

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 15 MAY 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the 2014/15 financial year, dated 5 May 2015, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprises of the following members:

RB Lentit (Chairperson) (DA)
LH Max (DA)
M Mnqasela (DA)
CF Beerwinkel (ANC)
TM Dijana (ANC)

1. Introduction

1.1 The mandate of the Committee is to:

1.1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive member and the Department responsible for Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and its Entity, CapeNature, 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.

1.1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and the Annual Reports referred to it by the Speaker.

1.2 In fulfillment of its mandate the Committee must:

1.2.1 Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.

1.2.2 Conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner.

1.2.3 Promote co-operative governance.

1.2.4 Report 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 for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

No of Committee Meetings	13
No of Public Hearings	3
No of International Study Tours	0
No of Oversight Visits	2
No of Provincial Bills considered	2
No of NCOP Bills considered	0
Workshops/conferences attended	0

4. Oversight activities

In its first year of the 5th Parliament the Committee strived to understand the linkages between the respective Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, Quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Reports of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and its Entity, CapeNature.

The Committee therefore examined the Department's and CapeNature's Quarterly Reports focusing on targets that were partially achieved and not achieved and requested reasons for deviating from the set targets while considering the impact that this had on the allocated budget. This assisted Members in understanding target setting and its challenges and also assisted with easy referencing relevant to the Annual Report 2013/14 discussions, thus providing a better understanding of the 2015/16 Annual Performance Plan target setting.

Topical areas of concern such as the progress made with the implementation of the Spatial Planning Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013) and the Western Cape Land Use Management Act (Act 3 of 2014) were addressed through inputs from the Department. The State of the Environment Outlook Report and Environmental Impact Assessment process also received the attention of the Committee. An insightful visit to the Kraaifontein and Bellville South Integrated Waste Management Facilities was undertaken by the Committee that focused on the operations at the facilities and its impact on renewable energy and the possible economic prospects thereof. In addition to this, the Committee focused on unlicensed landfill sites in the Western Cape and its effect on effective waste management.

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Rocherpan, Cederberg and Lamberts Bay Nature Reserves to gain an understanding of the biodiversity and conservation issues linked to the Reserves and its impact on economic growth and tourism in the area.

The main focus of the Committee was to ensure that the Department was geared towards protecting the biodiversity in the Province by ensuring sustainable economic growth as well as the sustainability of resources.

The Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 5–2014] was also addressed with regard to Vote 9 and the recommendations to support the Bill were tabled in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The Committee also interrogated the budget appropriations for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature, the latter receiving almost 50% of the Department's total allocated budget. All were found to be objective and in line with the respective Annual Performance Plans of the Department and CapeNature.

The 2014/15 financial year has set the scene for more focused oversight on all programmes of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature.

5. Legislation

In the 2014/15 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

5.1.1 *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 5–2014]

5.1.2 *Western Cape Appropriations Bill* [B 2–2015]

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 2 public hearings in consideration of the provincial money Bills and 1 public hearing on the Annual Report of the Department and Entity. The dates for these hearings were advertised in mainstream newspapers in the Western Cape.

7. Financial particulars

Each Standing Committee was allocated a budget of R129 650.

At the close of the 2014/15 Financial Year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning accumulated to an amount of R89 598.00.

This under expenditure can largely be attributed to this being the first year of the new Parliament that saw the admission of new Members to office. Member orientation, not only to the parliamentary precinct and its policies, rules and procedures, but also to the various programmes of the Department, resulted in Members improving the Committee Programme as the year unfolded. This is likely to change in the new financial year as Members are now in a position to identify possible challenges and trends in order to fulfill the Committee's mandate of exercising oversight over the responsible Provincial Minister, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and its Entity, CapeNature and holding them accountable.

2. Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works for the 2014/15 financial year, dated 12 May 2015, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprises of the following members:

LH Max (Chairperson) (DA)
 M Mnqasela (DA)
 NE Hinana (DA)
 CM Dugmore (ANC)
 KE Magaxa (ANC)

1. Introduction

1.1 The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive member and the Department of Transport and Public Works and its Entity, Government Motor Transport, 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.
- 1.1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and the Annual Reports referred to it by the Speaker.

1.2 In fulfillment of its mandate the Committee must:

- 1.2.1 Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.2.2 Conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner.
- 1.2.3 Promote co-operative governance.
- 1.2.4 Report regularly to the House.

2. Reporting Department(s) and Entities

- 2.1 Department of Transport and Public Works
- 2.2 Government Motor Transport

3. Overview of Committees Activities for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

No of Committee Meetings	12
No of Public Hearings	3
No of International Study Tours	0
No of Oversight Visits	0
No of Provincial Bills considered	2
No of NCOP Bills considered	0
Workshops/conferences attended	0

4. Oversight activities

The 2014/2015 year was considered a productive year in which interactions with departments and entities 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 vandalism and violence targeting the transport system in the Western Cape was of grave concern to the Committee. The interruption of transport services to commuters had a negative effect on the economy and more importantly threatened the safety of commuters. The Committee therefore focused on commuter transportation modes in the Western Cape that were spurred on by the acts of vandalism that took place on Metrorail infrastructure. The Committee focused on the impact, contingency measures and interventions that were put into place to address these issues.

The Committee engaged with the Regional Manager of Metrorail in the Western Cape and the South African Police Services in this regard and also met with the Chief Executive Officer of Golden Arrow Bus Services and representatives from the South African National Taxi Council in order to understand their specific role in terms of transport operations in the Western Cape, the nature of their services, challenges experienced and the nature of their partnership with the Provincial Department. In the same light, the Department provided the Committee with clarification on the nature of their partnership with the associations mentioned above.

Road safety featured prominently on the agenda of the Committee and the Department's non-achievement and partial achievement of set targets were investigated.

Of concern to the Committee was the lack of equitable representation within the Department in terms of gender and race and this will be pursued in the new financial year.

The relationship with the Department has been cordial and reactions to requests for information have been swift.

5. Legislation

In the 2014/15 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

5.1.1 *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 5–2014]

5.1.2 *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 2–2015]

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 to consider provincial money Bills and one public hearing on the Annual Report of the Department and Entity. The dates for these hearings were advertised in mainstream newspapers in the Western Cape.

7. Financial particulars

Each Standing Committee was allocated a budget of R129 650.

At the close of the 2014/15 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works accumulated to an amount of R39 233.00.

This under expenditure can largely be attributed to this being the first year of the 5th Parliament that saw the admission of new Members to office. Member orientation, not only to the parliamentary precinct and its policies, rules and procedures, but also to the various programmes of the Department, resulted in Members improving the Committee programme as the year unfolded. This is likely to change in the new financial year as Members are now in a position to identify possible challenges and trends in order to fulfill the Committee's mandate of exercising oversight over the Department of Transport and Public Works and its Entity, Government Motor Transport.