

Swellendam Municipality

Containerised PV: Swellendam municipality

Submitted by Executive Mayor: HF DU RAND

1. Foreword Executive Mayor, Cllr Francois du Rand
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1. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Swellendam is approximately 220 km from Cape Town and George on the N2. Swellendam, situated in the Overberg in the Western Cape, is strategically placed not only because they are on the N2 but they are the meeting point where the R60 from the Cape Winelands District (Langeberg, Breede Valley, Witzenberg area).

The Swellendam municipal area is the largest municipal area in the Overberg district in terms of geographical spread, covering 3 835km².

Whilst the Municipality incorporates the towns and settlements of Swellendam, Buffeljags, Stormsvlei, Suurbraak, Barrydale, Malagas and Infanta, the Municipality proposes the Renewable Energy project to be located in Swellendam as it is the area's central economic hub. It should be noted that some smaller settlements and towns such as Rheenendal, Rietkuil, Infanta, Malagas, Suurbraak, Buffeljagsrivier, and Ouplaas provide services to the local agricultural industry in Swellendam.

Swellendam is denoted a "Regional Development Anchor" in the National Spatial Development Framework (SDF). It is similarly characterised as a "Regional Centre" in the Provincial and District SDFs. By being located directly along the N2, roughly halfway between Cape Town and Mossel Bay, Swellendam also forms part of a "Key Development Corridor", as identified in the National SDF. Regarding the Provincial SDF, Swellendam has been identified as the eastern anchor of a "Rural Development Corridor".

This Development Corridor extends along the R60 from Worcester, which links the N1 to the N2. The R60 intersects the N2 at Swellendam. Given its importance in the regional settlement hierarchy, and location relative to key transport, travel, and development corridors, it is imperative that Swellendam maintains economic stability, is enabled to maintain its growth and development trajectory, and is not hampered by national nuisances, as extensive as these may be.

COUNCIL

Swellendam Municipality is a Category B municipality situated in the Overberg in the Western Cape. Swellendam Municipality has eleven councillors, led by Executive Mayor H F du Rand. A Democratic Alliance/ Freedom Front Plus coalition leads the Municipality. The council is stable and fully functional.

VISION AND MISSION

The Swellendam Municipality committed itself to the following vision and mission:

VISION

“A visionary Municipality that strives towards prosperity for all through cooperative participation and high-quality services delivery”

MISSION

It is envisaged that the municipal vision will be achieved through the following:

- Providing a transparent and accountable government by rendering affordable and sustainable services and encouraging economic and social development through community participation
- Transparent institutional and infrastructure development
- Sustainable local economic development and the establishment of public/private partnerships
- Governance for the people by the people
- Service delivery through integrity

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- To create a capacitated, people-centred institution
- To create an energy-resilient economy
- To create a safe and healthy living environment
- To develop integrated and sustainable settlements with the view to correcting the spatial imbalance
- To enhance access to basic services and address maintenance backlogs
- To enhance economic development with a focus on both first and second economies
- To improve financial viability and management
- To promote good governance and community participation

DEMOGRAPHY

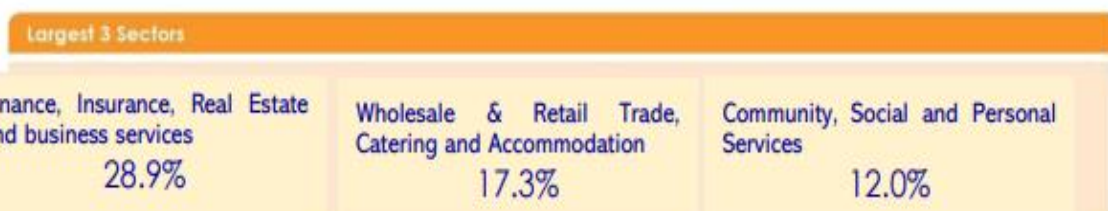
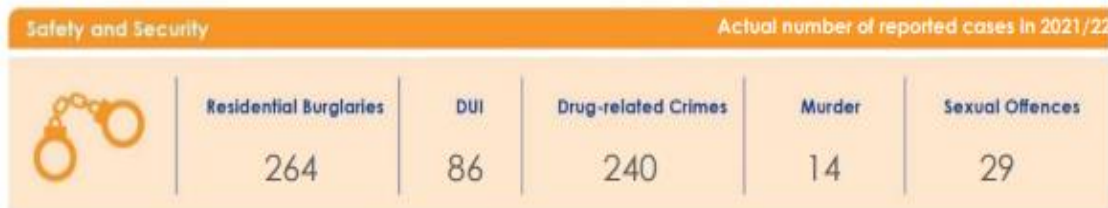
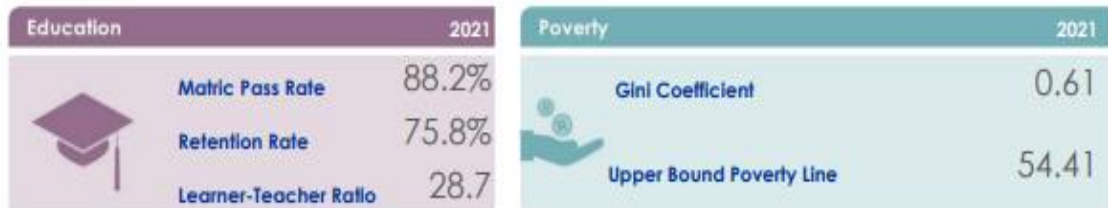
According to the Department of Social Development's 2022 projections, Swellendam currently has a population of 39 474 in 2022, rendering it the second least populated municipal area within the Overberg District (OD). This total is estimated to increase to 41 195 by 2026 with a growth rate of 0.9 per cent, according to the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook 2020. Still, because of the recent influx within the Swellendam informal settlement, it is argued that the population growth is growing faster than predicted.

Population growth is driven by young and foreign persons emigrating due to changes in work culture and the perceived better quality of life in small towns compared with larger cities, as well as employment seeking. This has caused significant increases in the informal settlement at Swellendam, which grew from 1000 structures pre-Covid to over 3100 structures at the last count in April 2023. The influx to the informal settlement creates an untenable situation with pressures on service delivery that are not budgeted for, creating a growing and persistent risk, not only in terms of service delivery but socio-economic factors such as deteriorating environmental health, increased unemployment, a rise in crime and growing tensions within the community.

As in every other informal settlement, the Informal Settlement in Swellendam, known as Matjoks, is also characterised by electricity and water theft. The Municipality are busy with a campaign on illegal electrical connections and has disconnected illegal connections twice over the last twelve months with the assistance of SAPS, private security and even Cape Agulhas Municipality. The informal settlement that borders Bontebok National Park remains a hot spot for Swellendam in terms of criminality. The Municipal area has 11 464 households within its jurisdiction, with a Gini Coefficient of 0.61.

