

HPP

Hermanus Public Protection

HPP NPC Registration Number: 1999/015007/08

Chairperson Report – 2025

Keeping our community safe and clean, together

Dear HPP NPC Member,

I have pleasure in submitting HPP's Annual Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The report is available on the HPP website (www.hpp.org.za).

Hermanus SRA Context

A Special Rating Area (SRA) is a defined geographical area in which registered property owners contribute additional rates, to supplement specific municipal services.

The Hermanus Special Rating Area (HSRA) is managed by Hermanus Public Protection (HPP), a registered non-profit company (NPC) established in 1999. HPP aims to provide a safe and clean environment to its property owners and visitors, by enhancing municipal services.

The HSRA is funded from the additional rates paid by property owners, based on the municipal valuation of properties within the SRA boundary. We do not receive any grants or subsidies from the Overstrand Municipality (OM) but are able to raise additional income, if needed.

HPP's strategy and operations are managed by a board of Directors who are appointed by members at an Annual General Meeting. The directors are not compensated for their services.

HPP has an Executive Officer, who manages the outsourced operations provided by service providers and interacts with stakeholders on operational issues.

An Expanded Board

The HPP board is composed of five registered directors, Leon Rauch, Ann Wright, Rod MacLeod, Stephen Grundlingh and myself, together with four additional board members. The registered directors bear legal responsibilities, ensuring compliance with relevant laws, financial oversight, and strategic decision-making. They are accountable for the organisation's performance and actions.

Board members, who are not registered directors, play an advisory role. They contribute strategic input, oversee specific areas, and bring specialised expertise to the organisation.

In 2024 work was started to ensure representation of the HSRA's major precincts and suburbs on the Board. In the past year additional appointments were made towards this purpose. The members are:

Leon Rauch is the Board's Deputy Chairman and holds responsibility for the Finance Portfolio. He was re-appointed to the Board on 29 August 2024 and resides in Fernkloof.

The following Board Members were appointed on 28 September 2023:

Ann Wright is responsible for the Cleansing Portfolio and lives in Hermanus Heights.

Fransien Koegelenberg oversees HPP's initiative in revitalising the Central Business District and resides in Fernkloof.

The following Board Members were appointed on 29 August 2024:

Stephen Grundlingh holds responsibility for Operations and resides in Fernkloof Village.

Rod MacLeod initially took the lead on managing the Extension of Term Campaign and more recently agreed to oversee the Governance Portfolio. He lives in Voëlklip.

Phillip-Ben Kotze heads up the Stakeholder Portfolio and lives in Eastcliff.

Peter Doble is responsible for the Social Development Portfolio and lives in Northcliff.

Sarah Taylor who lives in Westcliff and held the Education Portfolio, unfortunately resigned from the Board in October 2024 due to health reasons.

Stefan Otto was co-opted onto the Board in March 2025 to replace Sarah in the Education Portfolio, he too lives in Westcliff.

Wiaan Bishop was co-opted onto the Board in June 2025 as the representative for the Industrial Area. While he is not a resident of the HSRA, he owns businesses within the Industrial Area.

To be complete, I was appointed to the Board in September 2022 and I live in Hermanus Heights.

The Board was supported in the past year by Marcia Bown as the full-time Executive Officer.

HSRA Term extended from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030

HPP's application to the Overstrand Municipal Council for the term of the HSRA to be extended for another five years, was approved in May this year. I am thankful that property owners provided us with a clear mandate and a resounding vote of confidence. My thanks also go to the Overstrand Municipality Council for agreeing to extend the mandate. The collaborative effort between ourselves and our two Overstrand SRA's (Kleinmond and Onrus-Vermont) was critical to success in our campaign.

Community Participation

A hallmark of the past year was the extent of community participation in, and input to, HPP's affairs. Two thorough public participation processes underpinned our Extension of Term application. In addition, formal meetings were held with groups of property owners in Eastcliff, Northcliff, Hermanus Heights and Voëlklip. I look forward to seeing similar meetings conducted in other parts of the HSRA.

Socio Economic Circumstances

The Chairperson's Reports on the two previous years highlighted the level of uncertainty brought about by South Africa's socio-economic circumstances. Although load shedding, inflation and interest rate pressures have abated, unemployment, poverty, and crime levels remain critically high. Political tension and uncertainty regarding the sustainability of the Government of National Unity punctuates the uncertain times we live in. HPP's mission to bring safety and cleanliness to the HSRA remains as valid as before.

Homelessness and Vagrancy in Hermanus

Homelessness and visible vulnerability in Hermanus are linked to broader challenges of poverty, unemployment, and social disconnection faced across South Africa and within our region. Over the past year, HPP officers recorded 1,063 interactions involving people without shelter, individuals seeking assistance through begging or informal trading, and the creation of temporary shelters in public spaces such as the Cliff Path and Hoy's Koppie. These cases represented 19.4% of all reported incidents during the year.

