



Municipal

ISSUE 11/2024

Newsletter



November 2024

HOLIDAY SEASON IN MOSSEL BAY

What to expect from the Mossel Bay Municipality
-2024/2025



SPECIAL EDITION:

This newsletter differs from our general monthly newsletter in view of the upcoming holiday season. The Afrikaans edition is available in PDF on the municipal website <https://www.mosselbay.gov.za/>

BEACH ACCESS

Extraordinary sea conditions in September 2023 caused significant damage to beaches and beach infrastructure - not just in Mossel Bay, but on the entire coast of the Garden Route and elsewhere in the Western Cape.

Although the necessary repairs were completed in time for the start of the December 2023 holiday season, since then there has been renewed damage to infrastructure during at least four further storms and exceptional sea conditions.

While some beach accesses are subject to insurance claims and others are awaiting the completion of environmental impact studies, several teams of handymen from the municipality, as well as contractors who have been assigned, are busy with repairs. Pending reports and advice from a coastal engineer, as well as for the sake of environmental conservation, not all beach accesses will necessarily be accessible for this season.

ABLUTION FACILITIES

During the peak holiday season (1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025) public ablution facilities on beaches are open from 07:00 to 19:00.

CLEANING TEAMS

Workers ensuring the ablution facilities and beaches are ship shape, are on duty from 08:00 to 17:00, 7 days a week. During the peak season, however, the number of

cleaners is increased to address the higher demand for service.

ACCESS CONTROL AND BEACH PATROLS

Access control will be implemented at several beaches, including Blue Flag beaches during the holidays from 6 December 2024 to 12 January 2025. Patrols on the beaches are done on foot, on horseback and quad bikes are also deployed to ensure public safety and adherence to the necessary legislative requirements. No alcohol is allowed at beaches. Beachgoers will be requested by access control staff at the check point, to declare if they have any alcohol with them. Additional staff will be contracted in specific areas on New Year's Eve.

ACCESS CONTROL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

- De Bakke parking – 08:00 to 18:00 (morning shift) and 14:00 to 24:00 (afternoon shift)
(Access control and foot patrol)
- Santos parking – 08:00 to 19:00
(Access control)
- Diaz parking – 08:00 to 19:00
(Access control)
- Suiderkruis day camp – 08:00 to 18:00 (morning shift) and 12:00 to 22:00 (afternoon shift)
(Access control and foot patrol)
- Souwesia day camp – 08:00 to 19:00 (morning shift) and 12:00 to 22:00 (afternoon shift)
(Access control and foot patrol)

BEACH PATROLS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

Patrols will be done between the duty hours of

09:00-18:00 at:

- Santos
- De Bakke
- Blues Waters (area adjacent to Diaz Beach towards Louis Fourie Road)
- Diaz Beach
- Hartenbos
- Klein Brak River
- Suiderkruis
- Boggoms Bay
- Dana Bay (1st and 2nd beach)
- Glentana

LIFEGUARDS

Duty hours are from 08:00 until 18:00 for the duration of the duty period. Local lifesaving clubs may do voluntary duty as well without notifying the municipality resulting in an increased lifeguard presence.

Members of the public are urged to be mindful of the lifeguards' instructions at all times and to swim in the areas demarcated by the lifeguards on duty. Do not swim at beaches where lifeguards are not deployed, nor swim before or after they have left the beach. Swimming is at own risk.

Please note that there are no lifeguards placed in Dana Bay. Dana Bay is not suitable for swimming due to strong and dangerous sea currents, specifically between Dana Bay and Springerbaai.

Medical equipment will be at the beaches with the lifesavers as per their level of training protocol.

DUTY DATES ARE:

Lifesavers are on duty at the following beaches from Sunday, **7 December 2024 to Sunday, 12 January 2025** on:

- Gleniqua
- Onderwyser
- Outeniqua
- Dwarsweg
- Pienaar
- Suiderkruis
- Souwesia
- Nooitgedacht
- Koffiehuis
- Bayview
- Tweekuilen
- Point (tidal pool)
- Point (Poort)
- Boggomsbaai
- Vleesbaai
- Hartenbosmond

The allocation per beach is between a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 lifeguards, depending on the popularity

of the beach and the number of beachgoers.