The following table shows Swellendam Municipality's socio-economic statistics per the latest PERO.

SWELLENDAM MUNICIPALITY AT A GLANCE



ECONOMIC POSITION

The Swellendam municipal area's GDP was valued at R3.1 billion in 2020 and is estimated to have increased by 5.6 per cent in real terms in 2021. The finance sector contributed R892.4 million in 2020 and was the leading contributor to the municipal area's economy. It is forecast that the GDP will increase by 2.1 per cent in 2022 and 1.1 per cent in 2023.

The Swellendam Municipal area recorded the highest average annual growth within the Overberg District at 0.7 per cent over the recent five-year period. Whilst Swellendam is currently the smallest contributor to the Overberg economy, current trends, as contained in the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook 2022-2023 for the Overberg, show that Swellendam is set to surpass the Cape Agulhas municipal area in terms of GDP contribution.

The decline in the annual GDP growth in the Overberg economy is similar to that in the Province over the same period. This can be attributed to a decline in tourism activity, commodity prices, and load shedding. Swellendam Municipality experienced the lowest economic contraction in the Overberg in 2020 at 4.4 per cent, with the brunt felt in the finance sector, agriculture and agri-processing, and the tourism sector.

It should be noted that the performance of the primary sector in the Overberg relies extensively on the performance of the agriculture sector, which contributed 10.1 per cent to the Overberg economy in 2020. Estimates for 2021 indicated that the agriculture sector recorded a growth rate of 7.4%, which further emphasises the sector's importance to the recovery of the broader primary industry. In Swellendam, it must be acknowledged that global supply chain disruptions impacted trade activities because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, rising inflation and high domestic fuel prices, resulting in subdued expenditure.

The municipal area produces a variety of crop production, such as fruit (pears and apples) in the Barrydale area and wheat, barley, and canola in the southern parts

of the municipal area. It is also interesting to note that the Riviersonderend / Greyton area fruit producers also transport their produce to Swellendam. As a result of the fruit production, several packhouses are situated across the municipal area. These have reached maximum capacity, and new packhouses must be developed in the Swellendam industrial area.

This forms part of the agri-processing sector and supports the manufacturing sector. The proposed Buffeljags Dam project will not only improve water security for Swellendam Municipality but has the potential to unlock 900 irrigation hectares under the dam. This will deliver on the Growth for Jobs (G4J) objective of the Western Cape Government by creating between 3-4 jobs per hectare.

SWELLENDAM UPPER-BOUND POVERTY LINE

Swellendam Municipality has the second highest average household income in the Overberg at R15 639 and the fewest taxpayers in the Overberg District. Swellendam has 57.8% of people living below the Upper Bound Poverty Line, which, together with Overstrand, is the highest in the Overberg. Swellendam Municipality provides indigent support to those below the poverty line.

Swellendam's Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.680, the second lowest in the Overberg District. This is why the Municipality is eager to establish a technical School of Skills in Swellendam, to provide a pathway out of poverty and into a stable job and more secure future.

SWELLENDAM MUNICIPALITY FINANCIAL POSITION

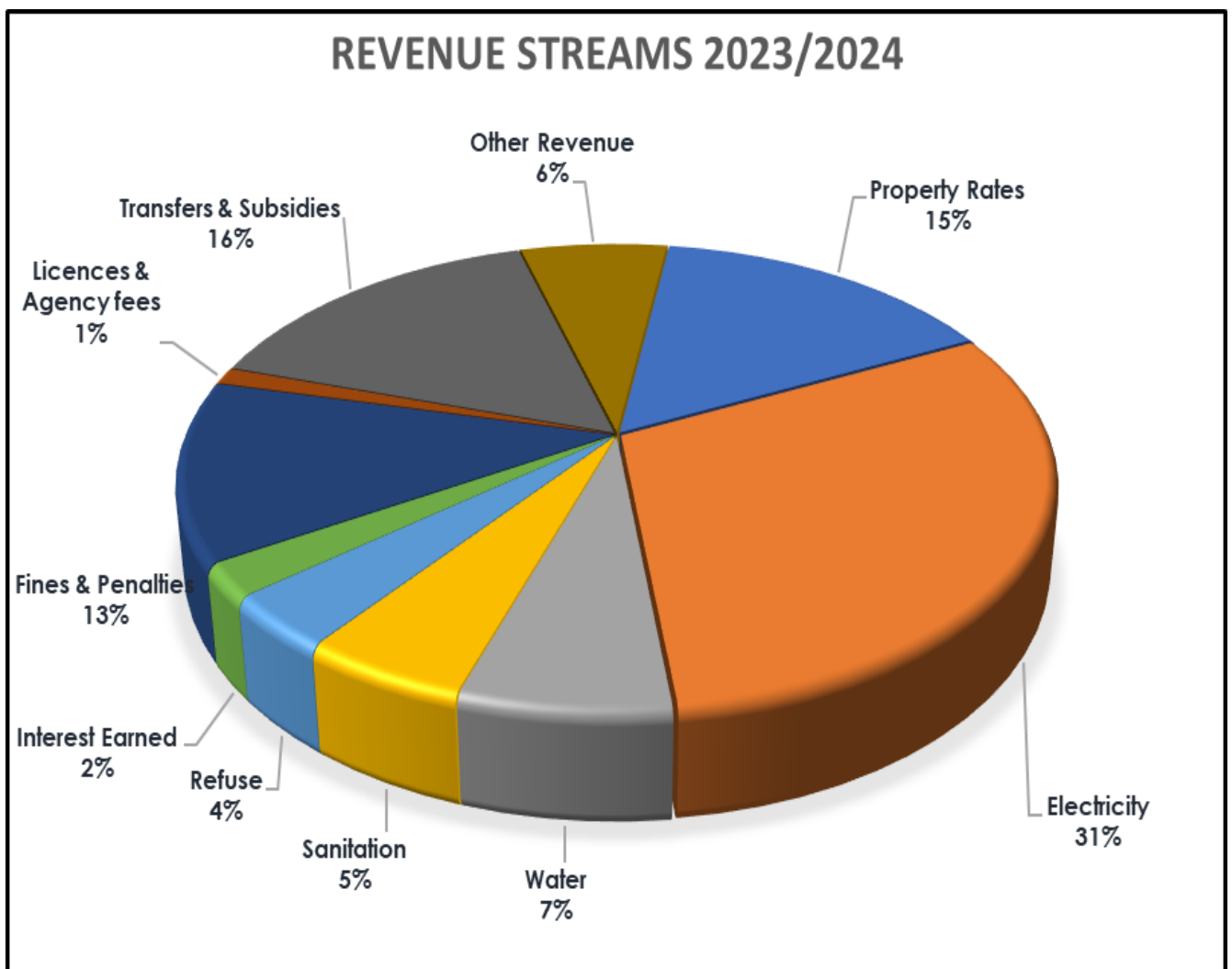
While Swellendam Municipality showcased good governance with clean audits over the past years, the Municipality is facing significant financial challenges that threaten the sustainability of Swellendam.

