



# The Western Cape Works

**Our Plan to Keep Delivering for the  
People of the Western Cape**

**06 April 2024**



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## Ten Reasons to Keep the Western Cape DA

Since 2009, when the DA was elected to govern the Western Cape for the first time, the Western Cape Government has emerged as the best-performing provincial government in the country.

1. The Western Cape has the **lowest unemployment rate** in South Africa – more than 10 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate of 32.1%. In the last five years, **four out of every five jobs in South Africa were created in the Western Cape**.
2. It is the **only province where murder has declined**, due largely to the work of 1 300 Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers, in partnership with the City of Cape Town, and the province's Rural Safety and K9 units.
3. The City of Cape Town is already able to reduce loadshedding for city customers by up to two stages, with the Western Cape on its way to becoming **the first loadshedding-free province** in the country.
4. 75% of the Western Cape Government's budget is spent directly **on poor and vulnerable residents**.
5. Around 150 000 people move to the Western Cape every year because they want to live in **a province that works**.
6. The **top Grade 12 candidates in the country** have come from the Western Cape in six of the past seven National Senior Certificate Examinations, with Western Cape learners **scoring higher on global literacy tests** than learners from other provinces.
7. The Western Cape is **building more schools faster than ever before**, including one that was built in just 65 days.
8. The Western Cape has **a functional and successful public health sector** epitomised by its leading hospitals such as Tygerberg, George, Groote Schuur, the Red Cross Children's Hospital, and the Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Mowbray Maternity hospitals.
9. **Cape Town is the best-performing metro in South Africa**, and the best three local municipalities in South Africa are all from the Western Cape: Swartland, Saldanha Bay and Drakenstein.
10. Every one of the 14 Western Cape provincial departments, as well as each of its 11 entities, achieved unqualified audits in the 2022/23 financial year. The Western Cape is the **only province that can account for every cent of public money that is spent**.

These results could not have been achieved without the people of the Western Cape. As citizens of this province, they understand that a better life can only come about through good governance. And there is only one party with the track record and the vision to govern effectively. That party is the Democratic Alliance.

The DA succeeds in government because it governs for the people. It ensures there are consequences for government officials who do not deliver, or who are found guilty of corruption. Public money in the Western Cape is spent on service delivery, with three-quarters of that money spent on the poor and vulnerable.

The Western Cape was rescued from the ANC back in 2009. Since then, the DA has shown the rest of South Africa that it is possible to build a government that works. This has been acknowledged by President Cyril Ramaphosa himself, who said of the DA-governed Western Cape in 2022:

“Even as we may think that the wheels are coming off on everything ... we do have one city that works, we do have one province that works, we do have a government that works when the chips are down.”

To keep delivering to the people of the Western Cape, we must ensure that every citizen in the province comes out to vote on 29 May and that each person votes for the DA.

The Western Cape Works. Vote to Keep the Western Cape DA.



# Seven Pledges to the People of the Western Cape

The DA pledges to:

1. Create **800 000 new jobs.**
2. Fight crime with **1 300 law enforcement officers, Rural Safety Units and K9 Units.**
3. Cut loadshedding by **four stages.**
4. Push for control of **policing, transport and the ports.**
5. Build more schools faster and deliver **quality education** for all.
6. Deliver a **world-class public health service.**
7. Run a **clean, innovative government** that delivers for all.



The City of Cape Town is investing in infrastructure at a rate far outpacing any other metro. Over the next three years, the city will invest R40 billion, almost as much as Johannesburg and Durban combined. Incredibly, Cape Town accounts for a full 60% of the R100 billion in overall government infrastructure projects announced in 2023.

The Western Cape has a well maintained and managed road network, with the provincial government investing heavily in road infrastructure outside of the metro. In the upcoming year, the provincial government will spend over R2.1 billion on the maintenance and upgrading of road infrastructure in critical areas like Drakenstein, Malmesbury, George and Overstrand.