Lifesavers are on duty at the Blue Flag and main beaches from **Sunday, 1 December 2024 to Sunday, 2 February 2025**.

- Blue Flag beaches:
- Klein Brak River
- Santos
- De Bakke
- Diaz
- Hartenbos
- Glentana

Please note that although not Blue Flag beaches, Great Brak River Mouth and Diaz Beach have been added to this list of extended lifeguard service as main beaches.

The allocation per beach is between a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 lifeguards, depending on the popularity of the beach and the number of beachgoers.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The Mossel Bay Municipality strives to make beach experiences accessible to persons with disabilities. For this purpose, a special beach chair has been obtained in 2022. The beach chair is available for use at Santos Beach, one of Mossel Bay's pristine Blue Flag beaches.

Members of the public wanting to use the beach chair are requested to make arrangements with the lifeguards on duty at Santos Beach. It is advisable to book the beach chair in advance, if possible.

'AIRCRAFTS' FORBIDDEN

In terms of the by-law relating to the control of the seashore and sea, no aircraft (including helicopters, hot air balloons, micro lights or any device that operates in the manner of a kite or parachute), may (except in an emergency or with prior written permission from the municipality) be present in the beach area.

"Beach area" - the sea, seashore, bathing area, sand dune and any land owned by the municipality above the high-water mark and adjoining the seashore and used or capable of being used by the public for recreational purposes, including any adjoining facility, promenade, walkway, car park, lawn or structures).

"Seashore" – the water and land between the low-water and high-water marks, excluding any portion of the seashore lawfully alienated in terms of an Act.

DEBRIS ON BEACHES

Natural debris

The prevalence of debris on beaches, is a result of current weather patterns experienced in Mossel Bay, the Garden Route and the Western Cape.

The debris, as per a Council resolution taken, will remain

on beaches. Furthermore, it is considered - amid the reality of ocean rise and its effect, washing away beach sand and damaging dunes - that natural debris on beaches will contribute to much needed stabilisation along the coastline. Only waste material will be removed and debris on official swimming beaches.

During the past 12 to 18 months, the region has seen the highest rainfall and more consistent rainfall than the preceding 8 years. For example, the Klein Brak River estuary closed in 2022 due to the poor mean annual rainfall experienced from 2016 to 2022.

However, with the record rainfall of nearly 1000mm in 2023 that was recorded at the Department of Water and Sanitation's measuring station at Wolwedans Dam, the following is experienced:

- Dams are full and kept full, plus the water table is saturated, resulting in more runoff.
- High rainfall results in natural debris washed down rivers and into the ocean, and will inevitably end up on the beaches. Similarly, other unnatural waste may also end up on beaches, or find its way into water courses/ rivers/stormwater channels.
- Furthermore, sea currents in the area move from west to east, which means the enormous volumes of debris coming down the Gouritz River (with its massive catchment area from as far as Beaufort West), as well as other larger rivers including the Goukou River and Breede River west of Mossel Bay, further contributes to debris washout on local beaches.
- The Mossel Bay Municipality's beach cleaning teams consistently clean beaches of unnatural waste material.

Medical waste

Sightings of pill bottles can be reported to the Spill Tech group, the sub-contractor dealing with any items that wash ashore on the Garden Route coastal areas. Any sightings of items washing ashore should be reported to the following call number: 063 404 2128 and if possible, a pin location of where the items washed ashore should be added.