The Municipality found meeting the daily operational requirements for basic service delivery extremely challenging. As indicated at the recent Swellendam SIME engagements, Swellendam Municipality is fighting for survival.

Though the Municipality is trying their best to meet the challenges, it is an uphill battle due to the energy crisis, the sense of hopelessness due to the failure of state-owned services such as Eskom and the Post Office, the idea of poor performance of SAPS, with criminality outweighing positive results, and the increased cost of living.

Swellendam Municipality is dealing with operational increased expenditure of over 44% in the first six months after the budget was approved. The increase of 44% was calculated in price increases of consumables from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, as the roleplayers in the value chain increased their prices to deal with the overhead and production cost increase because of load-shedding. This severely hampers service delivery and long-term planning.

As seen in the table below, electricity sales are one of the primary income sources for Swellendam Municipality.



Swellendam Municipality's cash and cash equivalents balance has increased by R 3.5 million (3%) in FY2022. Due to the electricity crisis, the municipality collection rate decreased from an average of 98% to 96,8% and is projected to decline further to 96% in FY2024. Based on current rates, the estimated monthly cash implication is +- R320 000, projected to be R3,9m per annum.

It is projected that the municipality will need help to maintain the payment rate at 98% beyond stage 4 load-shedding, as experienced in the 2023 MTREF. Based on the Long-Term Financial Plan, a decrease of 2% in the collection rate negatively impacts the municipality's liquidity position. The liquidity ratio decreases to 0.4:1, and accounting and operational deficits are posted throughout the planning period and keep deteriorating.

The cash and cash equivalents are projected to decrease over the MTREF to R82-million by FY2025.

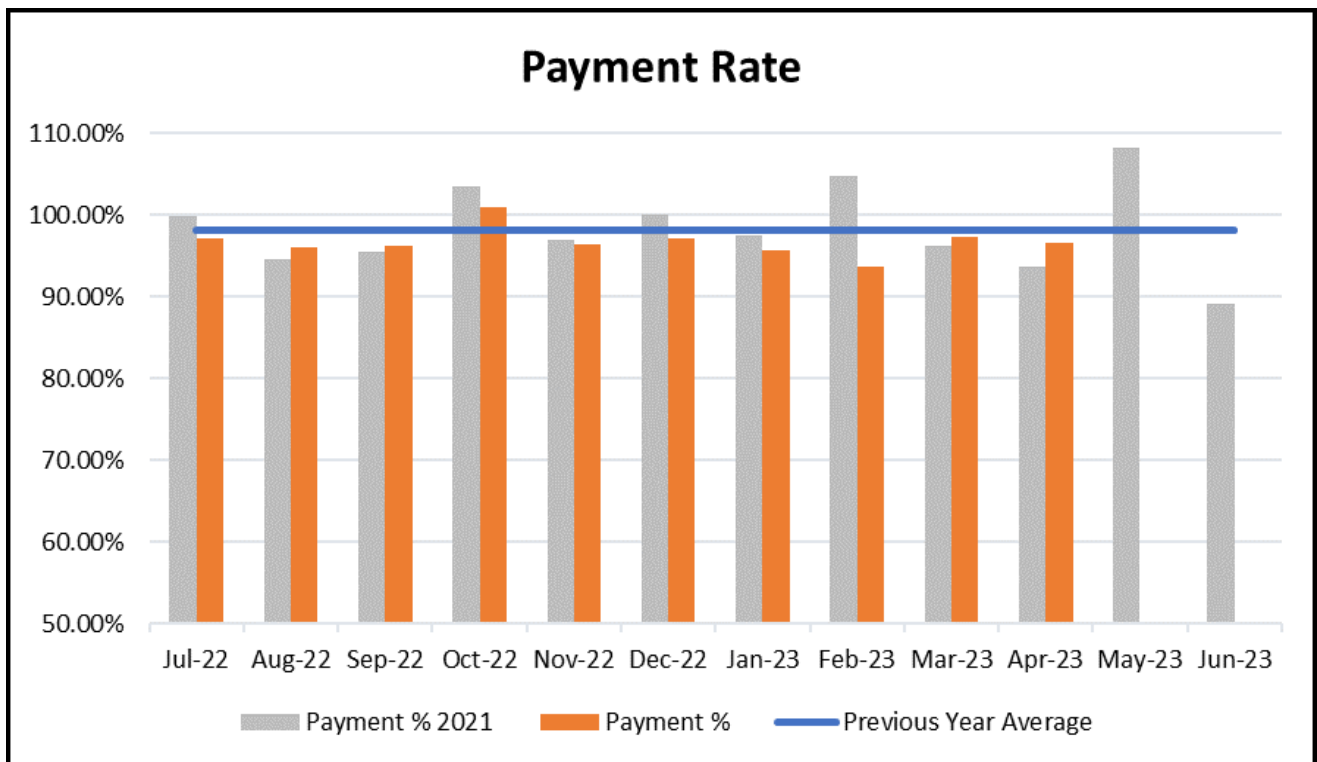
Electricity sales are the primary revenue source at 31% for Swellendam Municipality, followed by property rates at 15% and 16% for the other services combined. This means that electricity constitutes 50% of all service charges. Industries and businesses comprise 53% of electricity revenues. The loss of electricity revenue from these customers will have a severe financial impact on the municipality.

Since Sept 2022, electricity sales have reduced by an average of 14% to 18% per month. Electricity sales are projected to be reduced by 4% in FY2024. The loss of energy sales amounts to a revenue margin loss of +-R3.5-million for FY2023 and +-R4,6 million for FY2024; whereafter, it is projected to stabilise if the municipality successfully partners with the office of the premier on the renewable energy project.

Based on the Energy crisis, the MTREF scenario forecasts a significant decrease in available cash to maintain the level of capital investment in the municipality after FY2024.

