
- R34.1 million invested in housing development.
- Home ownership and tenure security for beneficiary households.
- 200 temporary jobs and 5 permanent jobs created.
- Improved living conditions and access to formal housing.
- Contribution to sustainable community development.



FORWARD THINKING



6. COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SPORT & RECREATION

Community facilities play an important role in shaping the social life of towns and neighbourhoods. In the Swartland especially community halls, sports grounds, swimming pools and recreational spaces provide opportunities for residents to celebrate, relax, meet, do business at, learn in and so much more.

Investment in these facilities helps ensure that residents across the Swartland have access to places where community life can flourish. In the past five years, Swartland has added several new facilities in our smaller towns and has budgeted to expand these facilities to towns that have not yet been included. These facilities do however provide some unique challenges and much of the funding invested into sport facilities all over the Swartland region has been lost because of vandalism, undoing much of the hard work and robbing residents of opportunities. Swartland Municipality, however, remains committed to giving residents access to facilities so that residents can reach their full potential.

Together, these facilities strengthen the fabric of community life and provide residents with accessible spaces where they can learn, compete, celebrate and connect with one another.

6.1 INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY: WESBANK SWIMMING POOL

- R20.26 million investment in community and recreational infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 1 & 3: Community Safety and Wellbeing & Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Commencement: February 2024
- Project Completion: December 2024

Officially opened in December 2024, the world-class facility forms part of the Municipality's broader efforts to create accessible, quality public spaces that improve opportunities and promote healthy, active communities.

The project was identified as a key priority by Executive Mayor Alderman Harold Cleophas and Council, who recognised the need for modern recreational facilities that can serve residents of all ages across the Swartland region.

Located within the greater Wesbank Sports Grounds, this facility includes a modern 25m x 50m swimming pool with varying depths suitable for both recreational and training purposes. It includes dedicated kiddies and baby pools, creating a safe and inclusive environment for families and young children.

One of the project's most innovative features is the implementation of a sodium hypochlorite chlorination system in place of a conventional chlorine gas system. The advanced system uses electrolysis to convert sodium hypochlorite into chlorine, creating a solution that is safer, more environmentally friendly and more cost-effective to operate over the long term.

Construction commenced in February 2024, and the facility was officially handed over to the Municipality in December 2024 following its successful completion.

Beyond its recreational value, the facility creates opportunities for community development, swimming instruction, water safety awareness and future sporting excellence within the Swartland region. The pool also enhances the overall value and functionality of the Wesbank Sportsgrounds as an important community hub.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 653 housing opportunities created.
- R169.895 million invested in housing development.
- Home ownership and tenure security for beneficiaries.
- 405 temporary jobs and 10 permanent jobs created.
- Skills training opportunities for 20 unemployed youth.
- Contribution to sustainable community development and improved living conditions.

6.2 CHATSWORTH COMMUNITY HALL

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Total Project Budget: R4.67 million
- Construction Period: 9 months
- Temporary Employment Opportunities Created: 67 (30 skilled and 37 unskilled)

Swartland Municipality built a new Community Hall in Chatsworth to provide a functional and accessible facility that serves as vital infrastructure for community life.

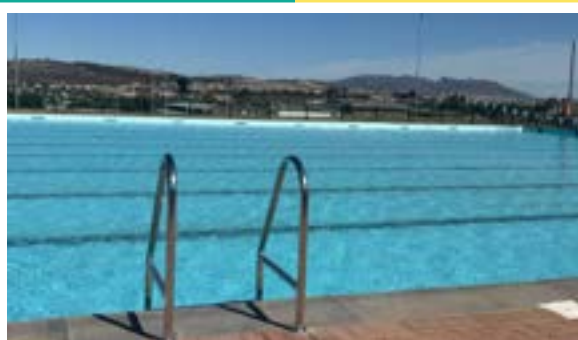
As one of the Municipality's rural communities, Chatsworth required a dedicated public space where residents could gather for meetings, celebrations, educational programmes, community activities and municipal engagements.

