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1. Introduction

Spring is in the air and we can hopefully look forward to a decent summer. More about that later. The big event occupying everyone's mind is the 4 November elections. The municipal councilors are all out canvassing and the activities of the Hessequa Municipality is of operational nature. Vision, plans, budgets etc. have been put on hold until the new Municipal Council has been elected, sworn in and ready to take on their responsibilities.

2. Landelike Gebruik Kennisgewings

Die volgende [skakel](#) op ons webtuiste sal u neem na 'n lys van publieke kennisgewings rakende Stilbaai en omgewing wat gepubliseer is die afgelope drie maande vir

- Hersonerings van eiendom,
- Bougrens afwykings
- Nuwe besigheidsaansoeke
- ens.

Dit sal u 'n idee gee wat dalk in Stilbaai kan plaasvind. Die aansoeke is/was vir kommentaar en waar die Stilbaai Gemeenskapsforum dit nodige geag het, het ons kommentaar gelewer. Die datum vir kommentaar het in sommige gevalle reeds verval, maar tog gee dit 'n insig t.o.v. moontlike ontwikkelings.

Die twee warm onderwerpe is die heruitleg van die drie hektaar wat in Erf 657 (hoek van Jongensfontein pad en Hoofweg Wes) verkoop is maar nou deur die beskerming van sensitiewe plantegroei effens moet verander. Die tweede saak waaroor die herrie hier los is, is die onwettige verwydering van plantegroei in die vliegveld-omgewing voordat die nodige toestemming gekry is. Daar is tans 'n aansoek vir die uitbreiding van die huidige vliegveld met 'n addisionele vliegbaan, woon-eenhede, skool ens. Die skoonmaak van gedeeltes van die perseel het begin voordat die aanbevelings van die Omgewings Studie voorgelê is.

Hou maar die nuus dop vir verdere ontwikkeling.



3. Pathway Restoration Phase 2.

Phase 2 of the pathway restoration on the western side of the Goukou River, from the top of the ramp on the beach at the open air gym on Waterkant street, through the gym until it meets the existing concrete pathway, has been completed.

The pavers for the 84m² of pathway have been funded by Hessequa Municipality and the cost of labour, grit and cement etc. required to complete the job has been funded by the Stilbaai community.



Thanks to all those who have supported this project and we eagerly await to see the completed product.

We are also working with the Hessequa Municipality on the erosion of the pathway embankment from the outdoor gym to the stairway at the Fonteintjie stream. Most of the damage is being done by creation of unauthorised pathways down the embankment to the water's edge, river and sea.

4. Program vir Omgewings Sosiaal-Ekonomiese Projekte

Befondsing is suksesvol deur die Wes-Kaapse Regering se Regional Socio-Economic Projects (RSEP)-program verkry vir die uitvoering van die “**Stilbaai–Melkhoutfontein Corridor Scoping Study**”, wat die R305-korridor tussen Stilbaai, Melkhoutfontein en die Spuithoek-afdraai sal omvat.

Die studie vorm deel van die Munisipaliteit se pogings om ruimtelike integrasie, sosio-ekonomiese ontwikkeling en verbeterde verbinding tussen gemeenskappe in die gebied te bevorder. Die fokus sal val op die identifisering van geleenthede om mobiliteit, voetgangerveiligheid, openbare vervoer en toegang tot ekonomiese geleenthede langs die korridor te verbeter.



Die studie sal ook ondersoek instel na die potensiaal van vakante en onderbenutte grond vir toekomstige ontwikkeling, werkskepping en investering. 'n Belangrike komponent van die projek sal openbare deelname wees. Inwoners, belanghebbendes, grondeienaars, besighede, taxi-verenigings, gemeenskapsorganisasies en ander rolspelers sal die geleentheid kry om insette te lewer oor uitdagings, behoeftes en moontlike oplossings vir die korridor. Hierdie insette sal help om te verseker dat die studie die plaaslike konteks en gemeenskapsprioriteite weerspieël.