HARVESTING FROM THE OCEAN

The Mossel Bay Municipality is aware of public concerns that natural marine resources may be used unlawfully. It should be noted that not all persons harvesting from the ocean are poachers and may be in possession of the necessary permits. Members of the public noticing any person unlawfully removing marine resources, can contact the municipality's environmental department. An email, including as many details as possible e.g. photographic evidence, location, et cetera can be sent to admin@mosselbay.gov.za for attention R Minnie. The environmental department undertakes to escalate these concerns to the mandated authority being the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. Members of the public can also contact DFFE directly at:

- 066 471 1400 / 066 471 1460
- Contact person: Heslene October or Shamley Titus
- Area: Gouritzmond to Wilderness

To obtain monthly and annual recreational fishing permits, visit a branch of the South African Post Office. However, in October 2023 the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment launched its online Recreational Fishing Permit Application. The online solution is complimentary to the SAPO issued permits. Members of the public that have no internet access, can still use the nearest SAPO branch. The online solution can be accessed using the link below.

<https://www.fishing.dffe.gov.za>

RABIES IN CAPE FUR SEALS

The Mossel Bay Municipality is aware of confirmed cases of rabies in Cape fur seals reported in Mossel Bay. The municipality held its first cross functional workshop pertaining to rabies in Cape fur seals in July 2024. Information regarding rabies in Cape fur seals and guidelines for the public to follow has since been shared regularly on all available media platforms. This approach, which is in line with the response of other organs of state, e.g. Western Cape Department of Health, CapeNature et cetera, and has proven a broad public reach, will be ongoing and information will be updated as and when necessary.

The public is advised to note these guidelines relating to seals:

- 1) Keep a distance from seals at all times, both in water and on land.
- 2) It is illegal to disturb or injure a seal in any way. Do not chase, touch or attempt to restrain a seal.
- 3) Ensure that dogs are under control and always on a leash.
- 4) Do not touch, handle or consume a seal carcass or any parts thereof.
- 5) Listen for and obey requests to vacate the sea or coastal areas as given by municipal officials, lifesaving staff, DFFE staff or their representatives.
- 6) If bitten by a seal, rinse the wound immediately with soap and water for 5-10 minutes and urgently seek medical attention.
- 7) Report any seals ashore or seal-related incidents immediately to the Stranded Marine Animal Rescue Team (SMART – 072 227 4715), Dr Hofmeyr – (071 724 2122) or the municipality - 044 606 5000 (24/7).

Removal of marine carcasses

Dead seals, as well as any other marine animal carcasses are removed by the Mossel Bay Municipality. Contact 044 606 5000.



- Reebok/Tergniet
- Souwesia
- All areas of Glentana Beach – excluding the Blue Flag section and west towards Great Brak River mouth.
- Boggoms Bay – on the most southern area of Boggoms Bay, as well as on the beach north of First Beach at Vleesbaai

Dogs allowed on beaches must adhere to all applicable by-laws (By-Law relating to Public Nuisances, By-Law relating to the Control of the Seashore and Sea and By-Law relating to the Regulation of the Keeping of Dogs) including, but not limited to the following:

- dogs must be under strict control of the owner / walker at all times;
- dogs must be leashed at all times.
- dog owners/handlers must have control of their animals at all times and not allow them to interfere with the pleasure of others using the public beach areas;
- vicious dogs must be muzzled;
- give right of way to people unaccompanied by dogs;
- dog owners/handlers are responsible for removing their animal’s faeces from beaches, grass areas, paths, car parks and any other areas used by pedestrians. Faeces should be removed for all areas immediately and either be removed from site or placed in appropriate bins (fine for transgression = R300);
- bitches on heat may not be walked in the public beach areas;
- dog handlers/owners must ensure that their animals do not chase or injure wild life;
- public beach areas’ notices must be complied with;
- dog handlers/owners are to remain on public beach areas approved paths and tracks at all times. No new paths may be created and no shortcuts are to be taken.

Please note - members of the public can consider the following actions regarding dogs creating a nuisance:

- Should a dog create an immediate threat and proceed to attack, the victim can open a case with the South African Police Service. This may serve the victim should any future complications arise from the attack.
- Members of the public experiencing a nuisance with regards to dogs exhibiting persistent behaviour that creates a nuisance, for example barking incessantly, can assist municipal law enforcement officers to take action against dog owners by placing their experiences on record with as much detail as possible in the form of an affidavit. Such evidence can assist the municipality in their investigations regarding a complaint laid.