The new hall creates opportunities for local organisations, schools, community groups and residents to host events and programmes within their own community. By providing a permanent venue for engagement and interaction, the facility helps strengthen community networks and creates a shared space where people can connect, learn and celebrate together.

The project also generated valuable employment opportunities during construction, ensuring that investment in infrastructure delivered both immediate and long-term benefits. Upon completion, the hall was handed over to the community as an important public asset that will continue to support social, cultural and developmental activities for years to come.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Construction of a new community hall for Chatsworth.
- Creation of 67 temporary employment opportunities.
- Improved access to quality public facilities within a rural community.
- Increased opportunities for community programmes, meetings and events.



6.3 RIEBEEK KASTEEL COMMUNITY HALL

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Total Project Budget: R2.75 million
- Construction Period: 6 months
- Temporary Employment Opportunities Created: 15 (7 skilled and 8 unskilled)

Swartland Municipality invested in the construction of a new community hall in Riebeek Kasteel to provide residents with a dedicated space for community gatherings, social programmes, meetings, celebrations and local events.

Funded through the Municipal Capital Replacement Reserve Fund (CRRF), the project was undertaken in response to the need for improved community infrastructure that could accommodate a wide range of social, cultural and civic activities within the town. The facility was designed to serve as a central gathering place where residents, organisations and community groups can connect, engage and participate in activities that strengthen community life.

Accessible and well-maintained public facilities play an important role in supporting local programmes, fostering community participation and creating opportunities for engagement across different sectors of society.

The project also delivered local economic benefits through the creation of temporary employment opportunities during the construction phase. Upon completion, the hall was officially handed over to the community, providing Riebeek Kasteel with a facility that will serve residents for many years to come.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Construction of a new municipal community hall for Riebeek Kasteel.
- Creation of 15 temporary employment opportunities during construction.
- Improved access to community, social and civic facilities.
- Enhanced opportunities for community engagement and local events.
- Long-term investment in social infrastructure and community wellbeing.

6.4 RIVERLANDS SPORTS GROUND

- Significant municipal investment in recreational and community infrastructure
- IDP Strategic Goal 1 & 3: Community Safety and Wellbeing & Quality and Reliable Services
- Project Completion: March 2026

Following the devastating floods that struck Riverlands during August 2024, Swartland Municipality prioritised the restoration and enhancement of the Riverlands sports facility as part of the broader recovery and rebuilding efforts within the community.

The flooding caused extensive damage to infrastructure across Riverlands and had a particularly severe impact on community facilities, including the local sports grounds. In a community where rugby and organised sport form an important part of social life and youth development, the rehabilitation of the facility quickly became a priority for both the Municipality and local residents.



Rather than merely repairing damaged infrastructure, the project created an opportunity to substantially improve the sports facility and establish a more durable and functional recreational asset for the future. The rehabilitation works included major improvements to the playing surface through levelling, reshaping and sand preparation works to restore the quality and usability of the field. New irrigation infrastructure was installed, supported by upgraded borehole systems and water supply pipelines to improve long-term maintenance and field sustainability.

To improve safety, functionality and crowd management, the project further included the installation of perimeter and spectator fencing, as well as the construction of a new entrance gate and reinforced boundary infrastructure.

A major enhancement to the facility was the installation of overhead floodlighting, enabling evening training sessions, sporting fixtures and community activities. This significantly expanded the usability of the sports grounds and created additional opportunities for organised sport and youth participation within Riverlands.

The project was delivered through strong interdepartmental cooperation within Swartland Municipality, with several components completed using internal municipal resources and expertise. Additional support was also received through collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport.

