

Friday, 20 June 2025]

No 61 - 2025] SECOND SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 20 JUNE 2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government and Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the 2024/25 financial year

The strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities that have an impact on committees are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

Members

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Chairperson: Mr D Bryant

Members: Mr NP Masipa; Mr P Johnson; Mr DJ Wessels; Ms BN Stoffel; Mr N Constable; Mr GP Marais

Alternate Members: Mr M Booysen; Mr G Bosman; Ms BM van Minnen; Mr LD van Wyk; Mr TCR Walters; Mr MK Sayed; Mr F Kamfer; Mr T Lithakong

1. Introduction

1.1 The mandate of the Committee was to:

1.1.1 maintain oversight over the executive member and his Department, including the implementation of legislation, and to hold them accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament;

- 1.1.2. consider and report on legislation, other matters and annual reports referred to it by the Speaker;
- 1.1.3 consider any reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of any municipality in the province.
- 1.1.4 consider the consolidated statements on the state of municipalities' budgets referred to in section 71(7) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003; and
- 1.1.5 consider any other report or statement concerning the affairs of a municipality referred to the Committee by the House.

1.2. In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee:

- 1.2.1 facilitated public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
- 1.2.2 conducted its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.2.3 promoted cooperative governance; and
- 1.2.4 reported regularly to the House.

2. Departments reporting to the Committee: Two

- 2.1. Department of Local Government
- 2.2 Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

3. Entity reporting to the Committee: One

- 3.1 CapeNature

4. Overview of Committee's activities

4.1	Number of committee meetings	14
4.2	Number of cluster oversight visits	1
4.3	Number of oversight visits	1
4.4	Number of provincial bills considered	2
4.5	Number of NCOP bills considered	1
4.6	Number of public hearings	6

5. Oversight activities

- 5.1 Being an election year, and after the swearing-in of the new Members, the new standing committees were announced. At its first meeting, the Committee elected Mr Bryant as Chairperson in accordance with Rule 82(1). Following an induction programme by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the standing committees proceeded with their meetings.

The Standing Committee's first meeting included briefings by the departments on their 2024/25 annual performance plans, organisational structure, mission, vision, core functions, key programmes and envisaged legislation. These briefings provided the Members with an overview of the operations and core functions of the departments and CapeNature, as well as a better understanding of the various programmes in the departments.

On 3 September 2024, the Committee was briefed by the Department of Local Government on the operations of the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre

and received feedback on the recent flood and storm disasters in the Western Cape. CapeNature also provided feedback on the damage at their facilities during the recent winter season.

- 5.2 The Committee deliberated on the annual reports of the Department of Local Government for the 2023/24 financial year, and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature for the 2023/24 financial year. The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Stony Point Penguin Sanctuary in Betty's Bay. The Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Stony Point Colony are integral parts of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve Complex. The MPA was initially proclaimed under the Sea Fisheries Act, 1973, and re-proclaimed in December 2000 under the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act 18 of 1998), and has been managed under the National Environmental Protected Areas Act since June 2014. The Stony Point Penguin Sanctuary was established in 1982 to protect the growing colony of African penguins and is now home to one of the largest breeding colonies of African penguins in the world. Managed by CapeNature, this sanctuary offers a unique opportunity to observe these endangered birds in their natural habitat.

The Committee was briefed by the national Department of Transport on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill [B 10–2022] and deliberated on Vote 14: Local Government and Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill of 2024, after which they considered and adopted the committee reports on Vote 14: Local Government and Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

- 5.3 The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning briefed the Committee on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill [B 10–2022], and the Department of Local Government briefed the Committee on the Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill [B 8–2023]. Following the briefing by the Department of Local Government, the Committee also received a briefing on the Report on the Status of Municipalities for December 2025 Quarter 3. The national Department of Transport provided the Committee with feedback on its proposals for the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill, and the Committee proceeded to adopt the negotiating mandate on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill [B 10–2022].

COGTA provided the Committee with feedback on the Negotiating Mandate Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill [B 14B–2022]. The Committee concluded the quarter with deliberations on Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and Vote 14: Local Government in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill of 2025, after which they considered and adopted the committee reports on the votes.

6. Legislation

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

6.1 Provincial bills

6.1.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]: Vote 9 and Vote 14

6.1.2 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025]: Vote 9 and Vote 14

6.2 NCOP bills

6.2.1 Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill [B 10–2022]

7. Financial particulars

The Committee's actual expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year as at 31 March 2025 was R160 656 against an adjusted budget of R93 027.

2. Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism on its study visit to the Constantia Wine Valley Region on 25 April 2025, as follows:

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

Bosman, G (DA)

Bryant, DW (DA)

Masipa, NP (DA) (Chairperson)

Nkondlo, ND (ANC)

Apologies were received from Members Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-ah), Constable, N (PA), Mbombo, N (DA) and Wessels, DJ (DA).

1. Introduction and background

Section 114(2)(b)(i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa mandates provincial legislatures to provide for mechanisms to maintain oversight over the provincial executive authority in the province.

At its meeting on 4 March 2025, the Committee resolved to conduct a study tour of the Cape Peninsula wine region to understand its significance in the broader context of wine production in the Western Cape. The purpose of the visit was to gain insight into the historical significance of the region and discuss current challenges and concerns facing the local wine industry. This visit was an extension of the Committee's engagement with the agricultural sector that took place on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

2. Overview

The visit commenced with a welcome by Wesgro, after which the Committee proceeded by coach to Beau Constantia Wine Estate to meet with winemaker, Megan van der Merwe, and tasting room manager, Wealth Masemola. Megan van der Merwe served as the general manager, winemaker, and viticulturist at Beau Constantia. She began her tenure at the estate in 2015 as an assistant winemaker and assumed the lead role in 2019. Wealth Masemola shared his aspiring journey with the Committee and was in the process of obtaining his sommelier qualification, a qualification that could become quite expensive. The Committee then returned to Groot Constantia for an estate walking tour that was

followed by a cellar tour and a wine tasting introduction. The day concluded with presentations by Groot Constantia, SA Wine and Western Cape Destination Marketing, Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (Wesgro). Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism were also present at the engagement.

