# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE QUESTION PAPER 2/2025 SEVENTH PARLIAMENT FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2025 WRITTEN QUESTION

#### 7. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

- What is the total amount of funding allocated by his Department to securing the Western Cape's own energy supply expressed (a) by year, (b) by type of initiative, (c) in terms of solar installations, (d) in terms of wind turbines and (e) in terms of battery storage;
- (2) how much energy generation or storage is (a) proposed by each initiative and (b) currently operational;
- (3) how have these initiatives reduced the impact of loadshedding on (a) households, (b) businesses and (c) public services, namely (i) hospitals and (ii) schools?

REPLY:

(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) Our goal is to not only improve energy security in our own facilities, but also to improve energy resilience in the province more generally, noting that this is a crucial requirement for economic growth and job creation.

Efforts to accomplish greater energy security in our own facilities have been undertaken over many years. These interventions are outlined in the most recently published Property Efficiency Report, which can be accessed at this link: <u>https://www.westerncape.gov.za/infrastructure/files/wcg-blob-files?file=2025-03/19-per-23-24-sent-to-wcg-1.pdf&type=file</u>

The constitutional mandate for government to participate directly in the electricity/ energy sector (i.e. procure large scale utility power stations from a third party and sell produced electricity) is currently held by national and local government, not provincial government. However, in light of long-term energy security challenges in our country, the Western Cape Government has stepped

up by creating a formal Premier's Energy Council through which we co-ordinate multiple stakeholders across the public and private sector toward the broader goal of enabling the Western Cape's energy resilience. The work of this body is collated in the WC Energy Resilience Programme (WC ERP), and it has the following specific strategic objectives:

1. To mitigate & manage energy-related disasters in the Western Cape

2. To facilitate improved energy resilience in the Western Cape

Delivery on these strategic objectives is through the following components:

- Disaster Mitigation and management
- Strategic planning, Development and management
- Demand Side Management
- Energy Generation, procurement and trading
- Maintenance & expansion of energy infrastructure
- Increased investment in the energy sector
- Improved energy affordability
- Net-zero emissions province

The most recent Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) of 2024<sup>1</sup> (page 99) describes the total energy allocations for the Western Cape (which includes our own energy projects for the period ahead as well as the work we do to enable the system more generally) for the current financial year and beyond as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: WC MTBPS 2024. Annexure 1: Energy Allocations, p. 99

Category	Project	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
Disaster mitigation and	Alternative energy support: SMMEs					-
management	Emergency load shedding packs	57 240				57 240
Strategic planning, development and management	WC Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)	-	2 000			2 000
Demand side management	Demand side management programme	881	11 600			12 481
	LED lighting	44 000	30 000			74 000
Energy generation, procurement and trading	Shift from Vote 12 to Vote 9 (GEES)	9 300				9 300
	Green Economy Ecosystem Support	5 236	9 500			14 736
	Municipal Pooled Buying	-	6 000			6 000
	IPP Auction	-				-
	Municipal IPP procurement Stellenbosch	14 831	15 212	934	-	30 977
	Project preparation facility	3 625	14 500	26 750	5 331	50 206
	Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	14 000				
	Pilot renewable energy solutions in municipalities	67 000	37 000			104 000
	Specialist service providers	-	4 000	2 000		6 000
	Explore gas power					-
	Green hydrogen development: Wesgro					-
	Green hydrogen development: SBIDZ	9 700				9 700
	PV Systems in Prov Health buildings	24 946	48 054			73 000
	Solar PV in schools	40 000	40 000			80 000
Maintenance and expansion of energy	Grid and transmission infrastructure upgrade planning	2 465	3 700	4 440	4 706	15 311
infrastructure	Municipal EMPs	1 760	1 840			3 600
Increased investment in the energy sector	Western Cape Just Energy Transition Investment Plan		1 000			1 000
Capacity to implement	Energy PFA systems					-
	Additional capacity - DoTP	7 534	17 199			24 733
	Additional capacity - DLG (water & wastewater load shedding impacts)	4 260	5 750	1 490		11 500
	Additional capacity to support and implementation	4 691	5 050	5 480	5 809	21 030
Total Energy Allocation		311 469	252 405	41 094	15 846	620 814
Energy Reserve						73 529
Total						694 343

To highlight just some of the initiatives above:

#### i. Support to Households:

Support has been provided to households through the distribution of 91,160 load shedding packs to:

• the Western Cape Department of Social Development supported facilities (frail care, old age homes, disabled support, homeless shelters);

- Western Cape Education Department for 2024 matriculants and Grade 1 families in quintiles 1-3 schools; and
- Neighbourhood watches & community policing forums.