Today, the upgraded Riverlands sports facility serves as an important recreational and social hub for the community and reflects the Municipality's dedication to rebuilding and restoring the dignity of this community.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Rehabilitation and improvement of community infrastructure damaged during the August 2024 floods.
- Upgraded sports grounds supporting rugby, community sport and youth development initiatives.
- Improved field maintenance and sustainability through upgraded irrigation and water supply systems.
- Increased safety and improved facility management through new fencing and controlled access infrastructure.
- Expanded facility usage through the installation of overhead sports lighting.
- Effective collaboration between municipal departments and external stakeholders to support community recovery initiatives.

6.5 ILINGE LETHU SPORTS COMPLEX: INVESTING IN SPORT, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Total Investment: R16.27 million
- Project Period: August 2023 – May 2025

Swartland Municipality made a significant investment in community recreation and youth development through the expansion and upgrading of the Ilinge Lethu Sports Complex. These projects were made possible with funding from national and provincial government.

The project included the construction of two new soccer and rugby fields, two combination courts, perimeter fencing, irrigation infrastructure and water storage facilities, creating a modern sporting environment capable of supporting a wide range of recreational and competitive activities. These facilities provide increased opportunities for organised sport, youth participation and healthy lifestyles within one of the Municipality's growing communities.



To complement the sporting infrastructure, the Municipality also undertook a major upgrade of the ablution facilities at the sports complex. Existing dilapidated buildings were consolidated and upgraded into a modern facility designed to accommodate sports teams and match officials, while a separate ablution facility was constructed for spectators and community users.

Together, these investments have transformed the Ilinge Lethu Sports Complex into a functional, multi-purpose community asset that supports organised sport, community events and recreational activities. The upgraded facilities provide a safe and welcoming environment for residents while creating opportunities for social interaction, youth development and community pride.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Construction of two new soccer and rugby fields.
- Development of two combination courts and supporting infrastructure.
- Installation of irrigation and water storage systems.
- Upgrading of facilities for sports teams and match officials.
- Construction of new ablution facilities for spectators and community users.
- Enhanced recreational infrastructure supporting sport and community activities.



FORWARD THINKING

2021 - 2026
Swartland Municipality | Five - Year Review & Future Vision

7. LIBRARIES, LEARNING AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

For more than twenty years, the Sondeza Afri-Youth Programme has been one of Swartland Municipality's most successful social development initiatives, equipping young people with the skills, confidence and perspective needed to become active citizens and future leaders.

Established in 2004, the programme has impacted more than 1 450 young people and has evolved into a respected international youth development platform that brings together learners from the West Coast region and participants from partner countries abroad.

Hosted annually at Ganzekraal, Sondeza is built around three developmental pillars: Self-Insight (Me), Teamwork (We) and the World of Work. Through a structured programme of experiential learning, leadership activities and personal development opportunities, participants are encouraged to develop self-awareness, communication skills, emotional intelligence and a deeper understanding of their role within society.

7.1 SHAPING THE FUTURE OF YOUTH: SONDEZA AFRI-YOUTH

- Flagship youth leadership and development programme of Swartland Municipality
- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Established in 2004
- More than 1 450 young people empowered over two decades
- Recognised as a finalist in the Western Cape Premier's Service Excellence Awards: Best Municipal Project category

A defining feature of the programme is its international dimension. Over the years, Sondeza has fostered meaningful relationships between young people from South Africa and international partner countries, creating opportunities for cultural exchange, collaboration and lifelong friendships. The 20th Sondeza Afri-Youth Camp hosted delegations from Germany, Belgium and Namibia alongside learners from schools across the West Coast.

The long-term impact of the programme is reflected in the achievements of former participants, many of whom have gone on to become school leaders, obtain tertiary qualifications, pursue successful professional careers and make meaningful contributions within their communities.

The programme's continued success has been made possible through strong partnerships with local and international stakeholders. In particular, ABSA has supported the initiative for two decades, helping to ensure its sustainability and growth. Sondeza has also become a model of collaboration between municipalities, educational institutions, community organisations and international partners committed to youth development.

In recognition of its innovation, sustainability and measurable contribution to social development, the programme was recently entered into the Western Cape Premier's Service Excellence Awards in the category for Best Municipal Project.

