

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2017

COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the 2016/17 financial year, dated 2 May 2017, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Beerwinkel, CF (ANC)
Dijana, TM (ANC)
Lentit, RB (Chairperson) (DA) until 28 February 2017
Mackenzie, RD (DA) since 15 December 2016
Max, LH (DA) until 15 December 2016
Schäfer, BA (DA)

Alternate Members

Hinana, NE (DA)
Maseko, LM (DA)
Mnqasela, M (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Committee is to –

- 1.1 maintain oversight over the Executive member and the Department and its Entity, 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 to consider and report on legislation, other matters and the Annual Reports referred to it by the Speaker.

In fulfillment 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 co-operative governance; and
- 1.6 reported regularly to the House.

2. Reporting Department(s) and Entities

- 2.1 Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- 2.2 CapeNature

3. Overview of Committees Activities

No of Committee Meetings	12
No of Public Hearings	3
No of Oversight Visits	1
No of Provincial Bills considered	2

4. Oversight activities

The 2016/17 year was considered a productive year in which interactions with the Department and Entity and the many stakeholders consulted were both cordial and productive and ensured that Committee members could approach their oversight functions with objectivity and insight.

The past year was eventful and several initiatives will lead to follow-up activities and meetings.

The following is a summary of the Committee's activities during the year.

- 4.1 The discipline of air quality management remained one of the Committee's priorities. The Committee met with the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) on matters relating to air quality management, carbon emissions, environmental management systems, environmental policy and programmes, regulatory frameworks and the mechanisms employed at the airport that reduce the environmental footprint. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has made a commitment to expand its working partnership with ACSA and the City of Cape Town as far as the monitoring of air quality is concerned.

To this end, the Committee engaged with the City of Cape Town on their Energy Strategy with specific reference to carbon emission targets for the transport sector. Systems to determine how human health may be considered

and affected in air quality management and Information Sharing Systems were discussed.

The Committee remains committed to combat negative environmental impacts as well as respiratory and other diseases that are associated to air quality management through the execution of its oversight function in the Western Cape.

- 4.2 CapeNature provided the Committee with an overview of the Working on Fire Programme outlining the Memorandum of Understanding between itself, the National Department of Environmental Affairs and the Co-ordinating Agency, Kishugu. The Committee raised its concern regarding the low remuneration paid to Fire-fighters and the lack of investment this shows in human capital. It further expressed concern that the services of experienced fire-fighters will be lost to better remuneration offers elsewhere.
- 4.3 Shark diversity was another focus area of the Committee. The City of Cape Town provided it with the background and history of shark behaviour in the Western Cape oceans as well as the social and economic impact of human perception, emotions and myths surrounding these creatures. It further outlined its role in promoting shark safety and awareness in the Western Cape. Shark cage diving was identified as a major contributor to economic growth in certain coastal towns. To this end the Committee raised its concern that this growing industry was not adequately controlled and regulated.

Although the National Department of Environmental Affairs is accountable for shark conservation in South African waters, the importance of the role of the provincial and local spheres of government was emphasised.

The Committee has made a recommendation to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning to consider instituting a code of practice that encourages responsible shark cage diving and to investigate the possibility of establishing a contribution fund to subsidise the cost thereof.

- 4.4 Biodiversity and Conservation Management are of importance to the Committee. Of particular importance, in terms of SANParks, is the Table Mountain National Park as it has been declared a natural world heritage site and afforded the status of one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The Committee tried to engage with SANParks on its relationship and Heads of Agreement with the City of Cape Town but to no avail. The relationship between the City of Cape Town and SANParks remains a concern to the Committee in respect of the management of the Table Mountain National Park.
- 4.5 Health care risk waste is a cause of great concern to communities. The focus of the Cluster B Visit week to the Overberg district in May 2016 was therefore to focus on the governance, legislation and the composition of waste. The support provided in terms of the implementation of legislation as well as the treatment and disposal of health care waste was also highlighted. The Committee engaged with representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on this matter.

- 4.6 The amendment to CapeNature's Annual Performance Plan for 2016/17 was tabled in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Department of the Premier and Provincial Treasury approved the removal of two performance indicators relating to accessing

CapeNature protected areas. The Committee resolved that it supports the removal of the two performance indicators.

- 4.7 The drought situation in the Western Cape is dire. The Committee engaged with the Departments of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and Transport and Public Works as well as the National Department of Water Affairs on the Sustainable Water Management Plan and various drought intervention methods that can be applied in the Western Cape. The Committee has resolved to request the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning to provide it with feedback on the water situation in the Western Cape on a bi-annual basis. The National Department of Water Affairs has been requested to provide the Committee with the Master Plan indicating the planning and support to the Western Cape with regard to the water crisis.

- 4.8 The Committee also evaluated the Annual Reports of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and its Entity, CapeNature. The *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 5–2016] and the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1–2017] were the subjects of intense discussion.

5. Legislation

In the 2016/17 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

- 5.1.1 *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 5–2016]: Vote 9 - Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

- 5.1.2 *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1–2017]: Vote 9 – Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

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 held two public hearings in consideration of the Provincial Money Bills and one public hearing in consideration of the Department and Entity's Annual Reports.

7. Financial particulars

The Committee's actual expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year was R52 747.00 against an adjusted budget allocation of R96 340.00 resulting in an under expenditure of R43 593.00.