## ii. Support to municipalities:

Support has been provided to municipalities through direct grants such as the R193 million grant that was provided to Hessequa Municipality to construct a 10MW Solar Plant with a 10MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Additionally, A Project Preparation Facility (PPF) established in the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure provides transactional advisory and related support to WC municipalities for the procurement of power from the market.

## iii. Support to businesses:

Advisory support has been provided to businesses on small scale embedded generation, whilst further support was also provided through the installation of a cumulative total of 193kWp of alternative energy systems (i.e. solar PV systems) to 77 Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) trading at certain trading hubs in the Western Cape.

# iv. Resilience for our own WCG portfolio of infrastructure assets:

Energy resilience in provincial infrastructure has been implemented through energy efficiency and renewable energy interventions in schools, health facilities and office buildings with 63 schools in the Western Cape supported with more energy efficient lighting and a cumulative capacity of 2MW of solar PV systems. We have also installed generators at critical facilities, such as healthcare facilities, to manage risk in periods of high loadshedding levels.

(2) (a) The amount of energy generation or storage proposed by the larger system will be identified through the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan project (currently still underway). However, as part of the strategic objectives of the Western Cape Energy Resilience Programme mentioned above in (1) (b), the aspirational targets are:

To facilitate improved energy resilience in the Western Cape (secure, decarbonized, affordable & financially sustainable)

- Increasing low carbon energy generated or used in the WC by between 500MW–750MW by 2025 (Short Term)
- Increasing low carbon energy generated or used in the WC by between 750MW-1,800MW by 2027 (Medium Term)

• Increasing low carbon energy generated or used in the WC by between 1,800MW-5,700MW by 2035 (Long Term)

(b) See above

(3) The Western Cape Government's own projects and the enabling work it has done to date have reduced the impacts of loadshedding at private and public establishments across the province.

Some highlights include:

### (a) Households:

The load shedding packs have been able to provide lighting to allow for normal household tasks such as studying as well as being able to enable essential communications through charging of phones and small devices. Additionally, the load shedding packs allowed for continued care to be provided to the vulnerable (frail care, old age homes, disabled support, homeless shelters). Additionally, by enabling greater support for Small-Scale Embedded Generation and ensuring the ability to sell electricity back into the grid subject to regulatory approval, the WCERP has provided both practical and financial benefits to households.

### (b) Businesses:

Through allowing for continued operations of essential and other services especially trading during load shedding. In addition to the support to SMMEs mentioned above, PV systems with batteries have been installed in 12 municipal trading hubs. These systems protect approximately 100 SMMEs from the worst effects of loadshedding.

In addition, the fact that the City of Cape Town's facilities have been able to lower loadshedding impact by as much as two stages in the Western Cape's economic centre has had a marked impact on the economy. In conjunction with other measures, we believe that our efforts to reduce loadshedding are part of the reason for the Western Cape's significantly lower unemployment levels than the rest of South Africa.

(c) Public services:

i. Hospitals – allowing for improved and continued service delivery and supporting savings on operational expenditure. Generators have also

helped to ensure that critical medical services have not been interrupted.

- Schools ensuring that learning continues despite loadshedding at home through use of load shedding packs (for light and charging of communications devices) and ensuring learning continues at school. In addition to these, the provision of PV and LED systems has allowed for schools to not only continue educating, but also to save on operational costs. LED interventions have been completed in 23 schools thus far, with estimated annual energy savings amounting to 536 MWh & supporting 91 734 learners.
- iii. Municipalities through our support to municipalities for the purchase of large scale generators, the integrity of critical infrastructure, such as piped water pumps, has been protected for residents.
- iv. Security and Safety load shedding packs have also allowed neighbourhood watches and community policing forums to provide greater visibility for patrols, especially in areas in which the lack of streetlights during loadshedding dramatically enhances the prevalence of violent crime.