KEY OUTCOMES

- More than 1 450 young people empowered since 2004.
- Twenty years of continuous investment in youth leadership development.
- Development of communication, leadership and emotional intelligence skills.
- Promotion of intercultural understanding and international cooperation.
- Exposure of young people to career awareness and future opportunities.
- Creation of a lasting network of young leaders and community ambassadors.

7.2 MALMESBURY LIBRARY BOOK CLUB AND AUTHOR PROGRAMME

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Programme launched: October 2022
- 50 authors hosted since inception
- 2 241 attendees reached

The Malmesbury Library has become a vibrant cultural and literary platform through the Malmesbury Library Book Club and Author Programme.

In partnership with publishers and self-published authors, the library regularly hosts book launches and author engagements featuring a diverse range of literary works and genres. What began as a single monthly author presentation has grown into a popular programme that now hosts two to three author events per month.

Since its launch in October 2022, the programme has welcomed 50 authors and attracted 2 241 attendees. These events provide residents with direct access to authors and new literary works while creating opportunities for discussion, learning and cultural exchange.

The initiative has transformed the role of the library as a community gathering space and has promoted the cultural offering available within the Swartland region. Through these engagements, local residents are able to participate in literary experiences often associated with larger metropolitan centres.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 50 authors hosted since 2022.
- 2 241 attendees reached.
- Expanded access to literary and cultural experiences.
- Enhanced the cultural profile of the Swartland region.



7.3 YEAR BEYOND: BUILDING SKILLS AND OPENING OPPORTUNITIES

- IDP Strategic Goal 2: Economic Transformation
- Partnership between Swartland Municipality, Western Cape Library Services and Year Beyond
- Ongoing since March 2022

Through its partnership with the Year Beyond programme, Swartland Municipality's libraries are helping young people gain practical workplace experience while expanding valuable services to local communities. The programme provides opportunities for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 to develop workplace skills and gain practical experience within municipal libraries. Participants assist with a wide range of services, including computer support, digital literacy training, reading programmes, homework assistance and support for residents completing online applications and curriculum vitae.

By placing youth workers directly within libraries, the programme delivers a dual benefit. Young participants gain meaningful work experience and skills development, while residents receive additional support in accessing technology, information and employment-related services.

The initiative has improved the role of libraries as accessible centres for learning and digital inclusion, helping residents navigate an increasingly technology-driven world while preparing young people for future employment opportunities.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Practical workplace experience for young adults.
- Improved digital literacy support within municipal libraries.
- Assistance to residents with online applications and job-seeking activities.
- Enhanced reading and educational programmes for learners.
- Improved access to technology and lifelong learning opportunities.



7.4 MOTHER AND CHILD BOOK SHARING PROGRAMME

- IDP Strategic Goal 1: Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Programme launched: March 2021
- Ongoing across Swartland Libraries

Swartland Municipality's Mother and Child Book Sharing Programme is helping to build strong foundations for learning by introducing young children and their caregivers to the joy of reading from an early age.

The programme is specifically designed for children between the ages of three and six who are not enrolled in Early Childhood Development centres or preschools. Through a structured 12-week intervention, children attend weekly sessions with a parent, grandparent or caregiver and participate in storytelling, songs, rhymes, crafts and guided literacy activities.

A unique feature of the programme is its focus on caregiver involvement. Each session concludes with children "reading" to the accompanying adult, encouraging early literacy development while strengthening the bond between child and caregiver.

The programme often serves as a family's first meaningful interaction with library services. Many participants become registered library members after completing the programme, opening the door to ongoing access to books, story time sessions and other educational opportunities.

Key Outcomes

- Early literacy support for children not enrolled in formal ECD programmes.
- Created opportunities for caregiver involvement in learning and development.
- Improved readiness for future schooling.
- Increased library membership and participation.
- Promotion of reading and lifelong learning within families.