Die uiteindelige doel is om 'n praktiese en implementeringsgerigte beplanningsraamwerk op te stel wat toekomstige befondsingsaansoeke, infrastruktuur verbeterings en ontwikkelingsprojekte kan ondersteun, terwyl dit bydra tot volhoubare en inklusiewe groei in Stilbaai, Melkhoutfontein en die omliggende gebiede.



5. Local Elections Input

The Local Government Elections (LGE) are upon us and SCF members and Stilbaai residents are encouraged to note the following:

1. Election date and time: 4 November 2026, between 07h00 and 21h00.
2. There are 5 Voting Stations in and around Stilbaai:
 - a) Stilbaai Community Hall;
 - b) Bowling Club;
 - c) Tuin-op-die Brak;
 - d) Melkhoutfontein; and
 - e) Putstop
3. Voters MUST vote at the Station where registered, according to your address. You cannot vote at another Station as your name will not be on the Voters List for that Station.
 - a) **CHECK [HERE](#) IF AND WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED**
 - b) **CONSULT THE [IEC WEB SITE](#) TO CONFIRM YOUR VOTING STATION**



4. Special voting is scheduled for 2 and 3 November 2026 for eligible voters, i.e. people who cannot go to their Voting Station on 4 November 2026. Note the following two types of Special Votes:
 - a) Eligible Voters vote at the Voting Station on either 2 or 3 November 2026, between 08h00 and 17h00; and
 - b) Eligible Voters with physical infirmity or disability vote at home during home visits on 2 or 3 November 2026, between 08h00 and 17h00.

NB! VOTERS MUST OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE IEC BY FORMAL APPLICATION TO QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL VOTES. ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FROM 21 SEPTEMBER 2026 to 12 OCTOBER 2026.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO SUBMIT A SPECIAL APPLICATION

5. During voting, Voters will receive 3 ballots to vote for the following:
 - a. **Local Council Ward Representative:** On the first ballot paper voters will vote for an individual to represent them in their local municipal ward, i.e. a specific person;
 - b. **Local Council Proportional Representation** On the second ballot paper voters vote for the political party of their choice to represent them on the Hessequa Local Municipality. i.e. for a political party, or independent candidate
 - c. **District Council (Garden Route) Proportional Representation** On the third ballot paper voters vote for the political party of their choice to represent them on the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM). 40% of the councillors of the District Municipality will be determined by this third ballot paper according to the percentage which each political party receive. The other 60 % of the councillors will be elected by the seven local municipalities after the election from their ranks.

These elected councillors will there for serve on two councils for the 5 year term till the next local government elections. i.e. for a political party, or an independent candidate.



6. The importance of instilling a culture of saving water in Stilbaai

South Africa is a **water-scarce country** because of the relatively low and highly variable rainfall, high evaporation rates, and an uneven distribution of water resources. The country receives an average of about **500 mm of rainfall per year**, compared to a global average of approximately 860 mm. Rainfall is generally higher in the eastern and southern parts of the country and much lower in the west and north.