Complaints can be reported to 044 606 5000. It must be noted that although municipal law enforcement officers attend to complaints with necessary diligence, they may at arrival not experience the same as the complainant, which is why it is advisable to keep record and add as many details of the complaint as possible in a format that may be presented in court.

SEAL ENCOUNTERERS

Lifesavers doing duty on local beaches have been advised by the Mossel Bay Municipality to follow the same procedure when spotting a seal among bathers, as in the case of white sharks. Bathers will be requested to desist from swimming and leave the ocean. Beaches will be closed for swimming until re-opened by life savers. Bathers and beach goers are reminded that swimming and entering a beach area is at own risk.

ANIMALS: DOGS ON BEACHES

In terms of the By-Law relating to the Control of the Seashore and Sea and other relevant by-laws, dogs will be allowed on the beaches for the 2024/2025 festive season as follows:

From 13 December 2024 to 31 January 2025 - NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED in the following areas:

- Santos Beach (Blue Flag)
- De Bakke Beach (Blue Flag)
- Little Brak River (Blue Flag) between the river mouth and the north side of the beach.
- Hartenbos Beach (Blue Flag)
- Glentana Beach (Blue Flag), west towards Great Brak River Mouth
- Tweekuilen (Pilot Blue Flag)
- Southern Cross Beach (Pilot Blue Flag)
- Diaz Beach
- Great Brak River Beach
- The Point

From 13 December 2024 to 31 January 2025, between 05h00 to 08h00 and 18h00 to 20h00, DOGS ARE ALLOWED on the following beaches:

- Dana Bay - between First and Second Beach
- Dias Beach - between Twee-Kuilen river mouth and Bayview
- Hartenbos - between the river mouth and Klein Brak River mouth.



OTHER ANIMALS ON BEACHES

In terms of Section 13(2)(a) of the Mossel Bay Municipality By-Law Relating to the Control of the Seashore and Sea no person shall cause or allow any animal belonging to him, or in his charge to enter upon or remain in any part of the bathing area, unless it is a demarcated area wherein the municipality has, by notice on the spot, admitted the presence of animals, except a certified guide dog fulfilling its duty as a guide dog.

HORSE RIDING ON BEACHES

Horse riding is not allowed on beaches in the Mossel Bay municipal area.

Only authorised horse patrols as part of the municipality's community safety initiatives during the festive season, will be allowed.

Report unauthorised horse riding to 044 606 5000 (general municipal number) or directly to municipal law enforcement on 044 606 5204.

MARINE ANIMALS AND SEABIRDS

Should any live marine animals be found stranded, members of the public can contact the volunteer organisation, Stranded Marine Animal Rescue Team or S.M.A.R.T. (072 227 4715). This includes sea turtles, seals, penguins and other marine animals that are in distress.

Should a dead marine animal be found, the Mossel Bay Municipality can be contacted (044 606 5000).

SNAKES AND BEE REMOVAL

Common snakes found in and around Mossel Bay include the puff adder, Cape Cobra and tree snake (boomslang). Members of the public are urged not to handle snakes found in their homes or near campsites, but to alert Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management (044 691 3722 / 606 5121) or 044 606 5000 - municipal switchboard (office hours) and call centre (after hours). Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management can also assist to safely remove bees through its appointed contractor.

FIREWORKS FORBIDDEN

Mossel Bay Municipality has a stringent by-law in place pertaining to setting off fireworks. No fireworks are allowed to be set off in public places, or 500 metres away from a public place WITHOUT the necessary permission granted. These permissions are granted by the South African Police Services, Bomb Disposal Unit. Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management Service is responsible for fire safety inspection at events already approved by SAPS.

It is to be noted that the South African Police is the mandated authority regarding the keeping and sale of fireworks. Only four retailers in Mossel Bay have been approved by the SAPS within the legislative framework to sell fireworks.