In the table below, you will find a comparison of the payment rate comparison of the previous financial year (21/22) vs the current financial year. It is clear to see that there is a downward turn in the payment rate.

| Month | Previous Year Average | Payment 2021 | % | YTD % | Payment % |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|
| Jul-22 | 98.15% | 99.79% | | 97.16% | 97.16% |
| Aug-22 | 98.15% | 94.66% | | 96.52% | 96.04% |
| Sep-22 | 98.15% | 95.44% | | 96.43% | 96.24% |
| Oct-22 | 98.15% | 103.58% | | 97.76% | 101.02% |
| Nov-22 | 98.15% | 96.92% | | 96.52% | 96.45% |
| Dec-22 | 98.15% | 100.03% | | 97.46% | 97.11% |
| Jan-23 | 98.15% | 97.48% | | 97.22% | 95.64% |
| Feb-23 | 98.15% | 104.68% | | 96.80% | 93.69% |
| Mar-23 | 98.15% | 96.30% | | 96.80% | 97.40% |
| Apr-23 | 98.15% | 93.69% | | 96.84% | 96.56% |
| May-23 | 98.15% | 108.25% | | 96.84% | |
| Jun-23 | 98.15% | 89.20% | | 96.84% | |
| YTD | 98.15 | 98.15% | | 96.80% | 96.80% |
| 2021/22 | 98.15% | 98.15% | | 98.15% | 98.15% |



Based on current rates, the estimated monthly cash implication is +-R320 000, projected to be R3,9m per annum. This was calculated on last year's average of 98% compared to this year's projection of 97%.

The energy crisis has a significant impact on the financial sustainability of the municipality, which includes, amongst others:

- The reduced consumption of electricity affects the units sold and effectively decreases the revenue margins;
- The collection of municipal revenue declines where electricity is used as a credit control measure and becomes insufficient as residents purchase less electricity less frequently and move to alternative energy solutions;
- The reduced sales margin will result in tariff increases above the approved NERSA guidelines, and the subsequent pass-on to residents and business are expected to be smaller.
- Unaffordable increases in electricity and the lack thereof will impact local businesses, industries and residents. Unemployment will increase, and more and more residents can't afford to pay their municipal bills, which will significantly reduce the municipality's cash position;

- The municipality will not be able to meet the minimum liquidity requirements, barely pay its creditors on time and not be able to sustain its capital investment program, which is already under pressure which results that basic service delivery will further decrease;
- The municipality has a small revenue base of 11 464 households and cannot absorb the projected cash losses;

For the 2023/2024 Annual Budget, the municipality had to increase property tax by 14% to supplement the electricity revenue margin loss and reduce employee-related cost by 2%, whilst other operational expenditure only allows for the essentials.

Swellendam Municipality's financial sustainability can be summarised in the following ratios:

| | Norm | 30 June 2022 | Projected 30 June 2023 | Planned for 30 June 2024 |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amount of the net current assets / (liability) Position | 1:1.5 to 1:2 | R56 237 845 Ratio 1:1.6 | R50 326 287.54 Ratio 1:1.5 | R32 267 724 Ratio 1:1.3 |
| Amount of the net asset / (liability) position | | R425 263 173 Ratio 1:3.1 | R424 883 410 Ratio 1:4.6 | R442 492 932 Ratio 1:4.6 |
| Amount of year-end cash balance | Positive | R113 324 362 | R96 158 782 | R88 311 376 |
| Collection Rate | >95% | 98.1% | 97% | 96% |

| Cash/Cost Coverage | 1 Month to 3 Months | 4.3 Months | 4 Months | 3 Months |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Capital Cost as % of OPEX | 6% to 8% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| Total Borrowings / Total Operating Revenue | 45% | 8% (R21 997 872) | 11% (R31 636 766) | 10% (R30 864 077) |
| Distribution Loss: Electricity | < 9% | 8.58% | 9% | 9% |

The MTREF indicates a long-term view of declining profitability, lower cash generated by operations and a deterioration of the cash balances of Swellendam.

Should the MTREF assumptions realise over the short term, the base case forecasts a decreasing level of capital investment, funded primarily through its cash reserves and grant funding. To preserve liquidity, the base case allows only a 5% increase of capex after the MTREF period from a low base of R 20 million in 2025.

A decrease of 2% in the collection rate negatively impacts the municipality's liquidity position. The liquidity ratio decreases to 0.4:1, and accounting and operational deficits are posted throughout the planning period.

Profitability remains under pressure due to a low 8.5% p.a. increase in nominal revenue, compared to a higher 8.9% p.a. increase in operating expenditure.

Safeguarding our energy supply becomes crucial in ensuring the financial sustainability of Swellendam Municipality.

HHOUSING PROJECT

Swellendam Municipality is at maximum capacity (NMD) of Eskom supply. To accommodate the new 950 houses, the Municipality must invest a further R16 million to increase Eskom's capacity on their network. There is no budget for this, leaving the housing project under threat. While the SSEG private sector transformation helps with the NMD, it is not enough to carry the 950 houses. The Municipality must secure renewable energy that balances the NMD limitations to remain financially viable.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

As illustrated clearly during the January black-out event, Swellendam Municipality needs help to ensure the full functioning of our Waste Water Treatment Plant in Swellendam during extended load-shedding. The WWTP nearly expelled below-standard effluent into the Koorndlands and Breederiver. Only by God's grace could the effluent be stopped before it reached the river. An hour later and the spillage would have been in the river. The WWTP were on the brink of turning toxic, and as you know, it would have meant that it would have been out of operation for at least three months, with a rehabilitation cost of millions.

This risk remains a reality with the recent sewerage spillage occurring last week that stresses this municipality's operational capabilities to the maximum and results in environmental pollution. Spillage in the Breederiver impacts the dairy farmers along the Breederiver and the Infanta, Malagas and Witsand communities. The Breederiver also feeds into the protective freshwater wetland area, a critical biodiversity area.

The environmental impact of sewerage spillage is immense and incalculable. Even with the grant for generators from the Western Cape Government, there needs to be funding for a generator big enough to carry the WWTW in Swellendam.