2.1 Engagement at Beau Constantia

2.1.1 Findings and observations

2.1.1.1 Young black winemakers in South Africa, and globally, often faced a range of systemic, economic and cultural challenges in breaking into and thriving in the wine industry. One of the central issues was lack of early exposure to wine culture. Many young black South Africans grew up in communities where wine was not part of everyday culture or lifestyle. This lack of exposure could delay interest, familiarity or confidence in pursuing careers in viticulture, winemaking or wine appreciation. Wine education was rarely integrated into schools or community programmes, particularly in under-resourced areas. Formal education in winemaking was limited to a few institutions, like Stellenbosch University and the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute. These programmes could be expensive and competitive, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds may face language, financial and cultural barriers.

2.1.1.2 Marketing wine to the youth (typically consumers aged in their 20s to early 30s) was a strategic move for the wine industry to ensure long-term market sustainability and brand loyalty. It was important to build the next generation of wine consumers. As the older generations consumed less or age out of the market, the industry must cultivate new drinkers. Introducing wine to younger audiences ensured that demand remained strong in the future. Young consumers were open to experimentation and could develop a lifelong preference for wine when introduced early and appropriately. If wine was marketed effectively, it could compete with beer, ciders and spirits, categories that often dominated youth markets. Millennials and Gen Zs were drinking less but better, as they cared about origin, sustainability and story.

2.1.1.2 Burgundy in France and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture have a longstanding partnership focused on agriculture, viticulture and education. This collaboration has led to student exchanges, winemaking training programmes and agricultural knowledge-sharing between the two regions. Burgundy has hosted Western Cape farmworkers for specialised wine-making courses, helping them refine their skills. Additionally, the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute in Stellenbosch has built strong ties with Burgundy's agricultural institutions, fostering knowledge exchange in viticulture and food production. The partnership also included practical training opportunities for French wine students on farms in the Western Cape.

2.2 SA Wine: Wine Tourism Strategy 2025–2030

2.2.1 Findings and observations

2.2.1.1 SA Wine presented its Wine Tourism Strategy 2025–2030, which outlined a comprehensive roadmap to position South Africa as the world's most authentic and diverse wine tourism destination. The strategy emphasised the importance

of connecting wine tourism with local history, gastronomy and rich storytelling to enhance the visitor experience. It drew on best practices from successful wine regions such as Napa Valley and aligned with global trends identified by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

- 2.2.1.2 South Africa's wine tourism sector was well-established, with 23 diverse and accessible wine routes across three key provinces, namely the Western Cape, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. In 2022, wine tourism contributed significantly to the economy, accounting for 17,3% of the total turnover among wine cellars that crushed grapes, generating between 9 174 and 11 102 seasonal jobs, and contributing R9,3 billion to the national gross domestic product. The strategy identified various income-generating activities in wine tourism, with wine tasting, accommodation and restaurant services making up the majority of tourism turnover. Most wineries were equipped with tasting rooms, restaurants and accommodation.
- 2.2.1.3 SA Wine had a bursary in place to support sommelier and other training in winemaking and production. The South African Sommeliers Association (SASA), in partnership with Perron X Heritage Collection, offered the SASA Perron X Bursary to support aspiring sommeliers in South Africa. This bursary provided 100 awards annually for SASA's Introductory Sommelier Certification Programme, covering the full cost of the certification exam.

2.3 Western Cape Destination Marketing, Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (Wesgro)

2.3.1 Findings and observations

- 2.3.1.1 Wesgro has undertaken a focused campaign to diversify its international market presence, with particular emphasis on Asia, specifically China and India. Although progress in the region has been slower relative to others due to the complex nature of market entry, significant strides have been made in relationship-building and strategic positioning.

Engagement with China has advanced more rapidly than with other Asian markets. The Chinese market required extensive engagement with government officials and relied heavily on long-term relationship-building. Wesgro has effectively leveraged diplomatic platforms and partnerships to facilitate access, recognising that meaningful penetration into China required sustained effort over several years. Notably, China has become an increasingly important export destination for the Western Cape.

- 2.3.1.2 To strengthen these efforts, Wesgro has partnered with institutions such as Standard Bank, which provided both strategic access and financial support. A notable contribution included R500 000 in funding towards the "Made in the Cape" buyers programme. This initiative brought international buyers, especially from China, India, the Middle East and Europe, to engage directly with Western Cape exporters in structured meetings. The programme has proven instrumental in opening new commercial channels and expanding export opportunities. A major success under this programme included engagement with Reliance, one of India's largest family-owned retail conglomerates with over 15 000 outlets. Following their participation as buyers, Wesgro has been invited to showcase "Made in the Cape" products in Reliance stores in Mumbai in

September 2025. This marked a significant milestone in market entry efforts for South African products into India. These initiatives reflected Wesgro's broader market diversification strategy, which was grounded in partnership-building, targeted market intelligence and showcasing regional strengths to global buyers.

- 2.3.1.3 Wesgro reaffirmed its role as the official domestic marketing organisation for Cape Town and the Western Cape, with a core focus on destination marketing, trade facilitation and tourism-sector development. Significant achievements were highlighted, particularly in terms of international connectivity, tourism growth and inclusive economic participation.

The province has moved beyond post-COVID recovery and was now experiencing real tourism growth. This was evident by increased arrivals and additional airlift capacity. Airlines such as United Airlines, Delta and Emirates were set to increase frequencies to Cape Town, confirming growing demand and positioning the Western Cape as a competitive global destination.

The importance of air access was emphasised, with the Cape Town Air Access initiative playing a central role in enabling connectivity. Stakeholders in the tourism and airline industries have acknowledged that increased capacity directly drives higher visitor numbers.

- 2.3.1.4 Wesgro supported the provincial government's vision to double tourism by 2035, an ambitious goal that required a multi-faceted approach. The agency planned to initiate a research project to assess what is needed to achieve this target. Critical enablers included expanded air and cruise access; improved visitor experiences tailored to growth markets like India and China; streamlined visa and tourism regulation; and infrastructure readiness to handle visitor volumes, including ports.

- 2.3.1.5 The province has seen significant growth in cruise tourism, partly due to geopolitical shifts affecting global travel routes. While this has benefited Cape Town, it has also highlighted challenges, such as traffic congestion when multiple ships dock simultaneously. To address this, Wesgro aimed to develop a clear, coordinated cruise strategy, including better integration of smaller ports like Saldanha Bay and Mossel Bay to distribute economic benefits across the region.

