



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

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Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the 2017/2018 financial year, dated 12 July 2018, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Simmers, TA (DA) - Chairperson
Beerwinkel, CF (ANC)
Dijana, TM (ANC)
Mackenzie, RD (DA)
Schäfer, BA (DA)

Alternate Members

Hinana, NE (DA)
Maseko, LM (DA)
Mngasela, 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

Committee Meetings	12
Public Hearings	4
Oversight Visits	1
Provincial Bills considered	3

4. Oversight activities

The 2017/2018 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 function 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 Regional Socio-Economic and Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading RSEP/VPUU Programme, was a focal point of the Committee. The implementation thereof in collaboration with municipalities as well as the opportunities that arose from the Programme were highlighted. Various municipalities that participated in the Programme were showcased and the benefits of the Programme within these municipal areas were emphasised. The Programme's alignment and synergy to and with other initiatives and departments to ensure its success were provided to the Committee as well as details of the Programme funding. The Committee commends the Department on this Programme that is geared towards improving the living space of communities.
- 4.2 The water crisis in the Western Cape was and continues to be of grave concern to the Committee. The province was declared a disaster area on 22 May 2017. In an effort to exercise its oversight function, the Committee received a briefing from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on their Water for Sustainable Growth and Development Plan. Following this engagement, the Committee requested that the Department brief it every six months after they have briefed the Premier's Coordinating Forum on the water situation in the Western Cape. In light of the above, and also to ensure an integrated understanding of the water situation, the Committee engaged with GreenCape on their Water Intelligence Report and the short, medium and long term solutions to the water situation in the Western Cape. The Departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Agriculture also participated in this engagement. In line with the drought situation in the Western Cape, the Committee also received a comprehensive overview of the Sustainable Water Management Plan, the Berg River Improvement Plan and the Breede River Environmental Resources Protection Plan.
- 4.3 The drought situation, the massive winter storm that struck the Province in June 2017 and the Knysna and Plettenberg Bay fires caused extensive damage to, among others, informal houses, road and other infrastructure as well as to the ecological system in the province. In response to these disasters, the provincial Minister responsible for finance, authorised the use

of funds from the Provincial Revenue Fund on 15 June 2017, in terms of section 25(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1991). An additional amount of R3 million was allocated to Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Programme 5: Biodiversity. The Committee considered and deliberated on this Vote in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (Emergency Funds) Bill* [B 5–2017].

- 4.4 The Department provided the Committee with background information on Environmental Law Enforcement in relation to its mandate in terms of the Constitution and the Legal Framework in which it operates. The impact of environmental crime on the provinces' natural resources and bio-security was highlighted as well as the role of the Green Scorpions and the Biodiversity Crime Unit. Mechanisms to enforce compliance to Environmental Legislation as well as the related challenges were also addressed by the Committee. CapeNature also provided the Committee with background information on Biodiversity crime and its role and function within this crime domain. The collaboration between CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as well as with external stakeholders was highlighted.
- 4.5 The national Department of Environmental Affairs provided an insightful presentation to the Committee on Operation Phakisa Chemicals and Waste Economy, outlining its role in the economy by emphasising the methodology employed to increase the contribution it could make to the Gross Domestic Product of South Africa.
- 4.6 Abattoir waste in the Western Cape was also the subject of discussion as well as the legislative framework in which abattoirs operate. The challenges experienced were brought to the Committee's attention as well as innovative options and provincial interventions for the management of abattoir waste. Of concern to the Committee is the lack of abattoir waste disposal data due to poor record keeping and the many conflicting and restricting legislation that seeks to regulate the industry.
- 4.7 The Committee formed part of the Cluster B Visit Week that took place from 16 to 19 May 2017. Here the focus area of the Committee was to gain an understanding of the biodiversity and conservation issues linked to the Rocherpan Nature Reserve and its impact on economic growth and tourism in the Veldrift area.
- 4.8 Two vacancies arose on the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board. Nominations were invited of persons with expertise and experience in Tourism Business and Biodiversity Conservation. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature briefed the Committee on the requirements and expectations in terms of these vacancies. After consultation, the Committee noted, with unease, the fact that one of the short-listed candidates was then serving as an Audit Committee Member at CapeNature. In light of this, the Committee expressed its concern when making recommendations to the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for appointment and further requested that representivity in terms of gender and race is taken into account when the appointments are made.
- 4.9 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 6–2017] (Vote 9) and the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3–2018] (Vote 9) was the subject of intense discussion.

5. Legislation

In the 2017/18 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

- 5.1.1 *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (Emergency Funds) Bill* [B 5–2017]: Vote 9 - Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- 5.1.2 *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 6–2017]: Vote 9 - Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- 5.1.3 *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3–2018]: 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 three 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 2017/2018 financial year was R78 545.00.



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TA SIMMERS, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

DATE: 12/7/2018