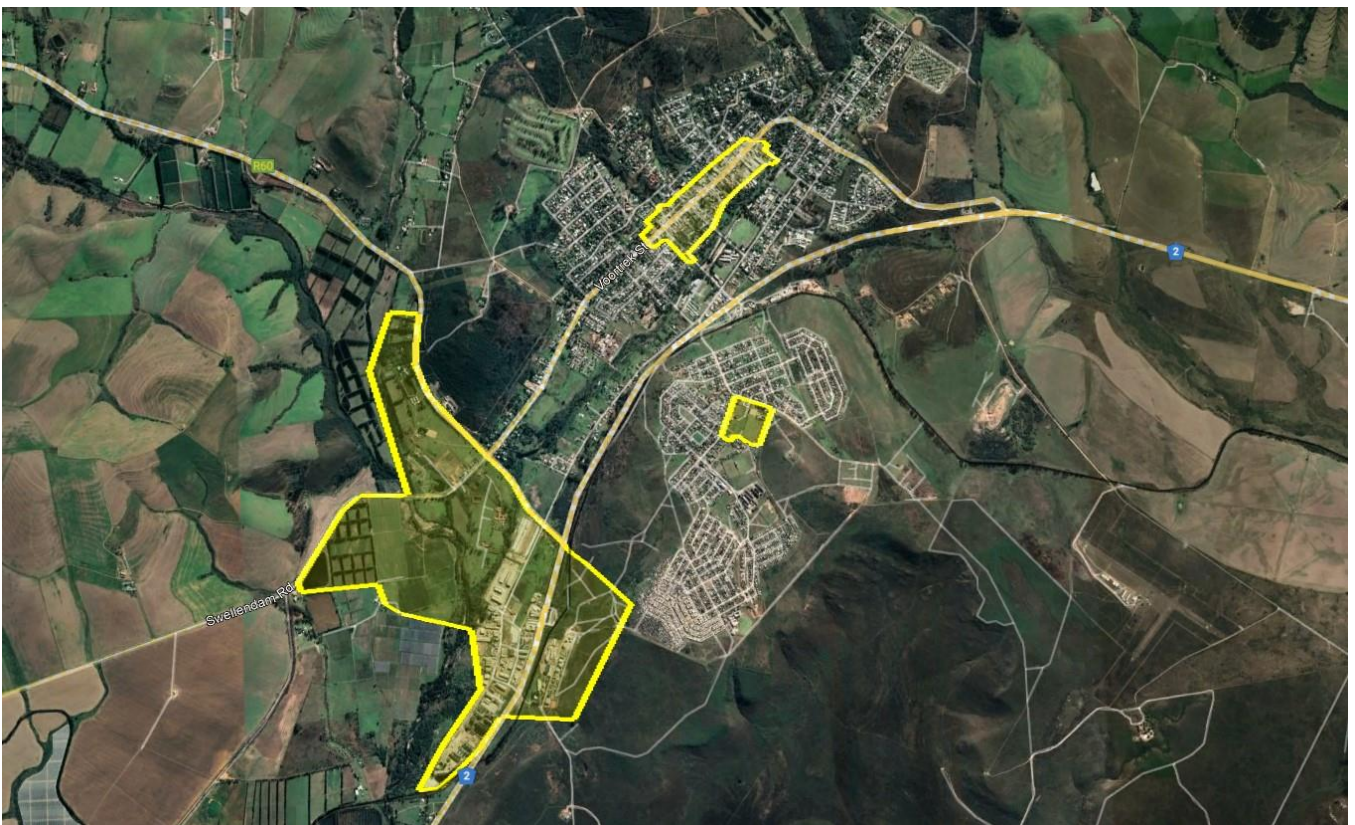
With a renewable energy project, the WWTWs in Swellendam can be protected as they can easily be connected to the Industrial area's electricity feeder.

LAND AVAILABILITY

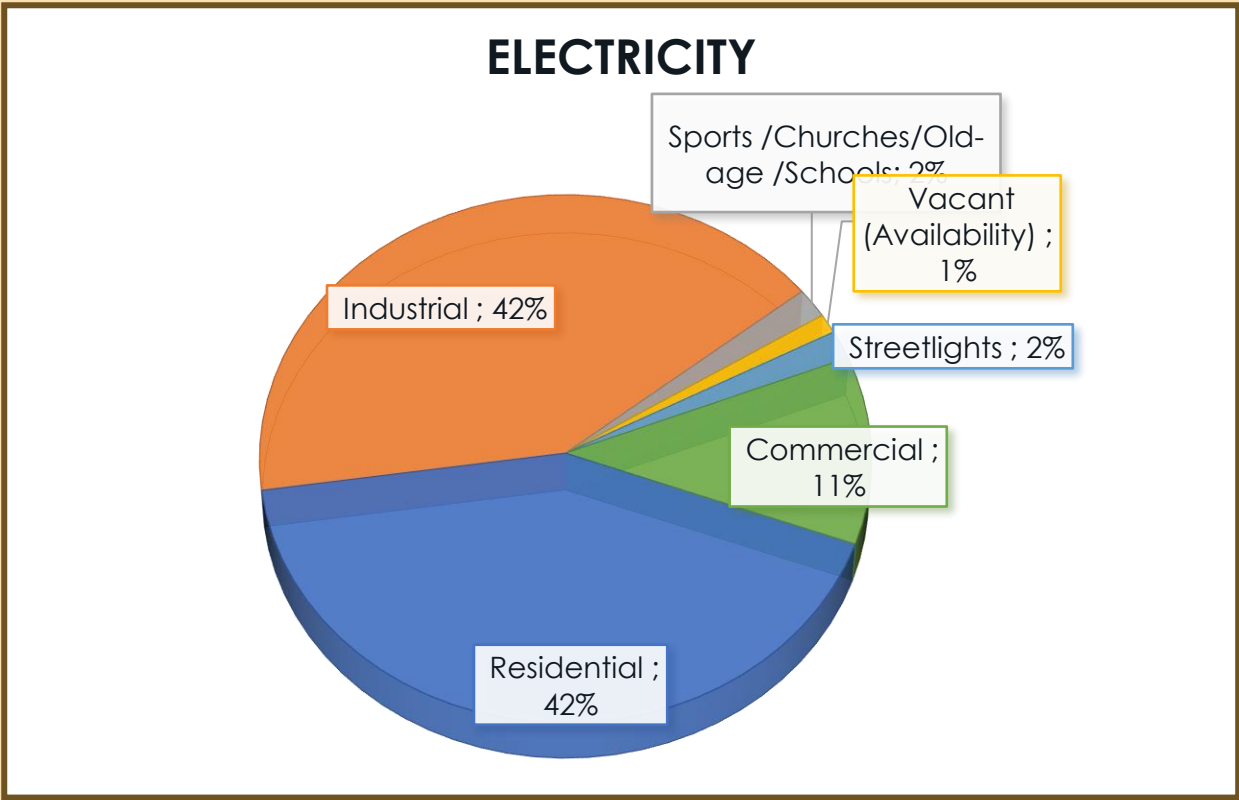
Swellendam has ample land available for renewable energy. The land is zoned undetermined and must be rezoned to a utility or governance zone. A basic environmental assessment with input from Western Cape Heritage will be required. The land identified for Renewable Energy (green in the map below) is ideally suited as it is directly next to the main feeder points for the municipality's electrical grid. This makes the connection to the grid a straightforward process.