- 2.3.1.6 Youth development remained a cornerstone of Wesgro's inclusive growth strategy. The agency's "Giving Back" Programme focused on three main areas, namely high school engagements, where senior leaders engage directly with high-performing learners in township schools to expose them to career paths in tourism, trade and investment; graduate internships, where currently 19 graduate interns from top South African universities were hosted by Wesgro across various departments, including data science, trade, finance and tourism; mentorship and exposure, where interns participated in mentorship programmes and were involved in key events and strategy sessions to deepen their industry knowledge. These interventions aimed to create a talent pipeline and ensured that the youth were equipped for future roles in the Western Cape's evolving economic sectors.

- 2.3.1.7 In line with Wesgro's commitment to talent development and addressing challenges in the competitive job market, it has implemented an extensive

graduate internship programme. A significant portion of interns (50% to 60%) were successfully absorbed into the organisation post-internship, allowing it to maintain a continuous flow of skilled individuals who contribute meaningfully to the Agency's work.

- 2.3.1.8 Recognising the gap in tourism knowledge among young people, particularly those in academic programmes related to tourism studies, Wesgro initiated a "Familiarisation Trip" for students from various faculties. Many of these students had not yet visited significant tourist landmarks, such as Table Mountain, and therefore lacked a comprehensive understanding of the sector's offerings. This initiative was aimed at enhancing the students' understanding of the tourism industry, fostering a more informed and engaged future workforce.
- 2.3.1.9 A strong focus was placed on preparing local businesses for international trade through Wesgro's Export Readiness Programme. In the past financial year, 206 businesses were trained to become export-ready, with 59 of those businesses successfully obtaining export declarations. This programme provided ongoing support and resources to help businesses navigate the complexities of international markets.
- 2.3.1.10 Focused efforts on district-specific projects have resulted in notable progress in key areas such as the Garden Route, where tourism and trade initiatives were gaining momentum. A small budget was allocated to support projects in various districts, which has allowed for targeted funding of activities with high potential for growth and impact.
- 2.3.1.11 Wesgro reported strong activation in the wine tourism sector with specific reference to its participation in the "Best of Wine Tourism Awards" and Great Wine Capitals Programme.

The agency also hosted international media and travel trade to showcase regional wine offerings and offered support in terms of the Export Advancement Programme for woman-owned wineries, with R88 million in trade declarations recorded. District-focused interventions included tourism event support, export training, and promotion of small, medium and micro enterprises across the Cape Winelands, Overberg, Garden Route, West Coast, Central Karoo and Cape Town.

3. Resolutions or actions

The Committee RECOMMENDED the Western Cape Government:

- 3.1. Considers establishing a Provincial Wine Library to preserve and showcase the region's rich wine heritage, support research and education in viticulture, enhance tourism and economic development, promote the local wine industry, and strengthen international relations through cultural diplomacy. This initiative would contribute to positioning the Western Cape as a leading global wine destination; and
- 3.2 Considers the establishment of a provincial bursary to students pursuing studies in viticulture, winemaking and sommelier training to develop a skilled workforce, to promote inclusive economic growth and transformation, to enhance the global

competitiveness of the local wine industry, and to strengthen education and training pathways critical to the sector's long-term sustainability.

4. Acknowledgements

The Committee commended all stakeholders for their role in facilitating economic growth and positioning the Western Cape as a globally competitive destination. Wesgro's alignment with public and private partners, focus on youth empowerment and innovative marketing strategies were particularly noted.

The Committee supported continued investment in tourism infrastructure, skills development and strategic international engagements to sustain and grow the sector.

3. Annual Committee Activity Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2024/25 financial year as follows:

Members

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-ah)
 Bryant, DW (DA)
 Constable, N (PA)
 Masipa, NP (DA) (Chairperson)
 Mbombo, N (DA)
 Nkondlo, ND (ANC)
 Wessels, DJ (DA)

Alternate Members

Booyesen, M (DA)
 Bosman, G (DA)
 Kaizer-Philander, WF (DA)
 Stoffels, BN (ANC)
 Van Wyk, LD (DA)
 Walters, TCR (DA)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Committee was to:

- 1.1 maintain oversight over the executive members and the departments and its entities, of the way in which they perform their responsibilities, including the implementation of legislation, and to hold them accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; and
- 1.2 consider and report on legislation, other matters and the annual reports referred to it by the Speaker.

In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee:

- 1.3 facilitated public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;

- 1.4 conducted its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.5 promoted cooperative governance; and
- 1.6 reported regularly to the House.

2. Reporting departments and entities

- 2.1 Department of Agriculture
- 2.2 Department of Economic Development and Tourism
- 2.3 Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development (Casidra)
- 2.4 Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ)
- 2.5 Freeport Saldanha Industrial Development Zone Licencing Company (FSIDZ)
- 2.6 Western Cape Destination Marketing, Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (Wesgro)

3. Overview of Committee's activities

Number of committee meetings	11
Number of public hearings	6
Number of oversight visits	3
Number of cluster visit weeks	1

4. Oversight activities

- 4.1 The 2024/25 year marked the beginning of the seventh parliamentary term and commenced in July 2025. It was considered a productive year in which interactions with the departments and entities and the many stakeholders consulted were both cordial and beneficial and ensured that committee members could approach their oversight function with objectivity and insight.

The financial year was a challenging year that was exacerbated by limited fiscal resources. The Committee continued with its mandate and embarked on several initiatives having resulted in follow-up activities and meetings. The Committee focused on money bills, current and regulatory matters, as well as overseeing the implementation of policies and programmes related to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and its entities. The following is a summary of the Committee's activities during the 2024/25 financial year.

In terms of money bills, the Committee considered Vote 11: Agriculture and Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]. Similarly, the main appropriated budget for the 2025/26 financial year for Vote 11: Agriculture and Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025] was also considered.

- 4.2 With the start of the financial year coinciding with the beginning of the new parliamentary term and the induction of new members, the Committee prioritised introductory briefings. These sessions were aimed at equipping Members with a foundational understanding of the various departmental and entity programmes. The departments and entities presented overviews of their respective mandates, core functions and the legislation guiding their work. They also provided insights into their organisational structures, highlighted key programmes, outlined achievements and challenges and shared upcoming legislative developments.

- 4.3 The Committee also received regular updates in writing from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and their respective entities on quarterly performance where non-financial performance targets were evaluated and where performance indicators that were not achieved and/or partly achieved were highlighted.
- 4.4 The Committee conducted three oversight visits: one to Elsenburg, another to the Atlantis Special Economic Zone and the Freeport Saldanha Industrial Development Zone, and a third to the Port of Cape Town.