6.1 The Main Stilbaai Water Sources

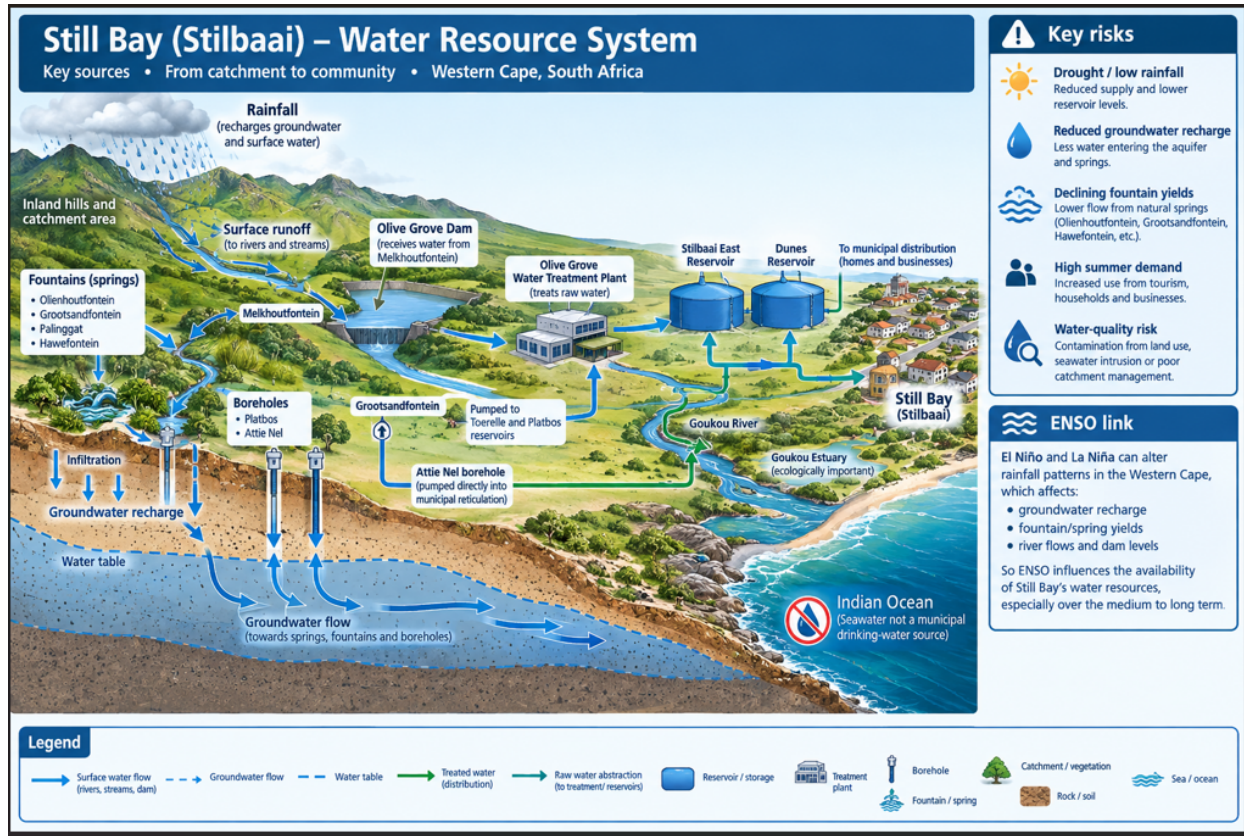
Geographically Still Bay (Stilbaai) falls under the **Gouritz Water Management Area**. However, the town relies more on **groundwater and local sources** than on the large Western Cape dam system. National groundwater potential is estimated at approximately **4,500 million m³ per year**, with around 2,000–3,000 million m³ currently being utilised. Extrapolated to Stilbaai it indicates that potentially 44 – 66 percent of the groundwater may already be utilized.

The table below summarizes the most important water resources of Stilbaai:

Resource	Importance to Stilbaai
Groundwater / fountains	Major source of municipal potable water
Local rivers & streams	Contribute to the local catchment and groundwater recharge
Rainfall	Important for replenishing groundwater and surface water
Dams	Less dominant for Stilbaai than for many inland towns
Coastal/estuarine water	Ecologically important but not a conventional municipal drinking-water source

The reliance of Stilbaai on groundwater and fountains makes the extraction and management of groundwater critical factors to ensure the sustainability of the water supply to Stilbaai.

The Stilbaai water resource system and associated key risks including the impact of ENSO (El Nino / La Lina) is illustrated in the graphic below:



The graphic highlights the impact of sufficient rainfall on the groundwater levels. The impact of El Nino will probably result in lower-than-average rainfall, which will have a major impact on groundwater recharge rates and yields. This is particularly relevant to Stilbaai as the municipality identified Olienhoufontein-, Grootfontein and Hawefontein as well as boreholes as the town's main water sources.

Empirical evidence shows that rainfall and water availability can diverge substantially. For example, Hessequa municipality reported that Stilbaai experienced a period where water levels decreased to **approximately 30% of the groundwater capacity** during low rainfall and high seasonal consumption. Since **27 May 2026, Level 2 water restrictions were declared in Stilbaai** and are still enforced despite recent good rainfall. This illustrates why rainfall alone isn't a sufficient measure of water security.