TWO-PHASED CONSTRUCTION APPROACH

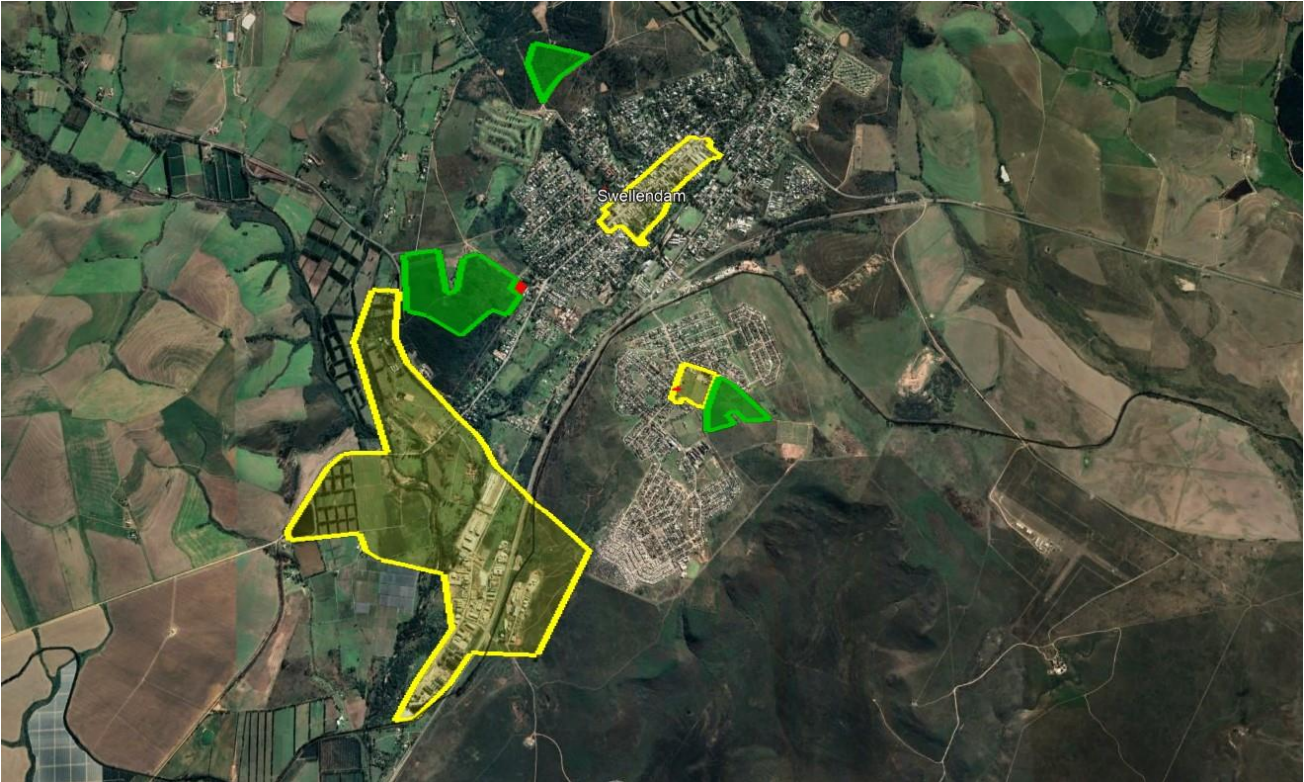
Swellendam Municipality proposes a two-phased construction approach. It is proposed that the Central Business Hubs in Swellendam and Railton and the industrial areas first be connected. The areas are indicated below:



This is because most of our electricity consumption comes from the industrial and Central Business areas as indicated in the pie chart below.



The image below indicates available land (over 59 hectares) in relation to the Industrial and CBD areas.



The green areas indicate the available land, with the yellow areas showing the Industrial and CBD areas. The red dots are the primary electrical connections.

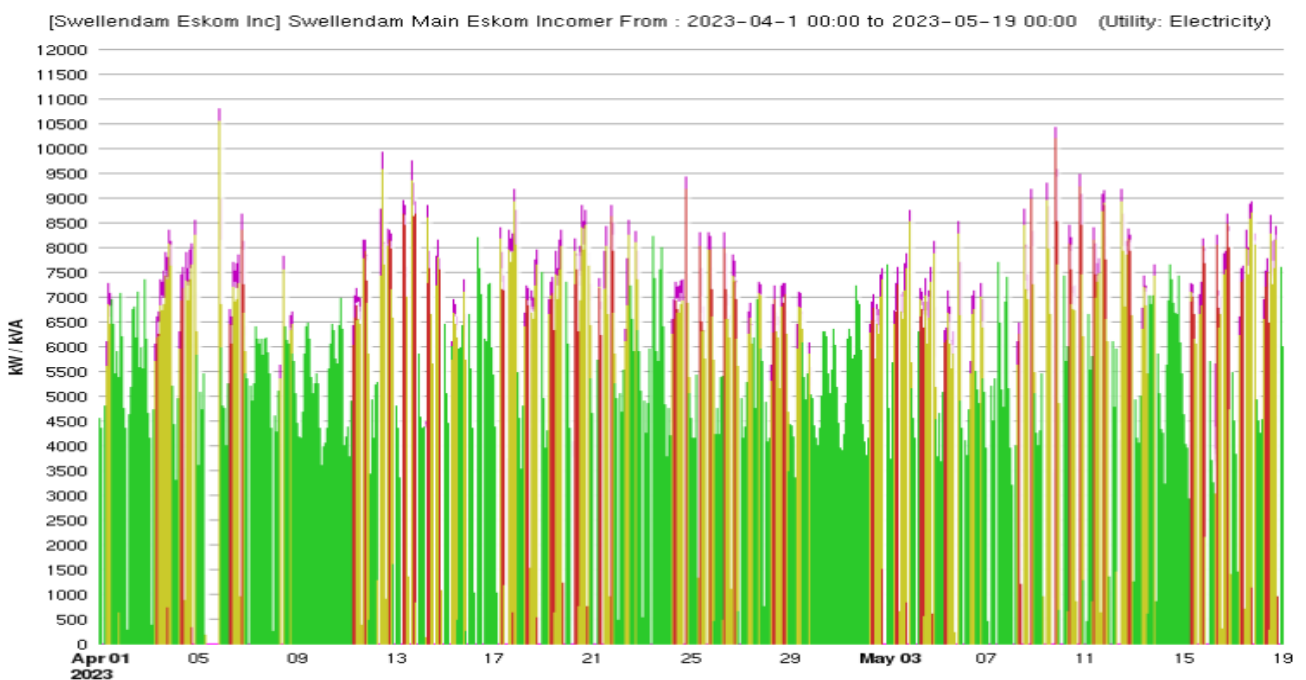
GRID INFORMATION

Swellendam has an NMD of 10.5MVA from Eskom. The winter peak for Swellendam is 9.5MVA, with outliers reaching 10.5MVA due to cold load starts following extended load-shedding shifts. With the 950 houses to be connected, the MVA and NMD will have to be increased. The graph below indicates the electricity consumption for Swellendam town for April and May 2023.

The Industrial and Swellendam town CBD has a peak demand of around 4 and 2.5 MVA, respectively. Both zones have dedicated feeders and can be energised in isolation directly from the main substation.

A locally installed BESS system can supply the Railton CBD in phase 1 to alleviate load-shedding in the shortest possible time frame. Having BESS systems installed on the grid will also help stabilise the grid during peak load periods in the future.

After installing BESS systems to protect the critical areas from load-shedding as the first phase of construction, the second phase will envisage safeguarding the whole of Swellendam against load shedding by utilising an extensive BESS system coupled with a PV installation.