The purpose of the visit to Elsenburg was to focus on the Department's key activities and infrastructure, including the Agricultural Training Institute, winemaking, the equine farm and the agri-processing hub, with the aim to gain insight into how these initiatives contributed to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism's Growth for Jobs Strategy. The Committee discussed the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) funding and Ilima/Letsema funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to support small-scale and emerging farmers. However, the Department faced challenges in managing these funds effectively, particularly due to delays in disbursement that led to missed planting seasons. A key concern was the reclassification of CASP funding for the Western Cape from Schedule 4 (more flexible) to Schedule 5 (more restrictive), which limited the Department's ability to plan and implement projects efficiently, causing administrative burdens and delays in execution.

To this end, the Committee has written to the national Minister of Agriculture seeking to understand the reasoning behind changing the initial grant allocation from Schedule 4 to Schedule 5 and the requirements and procedures to revert the allocation to Schedule 4. After numerous attempts the Committee has not received a response from the national Ministry and it will continue to follow up on this important matter in the next financial year.

The purpose of the visit to the Atlantis Special Economic Zone and the Freeport Saldanha Industrial Development Zone was to focus on economic impact and growth; infrastructure and development; regulatory compliance and governance; social impact; innovation and technology; operational challenges and risk management; partnerships and collaboration; and long-term sustainability. The Committee recognised the hard work, success stories, as well as the challenges faced by the ASEZ, and in particular the FSIDZ, and undertook to continue its oversight role to assist in this capacity.

The purpose of the visit to the Port of Cape Town was to assess progress with challenges that were identified in the previous parliamentary term, particularly regarding the impact of port conditions on operations and infrastructure readiness for imports and exports. The Committee emphasised the importance of integrated planning between port authorities, transporters, cold storage operators, and exporters to create a more synchronised and efficient logistics network. The Committee called upon Transnet and the relevant authorities to address port congestion and logistical inefficiencies urgently through better planning, infrastructure upgrades, and stakeholder collaboration and undertook to conduct a follow up visit in the next financial year.

- 4.5 The Committee, as part of the Cluster B Visit Week, participated in a Provincial Visit Week to Beaufort West to consult and interact with private stakeholders and provincial and local government projects and programmes in outlying areas as part of its oversight mandate. The project visited was the Vaalkuil Boerdery. The purpose of the visit was to gain an understanding of the sectoral issues in agriculture, including employment and the structure of the business; the challenges in legislation that the farmer or the Department of Agriculture considered necessary to address their plight or to be amended to improve service delivery; the role of the farmer in the food system; expansion plans of the operation; the blending finance opportunity between the state grants and private sector credit finance; and the type of extension services being provided.
- 4.6 Annual reports were the key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against their performance targets and budgets as outlined in their strategic plans and annual performance plans. To this end, the Committee deliberated on the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, as well as their respective entities for the 2023/24 financial year.

5. Legislation

In the 2024/25 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial bills

- 5.1.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]: Vote 11 – Agriculture
- 5.1.2 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]: Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism
- 5.1.3 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025]: Vote 11 – Agriculture
- 5.1.4 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025]: Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism

5.2 NCOP bills (section 76)

There were no NCOP bills referred to the Committee.

6. Facilitation of public involvement and participation

In line with its mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, the Committee created awareness and opportunity for the public to participate in the legislative process by advertising in print media and using social media, such as Facebook, X and Instagram.

7. Financial particulars

The Committee's actual expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year as at 31 March 2025 was R78 285,69 against an adjusted budget of R92 252.

4. **Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism on its engagement with agricultural stakeholders in Paarl on 22 April 2025, as follows:**

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-ah)
 Bryant, DW (DA)
 Constable, N (PA)
 Masipa, NP (DA) (Chairperson)
 Mbombo, N (DA)
 Nkondlo, ND (ANC)

An apology was received from Member Wessels (DA).

1. Introduction and background

At its meeting on 4 March 2025, the Committee resolved that it would prioritise a full day engagement with the agricultural industry to understand their challenges so that it could escalate these challenges to the relevant executive authority.

The Committee invited the following organisations to attend the engagement; Agri-Western Cape, the Citrus Growers' Association, Summer Fruit South Africa, Hortgro, SA Wine, the National Wool Growers' Association, the Milk Producers' Organisation, the South African Pork Producers' Organisation and the Red Meat Producers' Association.

2. Overview

The meeting commenced with a presentation by the Agricultural Business Chamber on the macro-level overview of the economic outlook. The presentation also included an industry-specific analysis, highlighting both the regulatory and policy-related challenges currently constraining the sector, as well as recent positive developments and progress in the agricultural industry. Presentations were then made by the stakeholders that were invited. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Wesgro were also in attendance.

2.1 Agri-Western Cape

2.1.1 Issues discussed

2.1.1.1 The agricultural sector in the Western Cape played a pivotal role in the province's economy, yet it operated in an increasingly complex and challenging environment. At the forefront was the capital-intensive nature of modern agriculture, which demanded substantial investment in infrastructure, technology, and compliance, placing strain particularly on small and medium-scale farmers.

2.1.1.2 One of the most pressing concerns was land reform and policy uncertainty, especially around expropriation and tenure security. These issues created an atmosphere of hesitation among investors and has negatively impacted long-term planning and growth in the sector. Climate change and drought conditions continued to pose significant risks to both crop and livestock production, while disease and pest control remained persistent threats that required robust management systems. Compounding these biological challenges were the rising

costs of input, such as energy, fuel, fertilisers and feed, which were exacerbated by inflation, weak infrastructure and supply chain disruptions.

- 2.1.1.3 The sector also struggled with minimal or zero subsidies, placing South African farmers at a disadvantage compared to international competitors. Meanwhile, policy uncertainty, compliance burdens, and bureaucratic delays further constrain growth and innovation.

Labour shortages, alongside difficulties in retaining skilled workers, were intensified by urban migration and an aging workforce. Labour regulations and wage structures, while necessary, often presented additional pressures on producers.

- 2.1.1.4 Infrastructure deficiencies, including poor logistics, port delays, and unreliable electricity supply, severely limited operational efficiency and market access. These issues not only increased production costs but also weakened the province's competitiveness in both domestic and export markets.

- 2.1.1.5 The sector was also affected by social challenges, including rural crime, unemployment, and the need for transformation and inclusion in the agricultural value chain. At the same time, there was growing pressure to meet food safety, traceability and environmental compliance standards to maintain export readiness and consumer trust.