Hartenbos Seefront hosts a pyrotechnical display on 31 December 2024, the only approved display of its kind in the Mossel Bay Municipal area. The SAPS is the mandated authority to approve the application in terms of the legislative framework. Public notices in this regard must be done by the applicant as prescribed within the legal framework.

Municipal officials together with other role players will do continuous inspections at shops in all areas. Confiscation notices and fines will be issued to non-compliant shops. During the December holiday season, municipal law enforcement officials are vigilant during patrols to monitor the sale of prohibited fireworks as well as the possession and discharge of fireworks in public places.

Such items will be confiscated and handed to the mandated authority, the SAPS for disposal. Please note that the municipal law enforcement mandate in this regard pertains to public spaces only. Fines of R1500 to R2000 are applicable for the unlawful discharge of fireworks.

Setting off marine flares for fun is dangerous, irresponsible and illegal. The SAPS warns that persons found in transgression will be held responsible for any damages caused by the unlawful firing of marine flares.

To report the discharge of fireworks, call the SAPS (Joint Operation Centre) is 044 606 5065. An affidavit by witnesses can be made at a police station to report the unlawful discharge of fire works which may then lead to further investigation and prosecution by the SAPS.

REFUSE REMOVAL

Waste management teams will continue their services throughout the festive season and all public holidays. Residents and visitors are reminded to place their refuse out just before 07:00 on their collection day. Garbage bags placed out the night before often gets tampered with and causes unnecessary littering and hygiene issues. The Mossel Bay Municipality uses a three-bag system – black bags for non-recyclable, wet household waste; green bags for garden waste; and blue bags for recyclable waste.





The municipality urges residents and visitors to not place hazardous household waste, like medical waste, batteries, light bulbs, pesticides and others in any of the mentioned bags. During the festive season this type of waste can be taken to the KwaNonqaba or Sonskynvallei transfer stations, 7 days a week 07:00-19:00.

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

Due to higher traffic volumes during the festive season, road users are urged to drive with caution and exercise patience, especially on Louis Fourie Road (Voorbaai) where a notable upgrade project is commenced in 2022. Construction will cease on site from 13 December 2024 and recommence on 8 January 2025.

Please note: Subject to change. For updates follow the Mossel Bay Municipality on facebook.

- The left-hand side of the roadway for the entire length of Louis Fourie Road will be open to two-directional traffic. There will be two lanes available at all times, i.e. 1 x incoming lane direction Hartenbos to Mossel Bay, and 1 x outgoing lane direction Mossel Bay to Hartenbos
- Access from Louis Fourie Road to Bayview via Garret Street will be open to two-directional traffic, and both lanes will have an asphalt surface. There may however (worst case scenario) be a slight difference in level between the two lanes. If there is a level difference present, then a row of barriers will be placed as a safety precaution between the two lanes.
- The temporary off-ramp from the N2 direction George to Mossel Bay, which joins Louis Fourie adjacent to the Shell Truck Port, will be operational.
- The temporary on-ramp to the N2 from Mossel Bay direction Mossel Bay to Cape Town, which joins from Louis Fourie adjacent to the Shell Truck Port, will be operational
- The original off-ramp from the N2 direction Cape Town to Mossel Bay, which joins Louis Fourie via Vyfbrakkenfontein Road, will be operational.
- The original on-ramp to the N2 from Mossel Bay direction Mossel Bay to George, which exits Louis Fourie via Vyfbrakkenfontein Road, will be operational.
- Vyfbrakkenfontein Road will be open to two-directional

traffic. The traffic will be accommodated on the Southern site, as the Northern side is under construction.

- The entrance to and from the Langeberg Mall will have two lanes incoming from Louis Fourie Road, and four lanes outgoing to Louis Fourie Road (one slip land left, one lane straight, two lanes right).