While many in the community look to HPP for solutions, our role is limited to monitoring, reporting, and facilitating coordinated responses. We remain committed to working alongside municipal departments, social partners, and community organisations to support initiatives that offer practical assistance while keeping public spaces safe and accessible.

We also commend the Hermanus Night Shelter Board for their efforts to stabilise and rebuild this vital service, which provides shelter, care, and pathways to support for those in need. Continued collaboration and investment in sustainable solutions will be key to addressing these complex social challenges.

Crime in the HSRA

From July 2024 to June 2025, crime patterns in the Hermanus policing precinct broadly reflected national and provincial trends. Contact crimes, including murder, attempted murder, sexual offences, assault, and robbery remained a concern, particularly in Zwelihle, Mount Pleasant, and Hawston, with incidents linked to taxi violence causing particular distress.

Encouragingly, property crimes declined modestly across the precinct. Within the HSRA, we believe that visible patrols, enhanced camera coverage, and the vigilance of our community have played a significant role in this improvement, even though underreporting may affect the accuracy of official statistics.

Our partnerships with SAPS, Overstrand Law Enforcement, neighbourhood watches, and private security providers remain critical. These collaborations have strengthened patrols, surveillance,

and response efforts, leading to more proactive interventions and improved safety perceptions in the CBD, tourist areas, and residential suburbs.

The year has shown that shared responsibility and collective effort are powerful tools in creating a safer environment for everyone. Continued cooperation and active community engagement will be key to building on the progress made and driving further reductions in crime in the years ahead.

Operational Overview

The past year has seen substantial operational growth and investment in our operations. Our service providers – Fidelity-ADT (public safety), WCC Technologies (surveillance network) and Iphupha Cleansing Services (urban cleansing), have played a vital role in this progress. Their professionalism, responsiveness and willingness to adapt to changing needs has been exceptional.

HPP brings safety to the HSRA through a multi-pronged approach consisting of camera surveillance, patrolling and education.

Public Safety and Incident Responses in the past year

The following should be noted:

- 5,452 reports responded to through the Control Room and patrol teams
- 73 arrests facilitated in collaboration with SAPS, Overstrand Law Enforcement, neighbourhood watch groups and other private security companies.
- Active support for disaster response, protest management, and unplanned incidents in public spaces.



Surveillance and Infrastructure Growth

The following should be noted:

- Camera network expanded from 74 sites (2024) to 79 sites comprising 154 CCTV cameras in 2025
- Coverage extended across entrances, exits, and identified hotspots in the CBD, Cliff Path, Eastcliff, Hermanus Heights, Fernkloof, Kwaaiwater, Westcliff, Industria, Voëlklip and Northcliff
- Initiation of ratepayer funded camera project in Kwaaiwater
- Ongoing use of footage by SAPS and Overstrand Municipal Law Enforcement for investigations
- Installation of Thermal PTZ camera to cover Northcliff and surrounds

Visible Policing and Public Safety

The following should be noted:

- Increased Safety Officer deployment in the CBD - day and night
- Improvement of Bicycle and Foot Patrols on waste collection days and during periods of high pedestrian movement
- Use of the Mobile Safety Kiosk for high-visibility engagement and deterrence
- Regular safety meetings with SAPS, Community Policing Forum structures, municipal safety officials, neighbourhood watch groups and other private security companies.

Cleansing Services

The following should be noted:

- Over 17,5 tonnes of waste removed in the past year
- Cleansing services provided six days per week
- Deployment of additional resources during peak holiday seasons and hotspot area interventions
- Continued dog waste collection service on the Cliff Path

Technology and Infrastructure Investment

The following should be noted:

- Upgraded backhaul infrastructure and solar power supply
- Implementation of a digital incident logging system
- Integration of analytic alerts systems for operational efficiency

Education

A Safety Expo was held in May and seven articles were released in the media.

The Conclusion of the 2020 – 2025 Term

The past year concluded the five-year term which was initiated by my predecessor Errol van Staden and his Board colleagues, in an exceedingly able way. HPP enters the next phase of its mandate with a highly capable board, a well-established operational platform and a strong record of delivery. I have come to the end of my three-year term as Chairperson and look to my successor and the Board to lead HPP to a higher level. My best wishes accompany them.

My gratitude goes to:

- The Overstrand Municipality for a productive relationship.
- Our service providers Fidelity-ADT, WCC Technologies and Iphupha Clearing and Cleaning Services, for their outstanding work
- The various security and safety bodies who we work with in the field, and particularly the South African Police Services, Overstrand Law Enforcement, Overstrand Fire and Rescue and the Overstrand Disaster Management team.
- Our Board Members for their willingness to serve the Hermanus community and their hard work.
- Leon Rauch as the Deputy Chair for his wise counsel and support.
- Our Executive Officer, Marcia Bown for her dedication in a demanding year.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation to all HSRA property owners for their continued support throughout the year.

Jerry van Niekerk

Chairperson

2 July