FORWARD THINKING



8. COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL INNOVATION

Effective communication is essential to transparent and responsive local government. By combining digital innovation with traditional communication channels, Swartland Municipality has improved access to information, improved public engagement and created more opportunities for residents to stay informed about matters that affect their communities.

STEPPING UP TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS: DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- IDP Strategic Goal 5: A Connected and Innovative Local Government
- Launch of the Municipal Citizen App
- Introduction of the Municipal WhatsApp Channel in 2024
- Modernisation of communication platforms and public engagement

Over the past five years, Swartland Municipality has made significant strides in expanding its communication and public engagement efforts to ensure residents have greater access to information, municipal services and service delivery updates.

The Municipality expanded its use of social media as a primary communication channel, providing regular updates on municipal projects, service delivery, community programmes, emergencies and important notices. These platforms have enabled faster and more direct communication with residents across the municipal area.

In 2024, the Municipality launched its official WhatsApp Channel, creating an additional platform for the rapid distribution of urgent notices, service disruptions, emergency information and disaster-related updates.

To improve access to municipal services, the Swartland Citizen App was developed as a convenient digital platform through which residents can report faults, access information, receive notifications and manage municipal accounts from their smartphones.

The Municipality also undertook a comprehensive redesign of its website, improving accessibility, navigation and access to online services while supporting a broader move towards digital service delivery and reduced paper-based administration.

Complementing these digital initiatives, Swartland Municipality publishes a quarterly community newsletter through local newspapers, ensuring that important municipal information reaches residents through both digital and traditional communication channels.

A dedicated Communications Officer was appointed to coordinate the Municipality's communication activities, manage the integration of multiple media platforms and strengthen relationships with local and regional media. This has contributed to a more consistent, professional and proactive communication approach across the organisation.

With a more dedicated focus on communication, the Communications Officer has been able to launch various awareness campaigns. The most successful and prominent of these campaigns was the Water Week Competition for Primary Schools in the Swartland.

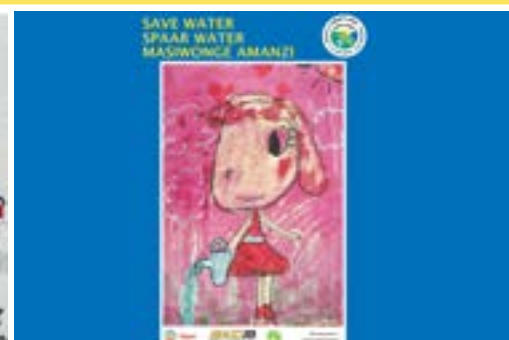
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With a more dedicated focus on communication, the Communications Officer has been able to launch various awareness campaigns. The most successful and prominent of these campaigns was the Water Week Competition for Primary Schools in the Swartland.

Learners were asked to design posters to raise awareness about saving water and the winning posters became part of the Municipality's official designs for awareness campaigns.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Expanded use of digital communication platforms.
- Launch of the Swartland Citizen App.
- Introduction of the Municipal WhatsApp Channel.
- Publication of a quarterly municipal newsletter.
- Modernisation of the municipal website.
- Improved media relations and coordinated communication efforts.



9. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Public trust is earned through consistent performance, responsible governance and sound financial stewardship.

Through disciplined financial management, Swartland Municipality has created a stable foundation from which communities can grow, businesses can invest with confidence, and infrastructure can be expanded to meet future demand.

The Municipality's strong governance record provides residents with the assurance that public resources are being managed responsibly, enabling sustainable service delivery and continued investment in the future of the Swartland region.

SOUND GOVERNANCE, FINANCIAL STABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST

- 13 Clean Audits achieved since the 2010/2011 financial year
- Revenue collection rate of approximately 97%
- More than R653 million invested in infrastructure between 2023 and 2025
- Independent assessment by Ratings Afrika's Municipal Financial Sustainability Index (MFSI®)

Swartland Municipality's reputation as one of South Africa's best-performing municipalities is built on a foundation of sound governance, financial discipline and public accountability.