2.2 Milk Producers Association (MPO)

2.2.1 Issues discussed

- 2.2.1.1 The dairy industry in the Western Cape, despite its significant contribution to the national agricultural economy, faced a range of complex and interrelated challenges that threatened its sustainability and long-term viability. One of the most pressing issues was the slow pace of economic growth, which had an impact on job creation, limited disposable income and constrained fixed investment. This broader economic stagnation undermined the operating environment for dairy farmers and limited the potential for expansion. To address this, the MPO advocated for a shift towards functional economic growth, revitalisation of state-owned enterprises and the removal of obstructive regulations that inhibited the effective application of production factors. Additionally, crime and corruption remained major concerns that eroded business confidence and operational stability.

- 2.2.1.2 Another critical area of concern was animal disease control. While legislation existed, its implementation and enforcement were often inconsistent, weakening the agricultural sector's biosecurity. The MPO emphasised the need for more effective public-private partnerships to ensure that disease control measures were practical and outcomes-driven.

- 2.2.1.3 High input costs continued to place pressure on producers. Although the South African dairy sector was generally cost-efficient by global standards, the Western Cape's reliance on the total mixed ration systems, which required feed input, such as maize and soybeans not produced locally, exposed producers to elevated costs. This input were transported over long distances or imported,

compounding expenses due to unreliable infrastructure such as port and rail systems.

- 2.2.1.4 Labour was another challenge. The industry faced increasing difficulty in sourcing skilled workers, partly due to an aging rural workforce and ongoing urban migration. Labour compliance obligations and minimum wage regulations also placed a disproportionate burden on small and medium-sized farms, limiting their competitiveness.
- 2.2.1.5 The ongoing debate and uncertainty around land reform, particularly fears of expropriation without compensation, created an atmosphere of insecurity. This has led to hesitancy among current and potential investors, as long-term planning was undermined by policy ambiguity and tenure risk.
- 2.2.1.6 Access to markets and price volatility remained a hurdle. For new entrants, the high upfront capital requirements made entering the industry difficult. For established producers, long-term investments in infrastructure and livestock meant that even in unfavourable market conditions, farmers could not easily exit the industry without facing significant losses. Compounding this was the limited bargaining power that producers had against large processors and retailers, and the volatility introduced by currency fluctuations, which affected both imports and exports.
- 2.2.1.7 The Western Cape's production-consumption balance was very fragile. The province was prone to both milk surpluses and shortages depending on market fluctuations. Complicating this was the fact that approximately 60% of national dairy consumption occurred in Gauteng, requiring strategic distribution planning and exacerbating the pressure on local producers to remain viable in a tightly constrained regional market.

2.3 Citrus industry

2.3.1 Issues discussed

- 2.3.1.1 The South African citrus industry was currently facing a range of serious challenges that threatened its competitiveness and sustainability in international markets. The imposition of 30% to 40% tariffs by the United States added approximately \$4,50 per carton of citrus exported, making South African produce uncompetitive in that market. Many growers and exporters have already committed produce to these programmes and could not easily divert fruit to other markets due to logistical and phytosanitary specifications.

Other key export markets, such as India and South Korea, also applied similarly high tariffs of approximately 30%, creating broader systemic pricing challenges for South African citrus in global trade.

- 2.3.1.2 In the European Union, stringent phytosanitary regulations, particularly those targeting the false codling moth, resulted in increased compliance costs, greater logistical pressure at ports, and overall uncertainty for growers. This hampered long-term planning and profitability. The inefficiency of South Africa's ports was a critical bottleneck, exacerbating export delays and increasing costs. There was an urgent call for private sector involvement to modernise and streamline port operations.

- 2.3.1.3 The Red Sea crisis and fears of a global economic slowdown added further strain. These global disruptions could reduce consumer purchasing power and dampen demand for premium imports like South African citrus.
- 2.3.1.4 The citrus industry was a major employer, particularly in rural areas like the Western Cape, where it formed the economic backbone of many communities. Job creation and retention depended heavily on maintaining market access and competitive pricing.

Government action was both needed and appreciated. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the national Department of Agriculture have lodged a World Trade Organisation dispute to challenge unfair tariffs. Additionally, support for pest control initiatives, like the Sterile Insect Technique, was vital for ensuring compliance with international market standards.

2.4 Hortgro

2.4.1 Issues discussed

- 2.4.1.1 South Africa's deciduous fruit industry, steered by Hortgro, stood at a critical juncture. The challenges it faced were not only numerous but also deeply interconnected, each amplifying the others in a cycle that threatened the viability of one of the country's most important agricultural sectors.
- 2.4.1.2 At the heart of the issue was climate change, which was altering pest behaviour, reducing water availability and forcing producers to rapidly adapt. Innovation was necessary, but costly. Meanwhile, rising electricity prices and labour costs impacted margins further. In addition, logistics, an essential link between farm and market, were in a state of collapse. Malfunctioning ports, unreliable roads and rail, and a lack of private sector involvement were delaying shipments and raising costs, putting South African fruit at a competitive disadvantage on the global stage.
- 2.4.1.3 These production and logistical issues were compounded by tedious government processes. New market access often took more than a decade, with growers left waiting in long queues for phytosanitary clearance while global compliance standards were becoming stricter, and meeting them required both money and skilled auditors, resources that were in short supply.
- 2.4.1.4 Land reform proposals and slow public sector delivery undermined investor confidence, making it difficult for producers to commit to the long-term innovations and sustainability initiatives that were needed. The deciduous fruit sector was not only about profit margins, but it was also about jobs, rural livelihoods, and economic stability in regions where few alternatives exist.

2.5 South African Wine (SA Wine)

2.5.1 Issues discussed

- 2.5.1.1 Over the past three decades, the wine industry has experienced steady and significant growth across multiple indicators. Between 1994 and 2024, the total

vineyard area increased modestly from 84 030 hectare to 86 544 hectare, reflecting sustained cultivation and land investment. During the same period, total production grew from 1 020 337 ton to 1 116 780 ton, indicating improvements in productivity and output.

One of the most notable developments has been in export performance, which surged from 50 million litre in 1994 to an impressive 306 million litre in 2024. This growth underscored the industry's expanding global footprint and competitiveness in international markets. The economic contribution of the industry has also grown substantially. In 1996, the industry contributed approximately R10 billion to the gross domestic product, a figure that rose to R56 billion by 2022, highlighting its increasing importance to the national economy.