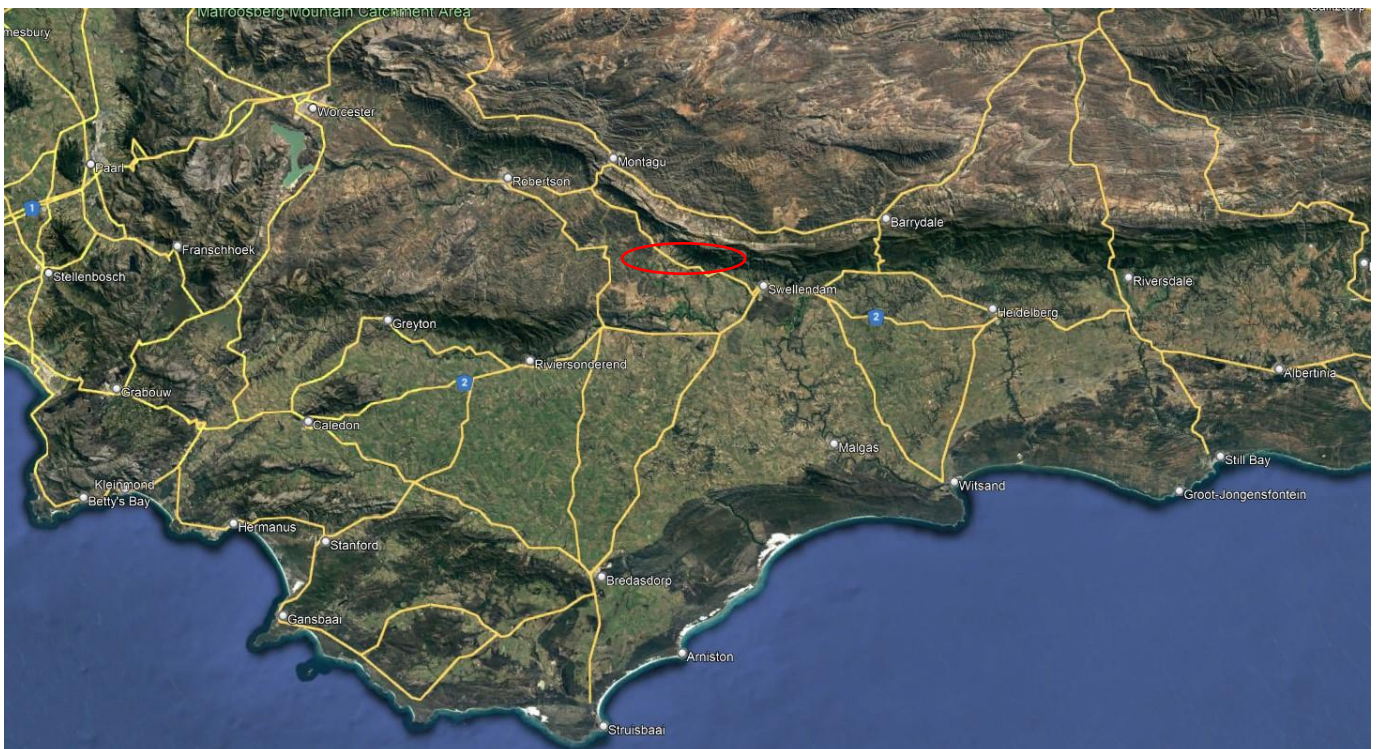
SWELLENDAM OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGIC PLACEMENT OF SWELLENDAM

Swellendam is denoted a "Regional Development Anchor" in the National Spatial Development Framework (SDF). It is similarly characterised as a "Regional Centre in the Provincial and District SDFs. By being located directly along the N2, roughly halfway between Cape Town and Mossel Bay, Swellendam also forms part of a "Key Development Corridor", as identified in the National SDF.

Regarding the Provincial SDF, Swellendam has been identified as the eastern anchor of a "Rural Development Corridor". This Development Corridor extends along the R60 from Worcester, which links the N1 to the N2. The R60 intersects the N2 at Swellendam. Given its importance in the regional settlement hierarchy, and location relative to key transport, travel, and development corridors, it is imperative that Swellendam maintains economic stability, is enabled to maintain its growth and development trajectory, and is not hampered by national nuisances, as extensive as these may be.

Strategically between Cape Town and Mossel Bay, Swellendam will be the ideal setting for a renewable energy recharging station. This can only be done if we can ensure a constant and secure energy supply to the CBD and industrial areas.



Swellendam is a critical national corridor.

INVEST IN ITS INFRASTRUCTURE

Eskom requires R16 million from the Municipality to increase its capacity to supply the new 950 houses in Railton Swellendam with electricity. This upgrade of the Eskom network that Swellendam Municipality is expected to pay for will become redundant in 2029 when Eskom completes the upgrade of the main Agulhas transmission line. It would be more prudent to spend the R16 million upgrade on improving the own electrical infrastructure of Swellendam.

SCHOOL OF SKILLS

Swellendam Municipality is working hard to establish a School of Skills in Swellendam itself. An old school building is currently used for offices of the Provincial Department. This building needs to be utilised to its full potential and is ideally suited for a School of Skills. Discussions with the Department of Agriculture have already taken place to transform this building, which belongs to Public Works in the Western Cape, into a School of Skills.

Incidentally, this site is just above the first phase CBD connection and can easily be accommodated in the first phase.

There is also an option of building a new School of Skills on the land the Municipality procures from Transnet.

If we are serious about G4Js, we must invest in a second School of Skills in the Overberg. With minimum investment, this can easily be done in Swellendam, supporting the agri-processing and manufacturing sector in Swellendam and the whole of the Overberg.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRI PROCESSING

The Overberg is one of the main contributors to the Western Cape's international export markets. The Swellendam area produces export fruits such as soft citrus, citrus and canola. It is important to note that the region's canola production for the majority ends up in Swellendam for processing at the international exporter SOILL. With the Buffeljags packhouses having reached their maximum capacity and all export fruits under netting from the Riviersonderend being channelled to the

Swellendam area, there is a need for expansion of the packhouses and the Swellendam industrial area is ideally suited for this.

Swellendam Municipality is already putting the industrial land needed for such development on tender.

Swellendam is also the home of the two biggest exporters of boats outside of Cape Town. This is a unique market that a stable energy supply must protect.

Swellendam is also home to the internationally acclaimed exporter of canola oil, SOILL. The parent company, SSK, procured a malting company and hoped to re-establish this operation in Swellendam, creating up to 350 jobs.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Swellendam is home to over 120 guesthouses and boutique hotels. It is a popular tourist attraction with a high liveability index. It is also home to the smallest national park in South Africa, Bontebok Park. Bontebok Park is purchasing land next to the N2 to improve their presence on the N2. They are considering establishing a tourism hub on the N2 with a possibility of a fuel station. This will be the ideal setting for an electricity recharging station for e-vehicles.