In December 2025, the Municipality achieved its 13th Clean Audit since the 2010/2011 financial year. A clean audit represents the highest possible audit outcome and confirms that the Municipality's financial statements are free from material misstatements, comply with applicable legislation and are supported by effective internal controls and governance processes.

This achievement reflects more than financial compliance. It demonstrates a long-standing commitment to transparent administration, responsible decision-making and the prudent management of public resources. It provides residents, businesses and investors with confidence that municipal finances are managed in the best interests of the community.

The Municipality's strong governance record is reinforced by independent assessments of its financial sustainability. Ratings Afrika has consistently identified Swartland as a financially resilient municipality, supported by strong liquidity levels, prudent debt management and the ability to fund growth while maintaining service delivery.

Over the past five years, Swartland has maintained exceptionally healthy cash reserves, reaching approximately R1 billion, while sustaining a revenue collection rate of around 97%. This financial strength enables the Municipality to continue investing in infrastructure, absorb economic pressures and maintain service delivery standards without compromising long-term sustainability.



A conservative borrowing strategy has further strengthened the Municipality's financial position, allowing growth and development to be funded largely through municipal resources. This approach has helped create a stable platform from which major infrastructure projects can be implemented while preserving financial flexibility for the future.

The benefits of this disciplined approach are visible throughout the municipal area. Between 2023 and 2025, more than R653 million was invested in infrastructure to support growing communities, improve service delivery and unlock future economic opportunities. Ratings Afrika noted that this sustained level of infrastructure investment contributes positively to long-term sustainability and future service delivery capacity.

Strong financial management is not simply about balancing budgets. It creates the certainty required to plan for growth, expand infrastructure networks, maintain municipal assets and respond to the needs of a rapidly developing region. Swartland's ability to combine financial stability with sustained capital investment has positioned the Municipality to support both current residents and future generations.

KEY OUTCOMES

- 13 Clean Audits achieved since the 2010/2011 financial year.
- Long-term record of transparent, accountable and compliant governance.
- Revenue collection levels consistently among the strongest in local government.
- Approximately R1 billion in cash reserves supporting financial resilience.
- Conservative borrowing practices and low debt levels.
- More than R653 million invested in infrastructure between 2023 and 2025.
- Independent recognition of strong financial sustainability and governance practices.



FORWARD THINKING



10. A BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE

On 28 May 2026, Executive Mayor, Alderman Harold Cleophas, tabled the new budget for the next three financial years. This budget shows how Swartland will be moving forward, investing more into our communities, creating opportunities and building toward a better future for all Swartland residents.

Against the difficult backdrop of the struggling South African economy and the impacts of international geopolitical instability, Swartland Municipality had to make responsible, balanced and often difficult decisions.

This budget reflects a conscious decision:
To place our residents first.

The total capital budget for the new 2026/2027 financial year is approximately R250.5 million. Over the next three years, Swartland Municipality will make a capital investment of approximately R888.4 million. This investment will focus heavily on infrastructure and represents one of the most ambitious infrastructure investment programmes undertaken by this municipality.

While news headlines in South Africa often reflect failing municipal infrastructure and services, Swartland is budgeting to deliver tangible and significant outcomes.

Infrastructure remains the foundation of economic growth, service delivery and investment attraction. Every rand invested in roads, water, electricity and sanitation is an investment in dignity, growth and future opportunities.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS SWARTLAND WILL:

- Invest R109.8 million in Swartland's bulk water supply system.
- Invest R40 million in the upgrading of roads.
- Invest R63.3 million in the resealing and rehabilitation of existing roads.
- Build new roads in Moorreesburg, Kalbaskraal, Koringberg, Chatsworth, Malmesbury, Yzerfontein, Darling and Riebeek Kasteel.
- Invest R32.4 million in increasing the water supply to Chatsworth and Riverlands via the planned Pella connection.
- Invest R32.4 million in a new reservoir and upgraded bulk water supply for the Riebeek Valley.
- Invest R31 million in renewing and maintaining existing water distribution networks.
- Upgrade the Darling Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) to the value of R21.5 million.