Employment figures further illustrated this upward trajectory, with the number of jobs supported by the industry rising from 211 874 to 270 364. This demonstrated the sector's continued role as a key job creator and economic driver in the broader agricultural and agri-processing landscape.

- 2.5.1.2 As of July 2023, the South African wine industry underwent a major structural shift with the consolidation of key sector functions under a unified body, SA Wine. This new umbrella structure was designed to enhance coordination, streamline decision-making and improve overall agility and accountability in the industry. The establishment of SA Wine marked a significant step forward in aligning the sector's priorities and resources. It enabled more cohesive action across the value chain, from producers and processors to marketers and exporters, ensuring that the industry could respond more effectively to both local and global opportunities and challenges.
- 2.5.1.3 The South African wine industry adopted a robust Environmental, Social and Governance Framework to guide sustainable practices. As part of this commitment, the sector has implemented certification seals and was in the process of introducing a "digi-label" system to ensure greater traceability and transparency for consumers, both locally and abroad. The industry also embraced principles of circularity, biodiversity conservation and climate-smart agriculture, reinforcing its dedication to long-term environmental stewardship and responsible production.
- 2.5.1.4 Despite the significant progress made in recent decades, the South African wine industry continued to face a range of structural and systemic challenges that threatened its long-term sustainability and competitiveness. These challenges span the value chain, from farm-level economics and environmental pressures to market access, transformation and social development.

One of the most pressing concerns was the persistently low return on investment at the farm level, which stood at just 2,6% in 2024. A significant proportion of wine producers were either operating at a loss or breaking even, placing considerable strain on the economic viability of farms and undermining reinvestment and innovation. Addressing profitability was foundational to ensuring a healthy and resilient primary production base.

The sector was becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate-related risks, particularly recurring droughts and inadequate irrigation infrastructure. These

challenges were exacerbated by growing pressure on critical water systems, including the Clanwilliam and Brandvlei dams, which played a key role in agricultural water supply. Long-term solutions would require integrated water management, infrastructure upgrades, and broader climate resilience planning.

SA Wine competed in a fiercely contested global market. To succeed, the industry would have to address port inefficiencies that hindered export logistics, as well as proactively engage in tariff negotiations with key markets, such as the European Union, the United Kingdom, China and the United States of America. Additionally, the value disparity between bulk and packaged wine exports remained a challenge, limiting the country's ability to move up the value chain and capture premium margins.

While transformation was a longstanding priority, progress on the development of black-owned brands remained slow. Access to finance, distribution networks, and retail shelf space continued to be a barrier for many small and emerging producers. Achieving inclusive growth required a concerted effort to remove structural obstacles and to ensure that black entrepreneurs were not just present but thrived across the value chain.

The wine industry operated in a highly regulated environment, and there was an urgent need to streamline liquor legislation and provide greater tax clarity. Currently, a disconnect between various government departments and industry stakeholders resulted in policy inefficiencies and delays that hindered both compliance and growth.

2.6 National Wool Growers Association (NWGA)

2.6.1 Issues discussed

- 2.6.1.1 The South African wool industry remained a critical pillar of the country's agricultural sector, contributing significantly to rural livelihoods, exports and the broader agri-economy. In the 2023/24 production year, total national wool production (excluding Lesotho) reached approximately 40,6 million kilogram, emphasising the resilience and productivity of the industry amid challenging climatic and market conditions.

In this national landscape, the Western Cape continued to play a prominent role. The province produced 8,28 million kilogram of wool during the reporting period, representing a substantial share of the country's total output. Of this, 6,77 million kilogram were sold on the market, generating an estimated R688 million in revenue, highlighting the economic importance of wool farming to regional development and rural economies.

The average price achieved for Western Cape wool was R101,69 per kilogram, reflecting both the quality of the product and prevailing market conditions. The province was home to 1 361 registered wool producers, a mix of commercial and emerging farmers, who collectively contributed to a vibrant and competitive sector.

- 2.6.1.2 The sector supported over 8 000 commercial wool farmers, who formed the backbone of the country's high-volume, export-driven production. Equally significant was the contribution of the more than 45 000 communal farmers,

many of whom operated in rural and resource-constrained areas. Through targeted support and capacity building initiatives, often led by the NWGA, these farmers were increasingly integrated into the formal wool value chain, enhancing livelihoods and driving rural development.

A major contributor to South Africa's wool output was the Merino breed, known globally for its fine, high-quality fleece. In the 2023/24 season, Merino sheep were responsible for an estimated 29,8 million kilogram of wool, reinforcing their dominance and commercial value in both domestic and international markets.

Approximately 65% of South African wool was certified under internationally recognised sustainability schemes, such as the Responsible Wool Standard. These certifications reflected the industry's commitment to ethical, environmentally sound and socially responsible production practices, an increasingly important factor in global buyer and consumer decisions.

- 2.6.1.3 The NWGA continued to drive a comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and inclusivity of South Africa's wool sector. These focus areas were designed to address both systemic challenges and emerging opportunities across the wool value chain, particularly for communal and developing producers.
- 2.6.1.4 At the core of the NWGA's strategy was a strong commitment to sustainable wool production. This included not only environmental stewardship, but also a focus on animal welfare, social responsibility, and economic viability. By aligning with global sustainability standards and encouraging compliance across the value chain, the association was ensuring that South African wool remained competitive and responsible in international markets.
- 2.6.1.5 Capacity building remained a top priority. The NWGA facilitated extensive training programmes aimed at both youth and adult learners. Initiatives included school outreach, reaching approximately 475 learners annually to introduce young people to careers in agriculture; technical training courses covering shearing, wool handling and classing to improve product quality and job readiness; and on-farm training for both farmworkers and producers to promote best practices and improve productivity.
- 2.6.1.6 The NWGA's Genetic Improvement Programme was a cornerstone of its work with communal farmers. Through this initiative, high quality rams were introduced into communal flocks with the aim of improving wool yield, fibre quality, and ultimately, farmer income. The programme enhanced the genetic base of flocks while promoting sustainable breeding practices.
- 2.6.1.7 To improve outreach and knowledge-sharing, the NWGA embraced digital platforms to connect with farmers more efficiently. It established nine regional WhatsApp groups that reached over 225 farmers weekly, providing timely information on market prices, training opportunities, animal health and weather alerts.
- 2.6.1.8 The NWGA identified 512 developing wool producers in the Western Cape for targeted support. These farmers were at various stages of production readiness and were being engaged through tailored training, access to improved genetics,

and assistance with market integration. This outreach was part of a broader strategy to accelerate inclusive growth, especially in historically underserved rural areas.