Point duty will be done between 6 December 2024 and 12 January 2025, from 06:00 to 18:00 to regulate traffic at the following crossings and intersections:

- George Road – Santos Beach (08:00-18:00)
- George Road – De Bakke Beach (08:00-18:00)
- Louis Fourie Road – Bakke Street
- Louis Fourie Road – CP Nel
- Louis Fourie Road – Kaap de Goede (Hartenbos)
- Kaap de Goede – Kompanjie Avenue (Hartenbos)
- R102 – Suiderkruis (Great Brak River)
- Boulevard West and Industrie Road (Voorbaai)
- Louis Fourie Road – R102

Please note: Point duty officers have been placed temporarily at hot spots identified on the R102 at Monte Christo (near the N2 on and off ramp) and Hartenbosheuwels (Waboom Street and R328). Whilst more road users are utilising these routes due to construction on Louis Fourie Road and in view of the upcoming holiday season and its increased traffic volumes, point duty officers have been placed by municipal traffic services to enhance road safety.

Dalmanutha Ave, Hartenbos will be closed to heavy vehicles and vehicles towing vessels and/or caravans. Access control will be implemented between 16 December 2024 and 5 January 2025.



CONTACT

The Mossel Bay Municipality can be reached at **044 606 5000**. In case of access to services not being available at this number due to phone line issues, use the alternative number – **044 050 8000**.

- Follow the municipal **Facebook page** for news flashes, information, notices and more at <https://www.facebook.com/mosselbaymun>
- Join the municipal **WhatsApp channel** - <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaObfDb-BadmjaxmERb0d>
- The **municipal website** offers any additional, more in-depth information required, including newsletters, policies, by-laws, etc. – visit <https://www.mosselbay.gov.za/>
- Download the **Collab Citizen municipal smart phone application** from Huawei App Gallery, Apple App Store and Google Play Store (Functionalities of the app includes – purchasing electricity; access to emergency numbers; placing service delivery requests; obtaining push notifications; access to Mossel Bay Tourism’s comprehensive event calendar, and more).

EMERGENCY NUMBERS 2024/25

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



POLICE

MOSSSEL BAY
044 606 2805
082 302 6670
082 522 3278

DA GAMASKOP
044 606 2201/7/8
079 893 9935

KWANONQABA
044 606 5606/17
082 302 5927

GREAT BRAK RIVER
044 620 8300/4/5
082 522 2807
HERBERTSDALE
082 520 5067

JOINT OPERATIONS CENTRE 044 606 5065

MOSSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY

DURING OFFICE HOURS:

WATER AND SANITATION 044 606 5282/5262

ELECTRICITY 044 606 5086/5139

ROADS AND STORMWATER 044 606 5264

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT 044 606 5201/5000

LAW ENFORCEMENT 044 606 5204

FIRE, RESCUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

MOSSSEL BAY (ALL HOURS) 044 691 3722
044 606 5107

MUNICIPAL SWITCHBOARD AND CALL CENTRE: (ALL HOURS)
044 606 5000

EMAIL:
admin@mosselbay.gov.za

SMS FOR COMPLAINTS
44 802

DOWNLOAD THE COLLAB CITIZEN MUNICIPAL APP (HUAWEI APPGALLERY, GOOGLE PLAY STORE, APPLE APP STORE)



ALL AFTER-HOURS CALL TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED NUMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE MUNICIPAL CALL CENTRE (044 606 5000)

OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES

REPORT VELD FIRES
044 691 3722 / 044 606 5107

NSRI
082 990 5954

SNAKE/BEE REMOVAL
044 691 3722 / 044 606 5107

HOSPITALS / AMBULANCES

MOSSSEL BAY PROVINCIAL
044 691 2011
LIFE BAY VIEW PRIVATE
044 691 3718

AMBULANCE
METRO AMBULANCE
BY GRACE AMBULANCE
ER '24' AMBULANCE

10177
044 805 5070
063 675 1936
083 454 1175

DISASTER & MASS CASUALTIES
044 601 1956

ANIMAL HELP

SPCA
044 693 0824
072 287 1761
GREEN DESK (JOC)
044 606 5204

STRANDED MARINE ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM
072 227 4715

SEABIRD REHABILITATION CENTRE
082 364 3382



MOSSSEL BAY TOURISM
044 691 2202 | www.visitmosselbay.co.za