In the new 2026/2027 financial year Swartland will also invest R7.4 million in the upgrading of sport facilities and will continue to focus on investment in electrical infrastructure, as well as infrastructure that enables housing opportunities.

To ensure sustainable development potential for the region over the longer term, Swartland will invest R550 million in upgrading the capacity of the Swartland WWTW from 27 megalitres to 40 megalitres per day, as well as upgrading the bulk water pipelines between the treatment works and the Kasteelberg Reservoirs.

One of the most difficult aspects of this budget was managing the rising cost of delivering services while attempting to keep tariffs affordable for residents. South Africans are under severe pressure, and operational costs continue to rise more quickly than revenues within the municipality. Fuel prices, electricity bulk purchases, water infrastructure requirements, landfill compliance costs and salary-related expenditure continue to place pressure on municipal budgets.

During the budgeting process every effort was made to keep services as affordable as possible for residents, with the following increases being unavoidable:

- Property rates: 3.7%
- Water tariffs: Average 5% increase on first 20k ℓ (residential)
- Sanitation: 4.9%
- Electricity: Between 8.26% and 8.37% for residential consumers
- Refuse removal: 8.9%

We worked especially hard to reduce the electricity tariff from the initial 11.44% increase that was proposed in the draft budget to the final tariff of between 8.26% and 8.37%. This is a significant saving for residents. Swartland continues to care for vulnerable residents and indigent households. This budget provides for:

- Providing rates rebates to qualifying senior citizens and disabled persons;
- Supporting registered indigent households;
- Maintaining the increased rebate threshold;
- Protecting basic service affordability; and
- Ensuring access to essential municipal services.

The Municipality currently has 9 255 registered indigent households. The income threshold for indigent households in this budget has been increased from R4 515 to R5 280.

Community safety remains the number one priority for residents. To accomplish this, the budget provides for two new vehicles for the law enforcement and traffic services department to improve visibility and response times in communities such as Riebeek Valley and throughout the southern areas from Abbotsdale to Riverlands.

In addition, the budget makes provision for the purchase of the fire station in Malmesbury from the West Coast District Municipality, which will further strengthen local control and co-ordination of emergency services.

This budget not only acknowledges the economic hardships faced by Swartland residents, but it also focuses on the future. It invests in creating new infrastructure, maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure and, through that, making economic growth and investment possible.

I want to thank our residents for their continued support and the contributions they make despite the challenges they face. This budget acknowledges the economic hardships they face. It protects financial sustainability, and it continues to invest in the infrastructure required to support growth and development in Swartland.

The choices we make today will shape the future of our municipality for many years to come. Swartland remains committed to building a financially resilient municipality that delivers quality services, supports investment and growth, and serves our residents with integrity, accountability and excellence. – **Executive Mayor, Alderman Harold Cleophas**



FORWARD THINKING



11. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Over the past five years, Swartland Municipality has received significant recognition from independent organisations, industry bodies and government institutions for excellence in governance, financial management, service delivery, environmental management and innovation.

These awards reflect Swartland Municipality's commitment to good governance, financial sustainability, service delivery excellence, environmental stewardship, economic development and innovation. They serve as independent recognition of the Municipality's ongoing efforts to create a well-managed, investment-friendly and people-centred municipality.

Good Governance Africa Governance Performance Index (GPI)

2024

- Best Small-Town Municipality in the Western Cape.
- Best Municipality Overall in South Africa.

The Good Governance Africa Governance Performance Index evaluates municipalities against key indicators including service delivery, planning and performance management, leadership, governance, financial management and administrative effectiveness.

Ratings Afrika Municipal Financial Sustainability Index

2025

- Joint Best Financially Managed Municipality in South Africa (with Saldanha Bay Municipality).