- 2.6.1.9 While South Africa's wool sector demonstrated strong growth potential and strides in sustainability and inclusivity, it still faced a series of structural and developmental challenges, particularly in the communal farming context. These issues had an impact on productivity, market access and the long-term sustainability of the industry. The NGWA continued to play a vital role in identifying and addressing these barriers.

One of the most pressing limitations was the lack of proper shearing infrastructure, especially in rural and communal areas. Currently, only 20% of communities had access to adequate shearing facilities. This deficit directly undermined the ability of farmers to maintain quality control, achieve uniform bale preparation and meet the standards required for formal market participation. Infrastructure investment was critical to improving both efficiency and market readiness across the value chain.

Despite notable progress in farmer support, there remained 512 developing wool producers in the Western Cape who have yet to benefit from NWGA's programmes. These producers often faced significant barriers to accessing improved genetics, technical training and funding, all of which were vital for increasing productivity and competitiveness.

Many communal wool producers were still not fully integrated into formal commercial value chains. Due to constraints related to fibre quality, consistency and logistics, a considerable volume of wool was either underutilised or traded informally. Strengthening linkages to auctions, brokers and export markets was a priority if inclusive growth was to be realised at scale.

Although South Africa was a global leader in responsible wool production, with 65% of its wool certified under internationally recognised schemes, full compliance remained an aspirational goal. Extending certification to small-scale and communal farmers, many of whom faced technical or administrative hurdles, required additional resources, training and institutional support.

The sector was also grappling with a shortage of skilled workers, particularly in areas such as animal husbandry, fibre grading and sustainable farming practices. While outreach programmes and school-based training initiatives were active, more needed to be done to attract and retain youth, ensuring a future workforce that was prepared to meet the demands of a modern, high-value wool industry.

The wool industry remained reliant on government and donor funding, including support from the Comprehensive Producer Assistance Cooperative and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. While these interventions were essential, the process of preparing and approving funding applications was often slow and administratively complexed.

2.7 South African Pork Producers Association (SAPPO)

2.7.1 Issues discussed

- 2.7.1.1 The pork industry remained an important contributor to the agricultural economy, offering both commercial and emerging producers a pathway to food security, job creation and value chain participation. However, the industry operated in a complex and rapidly evolving environment that required proactive management across several fronts.
- 2.7.1.2 Key focus areas of the presentation included slaughter statistics, providing insight into production volumes and market trends across provinces; current challenges, such as input cost volatility, climate-related impact, and infrastructure constraints; disease outbreaks, including the ongoing risks associated with African swine fever and the urgent need for heightened surveillance and response mechanisms; food safety and biosecurity where SAPPO was driving efforts to improve on-farm practices, traceability, and compliance with veterinary standards; and market access, particularly around export potential, local demand stimulation, and inclusion of smallholder farmers in formal value chains. Through collaboration with industry stakeholders, government, and research institutions, SAPPO was working to build a more sustainable, safe and inclusive pork industry that met both domestic and international expectations for quality, health and ethical production.
- 2.7.1.2 Several key challenges and trends were influencing the sector's stability, growth potential, and overall sustainability.

One of the foremost concerns was market volatility, driven by fluctuating consumer demand, pricing uncertainties and broader economic pressures. Inflationary trends and shifting consumption patterns, particularly regarding protein preferences, created a less predictable environment for producers and processors alike.

Food safety was becoming increasingly central to the pork value chain. Consumers, retailers and regulators were demanding higher levels of traceability, quality assurance and compliance with both local and international standards. This forced the industry towards stricter biosecurity protocols and certification systems, which, while necessary, also placed financial and operational strain on smaller producers.

Gaining access to formal domestic markets and expanding into international export channels remained a challenge, particularly for emerging and small-scale producers. Barriers such as inconsistent quality, limited infrastructure and a lack of integration into value chains continued to restrict inclusive growth and competitiveness.

The pork sector continued to contend with recurring animal health risks, including African swine fever, which significantly disrupted trade, eroded producer confidence and limited the industry's ability to meet market demands. The need for improved surveillance, rapid response and veterinary capacity remained urgent to ensure sector resilience.

A critical structural weakness in the industry was the presence of inconsistent or incomplete data, which hampered effective strategic planning, policy development and market positioning. Without robust, real-time data on production, health trends and market dynamics, the industry struggled to align with global benchmarks or effectively advocate for trade and investment.

- 2.7.1.3 In response to the evolving challenges facing the pork industry, SAPPO has implemented a series of targeted interventions aimed at strengthening the sector, promoting resilience and advancing inclusive growth. These initiatives were designed not only to address immediate threats, such as biosecurity risks and market instability, but also to build a more robust, competitive and socially responsible pork industry over the long term.

SAPPO was actively investing in skills development and enterprise support to empower both emerging and established producers. Through tailored training programmes, mentorship and resource-sharing, the organisation was equipping farmers with the technical, financial and operational competencies needed to thrive in a modern agricultural economy. These efforts were critical to improving productivity, supporting transformation and enhancing market readiness in underserved rural communities.

To improve public perception and increase domestic demand, SAPPO was leading strategic marketing campaigns focused on consumer education, trust-building and the promotion of pork as a safe, affordable and nutritious protein source. These initiatives aimed to shift consumption patterns, to diversify local markets and to build long-term brand loyalty in South Africa's dynamic retail environment.

2.8 Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO)

2.8.1 Issues discussed

- 2.8.1.1 The RPO was a voluntary, non-profit body that represented producers across the red meat value chain in the region. As a key voice in the agricultural sector, RPO played a central role in advocating for producer interests, coordinating with stakeholders and responding to sector challenges ranging from biosecurity to market access.
- 2.8.1.2 The red meat sector remained a vital part of South Africa's agricultural economy. In the 2023/24 year, animal products contributed 43,2% of agricultural income nationally, with cattle and calves slaughtering accounting for 10,4% of this. However, the industry experienced some economic pressure, with income from sheep slaughtering declining by 6% and that from cattle and calves by 3,2%, according to the 2023/24 Economic Review.
- 2.8.1.3 The red meat export market was an essential driver of value for South African producers, with the Western Cape contributing 11% of national red meat export value in quarter two of 2024. While this included live animals, meat and offal, live sheep and goat exports make up the largest portion from the province (9%).
- 2.8.1.4 Export earnings were sensitive to factors such as trade relationships, animal health compliance and logistical efficiencies. In quarters one and two of 2024, red meat exports from the Western Cape included R33 million from meat (beef and sheep/goats), R10,3 million from live animal exports and smaller values from offal trade.
- 2.8.1.5 RPO emphasised the importance of biosecurity to protect both domestic production and international trade. Key challenges included foot and mouth

disease outbreaks; limited Onderstepoort biological products vaccine availability and inconsistencies in state veterinary service capacity. To improve traceability and disease control, the organisation supported the rollout of systems such as the Livestock Identification and Traceability System and the Animal Identification, Movement and Safety System. These were essential in managing unregulated livestock movements, protecting export status and bolstering consumer confidence in meat safety and origin.

