



Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust

Municipal Report

For the Period: 01/01/2026 to 31/03/2026

This report is prepared for the Municipal Liaison Committee in terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Hessequa and Swellendam Municipalities and the Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust (LBRCT). It is supplementary to the financial reports submitted to the Municipalities monthly. Additional information relating to broader conservation and environmental management matters is provided separately in the LBRCT's bimonthly RiverWise publication.

1. BOAT LICENCES ISSUED FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

Outlet	Licences Sold (units)	Annual Licences	Day Permits ¹	Transit Permits ²	Replace Decal	Commercial ³	Total Revenue
Totals	1428	R1 109 341	R81 704	R5 752	R4 460	R63 473	R1 264 730

¹Total Day Permits: 540

²Total Transit Permits: 27

³Total Commercial Permits: 27

2. BOAT LICENCE COMPLIANCE

2.1 RECREATIONAL USER GROUP ACTIVITY

Recreational activity	Total count	Peak number of users per day
Boats in transit	32	18
Boats at mooring	113	42
Boats skiing	21	12
Boats fishing	62	30
Non-motorised water sport (Kite surfing, sailing)	41	22
Shore anglers	123	15
Bait collectors	47	11

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

2.2 INSPECTIONS AT SLIPWAYS

Type of inspection	Number of boats inspected
Recreational boats on river	1070

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

2.3 INSPECTIONS ON PATROL

Type of Patrol	Number of inspections
Recreational boats on river	130

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

2.4 WARNINGS, FINES AND OTHER BY-LAW TRANSGRESSIONS

Type of transgression	No. of warnings	No. of fines issued
Operating a power boat without valid a municipal boat licence	4	1
Fishing without a licence		5
Excess bait collection		1
Undersized fish or bait		3
Bait collection after sunset		2

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

3. LIAISON MEETINGS

Forum	Meetings dates	Purpose
Municipal Liaison Committee Meeting	12/02/2026	The MLC meeting focused on several standing agenda items. New topics included sewage management on houseboats and a discussion on commercial licensing. The LBRCT committed to drafting stricter agreements for commercial operators. Additionally, slipway monitoring of the Witsand public launch sites was raised with the LBRCT reminding the Municipalities of all prerequisites before any commitments are made.
Operation Phakisa meetings	Every Wednesday	Group of role-players involved in strategically planning Marine Living Resource Act compliance operations along the southwest coast. The group includes the SAPS (Mossel Bay Border Police), DFFE Stilbaai, and CapeNature (when available). As Fishery Control Officers the LBRCT is the representatives for the Breede River Estuary and surrounding coastline.
Witsand Fire Safety Training	16/01/2026	During the session we covered theoretical situations and learned how to operate the 'bakkie sakkie' – a portable water tank and pump to douse fires.
Hessequa Municipality Review of Draft Tariffs and Bylaw Related Policies	20/01/2026	This meeting provided an opportunity to give inputs and objections to Municipal tariffs and bylaws; however, only draft tariffs and policies were communicated. These largely covered

		municipal grants, utilities, services, and other tariffs not related to the LBRCT.
Consultation with E Jorge Attorneys	30/01/2026	MS Teams meeting to further discuss the transgressions leading to the LBRCT opening a case against Mr X in respect of keeping an unlicensed vessel on the Breede Estuary.
Court Appearance	16/02/2026	Attendance of LBRCT at the Swellendam Magistrates court in relation to the fine issued to Mr X during December.
Turtle Rescue Network Road Trip	20/02/2026	The Two Oceans Aquarium boasts a growing Turtle Conservation Centre that requires Rescue Network Partners all along the South African coastline. The LBRCT is registered as the stranding network partner for the St Sebastian Bay. On the 20th of February, the Two Oceans team visited Witsand as part of their annual road trip aimed at informing the public of the need to conserve turtle populations and how to help stranded turtles.

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

4. PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO PUBLIC AUDIENCES

Presentation type	Date	Topic	Number of presentations
-	-	-	-

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

5. MEDIA RELEASES

Platform	Radio/newspapers/local newsletters	Number
RiverWise Bimonthly Newsletter	Social media and email subscribers	March 2026 https://bit.ly/4sJPdLv
Facebook	Social media	9
Instagram	Social media	3
WhatsApp Communication Group	Social media	3

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

6. SPECIAL EVENTS:

Type of event	Event date	Topic
-	-	-

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

7. EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Type of event	Event date	Topic
Slangrivier Primary School	23/03/2026	The importance of protecting the endangered and vulnerable animals of the Breede River Estuary
Ouplaas Primary School	26/03/2026	

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

8. RIVER EVENTS

Type	Date	No. of boats	No. of anglers	Comments
-	-	-	-	-

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

9. SEA EVENTS

Type	Date	No. of boats	No. of anglers	Comments
-	-	-	-	-

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

10. REGULAR MONITORING

Type of event	Event dates	No of Events
Bird Count	05/01/2026 21/03/2026	2
DEADP Water Sampling	19/02/2026	1
Summer CWAC Count with CapeNature	03/02/2026	1

* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

11. WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Name	Event date	Topic
Estuary Management Course	24/03/2026	The LBRCT manager, Jason Oxley, attended an accredited short learning programme on the Management of Estuaries in South Africa. The course was run by the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research of Nelson Mandela University and the Western Cape Government and hosted by the Overstrand Municipality. CSIR provided support in preparation of course material and contextualising a local case study, the Klein Estuarine Lake. The course took place from the 3rd to the 5th of March in Hermanus with 51 participants and 14 presenters attending. Other collaborators and presenters at the course were from the DWS, DFFE and CapeNature. The course was aimed at estuary RMA

		(Responsible Management Authority) officials as well as others interested and involved in the development of Estuary Management Plans and monitoring techniques. The three days included intense lecturing and discussions as well as an afternoon field trip.
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* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026

12. GENERAL COMMENTARY

CONSERVATION:

Sandwich tern – 05/01/2026

Sandwich tern – 09/01/2026

Spotted Eagle-owl – 10/01/2026

Cape cobra – 20/01/2026

Brown house snake – 29/01/2026

Herald Snake – 05/02/2026

Cape Cobra – 16/02/2026

Blue Crane – 17/02/2026

Angulate Tortoise – 20/02/2026

Juvenile boomslang – 13/03/2026

Loggerhead turtle – 17/03/2026

Juvenile boomslang – 29/03/2026

Sandwich tern – 30/03/2026

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS:

Ongoing Cases to Provincial / National Government:

Erf XXX, Diepkloof, Malagas (July 2025 - Dumping of building rubble).

Erf X, Lemoentuin, Malagas (December 2025 - Stabilisation of riverbank using tyres).

GENERAL:

N/A