2024

- Ranked 5th nationally for financial sustainability.

The Ratings Afrika assessment evaluates municipalities on financial sustainability, liquidity management, operational performance, debt management, affordability, budget management and infrastructure investment.

Western Cape Service Excellence Awards

2025

- Silver Award: Best Municipality.
- Bronze Award: SMME Development Programme.

2024

- Winner: Best Municipality.
- Second Place: Best Red Tape Reduction / Ease of Doing Business Project.

2023

- Second Place: Best Municipality.
- Third Place: Best Early Childhood Development Project.
- First Place: Highlands Landfill Site Project.

Department of Water and Sanitation Awards

2023

- Best Small-Town Municipality in the Western Cape.
- Best Municipality Overall in South Africa.
- Riebeek Valley Wastewater Treatment Works: Best Wastewater Treatment Works (Category: Less than 5 MI/day).
- Malmesbury Wastewater Treatment Works: Best Wastewater Treatment Works (Category: 5-10 MI/day).
- Hendrik Strydom: Best Process Controller (Facilities less than 10 MI/day).

Department of Water and Sanitation Awards

2023

- Best Small-Town Municipality in the Western Cape.
- Best Municipality Overall in South Africa.
- Riebeek Valley Wastewater Treatment Works: Best Wastewater Treatment Works (Category: Less than 5 MI/day).
- Malmesbury Wastewater Treatment Works: Best Wastewater Treatment Works (Category: 5-10 MI/day).
- Hendrik Strydom: Best Process Controller (Facilities less than 10 MI/day).

Highlands Landfill Site

2022

- Rated the Best Landfill Site in South Africa by AfriForum.

Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards

2025

- Winner: Public Sector Innovation Award.

The award recognised an innovative municipal infrastructure investment that unlocked major private-sector development, including the De Zwartland Market Shopping Centre and Crestcare Hospital, contributing to the creation of 611 permanent jobs within the Swartland municipal area.

2026

- Winner: Public Sector Innovation Award

Swartland Municipality's one-stop-shop approach to development won the innovation award. It is Swartland's aim to meet and approve potential developments as quickly and efficiently as possible, reducing red tape and making it easy and efficient to invest in our region.



12. CONCLUSION

The projects showcased throughout tell a story that extends far beyond individual developments, facilities and programmes. They reflect a municipality that plans strategically, invests responsibly and remains focused on creating opportunities for current and future generations. It shows people who care for their entire community.

Over the past several years, Swartland Municipality has delivered significant investments in infrastructure, housing, community facilities, economic development, public safety, environmental sustainability and social development. These investments have strengthened communities, unlocked economic opportunities and created a solid foundation for continued growth.

Yet the work does not stop here.

Swartland continues to be one of the fastest-growing regions in the Western Cape. This growth brings opportunities, but it also requires careful planning, sound governance and sustained investment. The Municipality is responding through one of the most ambitious infrastructure and development programmes in its history, with significant investment planned over the coming years to expand service capacity, unlock new development opportunities and support growing communities.

Major projects already underway or in planning include the continued expansion of bulk electricity infrastructure, strategic water and sanitation upgrades, housing developments, road improvements, economic development initiatives and community facilities designed to meet the needs of a growing population. These investments will ensure that Swartland remains a municipality where growth is supported by reliable infrastructure, responsible planning and quality municipal services.

The Municipality's long-term vision is captured in Forward Thinking 2040.

It is a vision that embraces innovation while remaining grounded in responsible governance. A vision that balances growth with sustainability. A vision that places people at the centre of development.

The achievements highlighted in this publication are milestones along that journey. They demonstrate what can be accomplished through partnership, long-term planning and a shared commitment to excellence.

As Swartland looks towards 2040, the focus remains clear: to continue building thriving communities, expanding opportunities and investing in the infrastructure, services and people that will shape the future of this remarkable region.



Where people can live their dreams



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



FORWARD THINKING 2040 | Where people can live their dreams

www.swartland.org.za

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