6.2 Mitigating the key risks affecting the sustainability of water resources

Water saving should be a shared responsibility between households, farmers, industries, municipalities and government. There are many ways to save water such as reducing leaks and wastage, improving agricultural irrigation, recycling and reusing water, harvesting rainwater, upgrading municipal infrastructure and encouraging responsible water-use behaviour.



Below are five suggestions to save water.

6.2.1 Saving water at home

Households can save significant amounts of water by:

- Fixing leaking taps, toilets and pipes quickly.
- Taking shorter showers instead of baths.
- Turning off taps while brushing teeth or washing dishes.
- Using water-efficient toilets, showerheads and taps.
- Only washing clothes when the washing machine is full.
- Reusing suitable household water for activities such as watering gardens.

6.2.2 Improving agricultural water use

Agriculture is a major user of water in South Africa, making efficient irrigation particularly important. Farmers can reduce water consumption by using drip irrigation, improved irrigation scheduling and water-efficient farming practices. These methods can help farmers produce more food with the same or less water.

6.2.3 Reducing municipal water losses

A large amount of water is lost through leaking municipal pipes, faulty infrastructure and inaccurate metering. Municipalities can save water by regularly inspecting and repairing water networks, detecting leaks, installing accurate meters and improving infrastructure maintenance. South Africa's Water Research Commission reports that non-revenue water and water losses remain major challenges for municipalities.

6.2.4 Collecting and reusing water

Rainwater harvesting can provide an additional source of water for gardens, cleaning and other suitable uses. Greywater from showers, baths and washing machines can also be treated and reused for appropriate purposes such as watering gardens. Water recycling and reuse can reduce demand for freshwater supplies.

6.2.5 Education and responsible behaviour

Water saving also depends on people's behaviour. Schools, communities, businesses and government can educate people about the importance of using water responsibly. Simple changes in everyday habits, combined with efficient technology and better infrastructure, can significantly reduce water demand.



6.3 Conclusion

South Africa is a water-scarce country and water consumption needs to be managed responsibly. Stilbaai receives less than the average rainfall of South Africa and is also reliant on groundwater and fountains for its water supply. The aforementioned water resources are influenced by rainfall and climate conditions such as El Nino, which may result in a great variance in rainfall with the resultant effect on groundwater levels and availability. This necessitates the responsible use of available water by reducing leaks and wastage, improving agricultural irrigation, recycling and reusing water, harvesting rainwater, upgrading municipal infrastructure and encouraging responsible water-use behaviour.

7. Ietsie Kleins - A Little Something

Raai Waar, Guess Where



In die vorige nuusbrief het ons gevra of jy weet waar hierdie rigting aanwyser is.

Hierdie wyser kan gesien word by die NSRI stasie, naby die hawe, waar jy afdraai na Morris Punt.



Baie geluk aan Mnr JD Crawford wat die regte antwoord ingestuur het.

Hier ontvang hy sy prys van Mnr Denis Fraser – sekretaris – SGF.



So, for September, maybe something easier.

Where is this,

Waar is hierdie?

Send you answers to admin@stilbaaigemeenskapsforum.org.za.

Please, no correspondence will be entered into regarding the details. Just FUN / Net PRET.

Terwyl jy dink waar die rigtingwyser is, kan jy vir ons dalk laat weet wat jy graag in die nuusbrief wil sien. Enige idees is welkom.

Stuur jou voorstelle na admin@stilbaaigemeenskapsforum.org.za.

Neem asseblief kennis dat die SGF nie in Desember 'n nuusbrief gaan uitstuur nie. Na die verkiesing sal daar heelwaarskynlik nuwe ampsdraers wees, nuwe visie, planne ens. Ons, die SGF, sal in Januarie 2027 weer skouer aan die wiel plaas en met die nuwe amptenare vorentoe werk.

Diarise the SCF AGM scheduled for February 2027. Dates, Time, Venue and Agenda will be circulated in the new year