Stock theft remained a persistent and costly issue for producers. Between 2022 and 2024, reported incidents in the Western Cape increased from 729 to 752, with slight increases in successful prosecutions. Nationally, reported cases decreased slightly, but theft remained widespread, affecting tens of thousands of animals annually. This ongoing threat eroded farmer income, undermined rural security and increased costs for producers who now needed to invest in surveillance and fencing.

Predation presented a major economic challenge, especially for small stock farmers. In 2018 alone, losses due to predation were estimated at R2,34 billion for small stock farmers and R479 million for cattle farmers. The total economic impact likely exceeded R3 billion when game farms and small-scale producers were included. These losses represented approximately 7,5% of the gross value of free-ranging livestock production. The knock-on effects had an impact on feedlots, abattoirs, tanneries, processors and retailers, illustrating the broad vulnerability of the red meat value chain to predation-related disruptions.

- 2.8.1.6 RPO acknowledged and appreciated various forms of government support, particularly drought and disaster relief, including locust outbreak management, assistance with foot and mouth disease containment and efforts by law enforcement in addressing stock theft. However, the organisation continued to advocate for stronger institutional support, particularly in biosecurity, veterinary capacity and infrastructure development.

3. Summary of key concerns raised

- 3.1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD) – South Africa was facing significant challenges in managing FMD, primarily due to outdated legislation that only allowed vaccination after animals tested positive, limited vaccine availability and the absence of a long-term national strategy. Current vaccines were imported, short-acting and not suited for mass prevention. Without a 12-month coverage vaccine and a proactive plan, the country remained vulnerable to recurring outbreaks and was unable to effectively move toward FMD eradication.
- 3.2 Illegal undocumented foreign nationals – The agricultural sector in the Western Cape was grappling with a significant and growing issue related to the influx of undocumented foreign nationals. Organised agriculture stated clearly that it does not support the employment of illegal foreign workers. However, verifying the authenticity of documents presented by foreign nationals has proven extremely difficult, as even law enforcement agencies struggle to distinguish fraudulent documentation from genuine paperwork issued by the Department of Home Affairs. This issue extended beyond agriculture and required a coordinated, multi-departmental response involving Home Affairs, border control, the Department of Labour and other relevant entities. The inability to track or identify undocumented individuals posed serious safety and security risks, particularly in rural areas, where

undocumented individuals may be involved in crimes, without any way to trace or identify them.

- 3.3 Labour legislation – The agricultural sector faced challenges in aligning with employment equity (EE) legislation, primarily due to the unique characteristics of the sector. The rigid application of EE targets, without considering these unique factors, posed compliance difficulties due to the specific nature of the agricultural sector that included the rural location of most farming operations with limited access to a diverse, skilled labour pool; many farms are family-owned with longstanding employees, offering few opportunities to change workforce demographics quickly; and in terms of skills shortages, a lack of qualified candidates, especially in technical and managerial roles. The absence of detailed criteria from the Department of Employment and Labour created uncertainty around acceptable reasons for non-compliance.
- 3.4 Operational inefficiencies at the Port of Cape Town has a significant impact on Western Cape agricultural stakeholders, particularly those involved in the export of perishable goods.
- 3.5 The use of agricultural land for mining purposes – The Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Act, 2024 (Act 39 of 2024), which was intended to protect and sustainably manage South Africa’s agricultural land, played a critical role in regulating land use changes, particularly where land was being considered for prospecting or mining purposes. The Act sought to prioritise agricultural use for land deemed suitable for farming. When prospecting or mining activities were proposed on agricultural land, this triggered a conflict between land preservation for food security and economic development through resource extraction.
- 3.6 The informal structure of the South African Pork Producers Organisation – This limited accountability, transparency and inclusive representation, particularly for smallholder and emerging farmers. It also hampered effective coordination with government, access to funding and implementation of critical measures like biosecurity and traceability. These weaknesses could undermine transformation, sector resilience and policy alignment.

4. Resolutions

- 4.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Agriculture provide it with:
 - 4.1.1 An update on the status and progress of the Draft Veterinary Bill;
 - 4.1.2 A proposed plan or intervention to support the South African Pork Producers Organisation in establishing a more formal and structured organisational framework; and
 - 4.1.3 An update on the current biosecurity measures in place, as well as the associated budget allocations and expenditure related to biosecurity.
- 4.2. The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism engage with the following national counterparts and provide regular updates to the Committee:
 - 4.2.1 The Minister of Employment and Labour, regarding ongoing changes in labour legislation affecting the agricultural sector, particularly in relation to the alignment of the sector with employment equity (EE) requirements. The

Committee noted that the rigid application of EE targets, without due consideration for the unique characteristics of the agricultural sector, posed significant compliance challenges; and

- 4.2.2 The Minister of Home Affairs, regarding the issue of illegal foreign nationals. The Committee emphasised the need for urgent and collaborative intervention to address this matter, as it has an impact not only on employment compliance, but also on broader concerns related to rural safety and social stability.

5. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson expressed sincere appreciation to the Members of the Committee and to the stakeholders from the agricultural industry for their valuable contributions and constructive engagement, which significantly contributed to the success of the meeting.

A special word of thanks was extended to the Chief Executive Officer of Casidra for generously making the venue available and for the support provided by his staff throughout the day and to the Head of the Department of Agriculture for the support afforded to agricultural stakeholders in the province.

These engagements reaffirmed the vital role of the agricultural sector in the Western Cape economy and underscored the importance of maintaining strong, supportive relationships between Parliament, industry stakeholders and government entities. The Committee remained committed to applying the insights gained to strengthen its oversight work and to advocating for solutions that unlock the full potential of South Africa's agricultural sector.