



MEDIA STATEMENT: REFINEMENT OF THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT LINES FOR THE OVERBERG DISTRICT

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As a provincial pilot project, the Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP), the responsible authority for the implementation of Section 25 of National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("ICM Act") as amended developed coastal set-back lines (now known as coastal management lines as per the ICM Amendment Act) for the Overberg District in 2011. The lines were intended to be used to regulate and prevent insensitive, inappropriate and unsustainable development from taking place in sensitive coastal environments, to ensure public safety and public interests and to reduce the risks posed by climate change and the dynamic coastal processes that are taking place. However, certain practical obstacles to the effective promulgation of the lines and associated draft regulations prevented full project finalisation.

Subsequently, the Provincial authority carried out a similar project in the West Coast District. During this project the methodology for delineating coastal management lines was refined. The intention of this Overberg refinement project is to now use the experience gained from the West Coast project to conclude the development of coastal management lines along the coastline of the Overberg District. This process of finalising the management lines for the Overberg District will provide more information with regards to the coastal risks to be considered during future development planning and also allay fears from landowners, land developers and the general public alike that the management lines will impact on existing rights.

Project details

This project is initiated and funded by the Western Cape Government, DEADP. The DEADP has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV to assist with the refinement of the coastal management lines.

The existing (2011) lines were developed through the use of detailed survey information and contributions from affected stakeholders to delineate setback lines for the coastline.

This informed a model which determined the coastal risk for a 100 year horizon, based on analysis of coastal zone processes such as wave action, erosion or accretion trends, dune migration, sea level rise as well as the location of existing developments. The proposed refinement to the management lines will add additional timelines of 20 years and 50 years to the risk projections, and place even greater emphasis on recognising existing development rights in the delineation of a single coastal management line.

The risk projections will also be used to inform overlay zones demarcating areas potentially prone to coastal risk for use in spatial and development planning at all levels of government.

Supporting legislation

This project will be conducted in terms of relevant provisions of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) as well as the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 36 of 2014) published on 31 October 2014.

Although the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations propose and make provision for the designation and use of development set-back lines for EIA related regulation, such lines are distinct from the coastal management lines to be developed as part of this project.

Stakeholder involvement

All directly affected stakeholders or interested parties and representative groups are encouraged to register on the project stakeholder database. Stakeholders will be contacted directly and offered insight into the demarcation process as well as the opportunity to participate in the final delineation of the coastal management lines. Open forums will be held during February and March 2015, and notifications in this regard will be placed in the local media and forwarded to all interested and affected parties identified by the project team or who have indicated their interest in the project.

Public involvement and contribution are welcomed.

To register on the project stakeholder database or request further information, please contact:

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