It is not news that the hospitality sector is struggling to keep afloat with the energy crisis. A sustainable energy supply will safeguard their businesses and allow them to keep their employees employed.

WEIGHBRIDGE

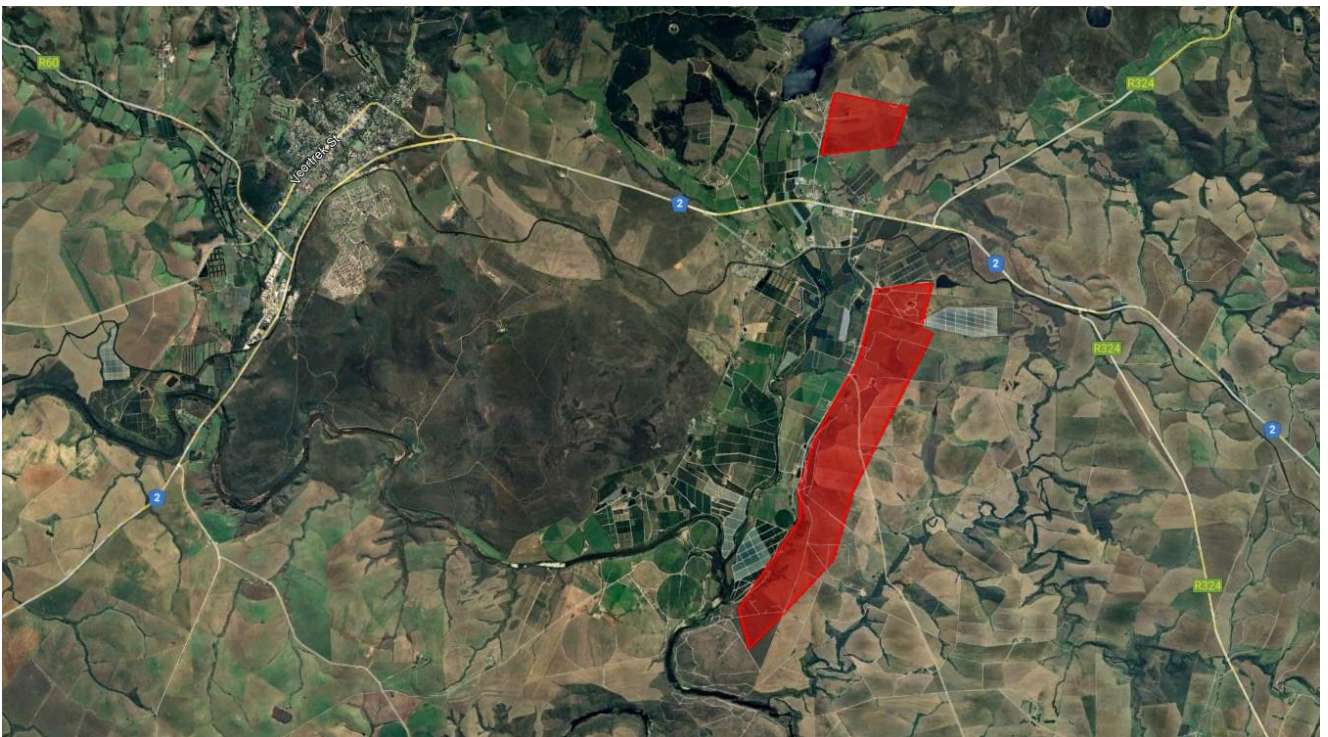
Swellendam has a provincial weighbridge on the N2. It falls within the industrial area and, therefore, will benefit the Provincial government's operation and income if they can have a sustainable source of electricity. It will help improve road safety if the weighbridge can always be operational.

BUFFELJAGS DAM

The Western Cape government is already planning to improve the storage capacity of the Buffeljags Dam by raising the dam wall's height between one and two meters.

This will mean that between 900 and 1000 hectares of additional water rights would become available for irrigation of currently dry land farms. This newly created irrigation farmland will produce citrus, soft citrus, kiwi and pomegranates. Four to six job opportunities will be created for each hectare under irrigation. This will again have a value chain impact on the creation of packhouses in Swellendam's industrial area. It will make additional export valuta for Swellendam, the Overberg, and the Western Cape.

It will also have the added benefit of improving water security for Swellendam itself, as the possibility of a direct raw water supply pipeline is also under investigation as part of the dam augmentation project.



Approximately 900 to 1000 hectares of irrigation hectares will be unlocked with the Buffeljags dam project.

IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

As the report indicates, the Municipality needs help under stages 4 and above to maintain an acceptable service standard for water and sewerage. Both the waterworks and sewerage works can be connected in the first-phased approach to allow full operation of the water and wastewater treatment plants, limiting the risk of environmental pollution in the Breederiver.

Growth of Jobs (G4J)

Swellendam Municipality is committed to creating a safe and prosperous municipal area with a high liveability index. To do so, the Municipality must protect and create jobs in our local economy.

Swellendam Municipality is a growth node, growing the fastest of all the municipalities in the Overberg. The municipal planning submissions show a year-on-year growth with the most significant recent project, the development of the Swellengrebel Mall.

With SSK's proposed malting plant, approximately 350 jobs can be created. The proposed SANPARKS tourism venue on the N2 will create additional employment, estimated at a conservative 15 jobs.

The already underway eradication of alien vegetation on Bethelskop provides jobs for about 20 workers, and with a fast-tracking of the project, an additional 20-30 jobs can be created.

With the unlocking of the agricultural land with the heightening of the Buffejags dam, an additional 3 600 to 5 600 jobs can be created.

The above can significantly impact delivering on the G4J objective of the Western Cape government.

SUMMARY

We all understand that we cannot quickly fix our immense problems of inequality and poverty, unemployment, vandalism, and increased crime. After more than 15 years of load-shedding, we all have to recognise Eskom has no quick – or maybe even no fix.

Given the astronomical increase in the price of electricity in recent years, electricity has become expensive and unaffordable for many, with the resultant loss of revenue for municipalities. This loss of revenue is exacerbated by an increase in illegal connections due to unaffordable rates, end users going off the grid, load shedding, and theft and vandalism to infrastructure.

Ultimately, the loss of revenue stifles municipalities' ability to fulfil their constitutional obligations. If municipalities cannot provide services, businesses cannot operate and create jobs, and there will be no G4J

With a Renewable Energy project, Swellendam Municipality can turn the tide against Overberg and us.

Swellendam is rightly described as a national key development corridor and anchor. Swellendam has the potential to grow and create jobs, but we need sustainable energy.

**The Municipality is fully committed to implementing the Renewable Energy project.
We need the green light.**