The Western Cape is the best place in the country to do business. Between May 2019 and March 2023, interventions by the Western Cape Government's Red Tape Reduction Unit have seen a saving of R2.4 billion to the province's economy. To give small businesses a boost, the Western Cape Government's Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) Booster Fund has assisted 860 SMMEs, sustaining 4 977 jobs.

Growing investor confidence has resulted in the Western Cape attracting more than seven major investments in Cape Town already this year in industries such as lithium-ion battery production and steel construction. It is estimated that these projects alone will generate R7 billion in foreign direct investment and 3 075 jobs over the next five years.

The Western Cape tourism, trade and investment promotion agency, Wesgro, will continue to drive investment, economic growth and job creation by promoting and growing the province's export markets, promoting it as an investment destination of choice, and attracting a greater number of tourists.

Major events such as the Netball World Cup, the Cape Town ePrix (Formula E), the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, the Rugby Sevens World Cup, the T20 Women's Cricket World Cup, the Hockey Masters World Cup, the Cape Town Cycle Tour, the Two Oceans Marathon, the Cape Epic and the Cape Town Marathon cement the region as a global and regional events hub, generating revenue and creating jobs.

Agriculture is a critical economic sector of the province, with over 50% of South Africa's agricultural exports coming from the Western Cape. To create jobs in agriculture, the Western Cape Government has provided agricultural education and training to 2 248 registered

## A Growing, Inclusive Economy that Creates Jobs

### **PLEDGE 1: Create 800 000 new jobs.**

While the South African economy is going backwards and more people are losing their jobs, the Western Cape economy is growing and jobs are being created. The Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa, dropping by 2.2 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2022 to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Over the past five years, the province made the largest net employment contribution (78.9%) to South Africa – this means that nearly four out of every five jobs created in the country were created in the Western Cape.

This is the difference between the ANC's 'state-led' approach to job creation and the DA's 'pro-growth' approach to job creation. National Government's inability to generate meaningful employment for millions stems from its misguided belief that the government must employ people directly. By contrast, the DA believes in economic investment so that businesses can grow and create real, sustainable jobs.

The Western Cape Government announced its [Growth For Jobs Strategy](#) in July 2023. The strategy seeks to secure economic growth of between 4% and 6% each year, resulting in a trillion-rand provincial economy by 2035 and the creation of an estimated 800 000 new employment opportunities.

This extraordinary growth is possible through government spending on infrastructure that allows businesses to flourish and create jobs. Over the next three years, the Western Cape Government will invest R32.12 billion in fixed assets, catalytic growth projects and agricultural infrastructure.

students, offered short skills courses to 17 098 beneficiaries, and approved financial support to 539 qualifying students in the last five years. The Western Cape Government has also supported land reform initiatives in the province: 83% of land reform farmers supported by the Western Cape Government consider themselves successful agri-businesses, in stark contrast to National Government's 10% success rate for land reform projects.

To ensure that all Western Cape residents can access the jobs being created in a thriving economy, we will keep expanding the roll-out of the Job Seeker Travel Voucher, which currently offers more than 180 000 job seekers free bus rides to job interviews. The 'YearBeyond' programme that has offered quality work experience to 7 846 'Yeboneers' since 2019 is to be ramped up so that between 3 000 and 4 000 youth will benefit every year. At least 70% of these young people will go on to further their studies or on to gainful employment. Through the Masakh'iSizwe Bursary Programme, which is unique to the Western Cape, 865 young people have been supported to pursue their dreams of obtaining an opportunity to study in the infrastructure field at partnering higher education institutions.

## A Safer Province

### **PLEDGE 2: Fight crime with 1 300 law enforcement officers, Rural Safety Units and K9 Units.**

The provincial government's efforts to reduce crime are guided by the [Western Cape Safety Plan](#), a data-centred, evidence-based approach to addressing crime. This informs policing strategies and ensures that the limited resources available from National Government are better utilised.

The Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) programme, in partnership with the City of Cape Town, started in 2020 with 500 law enforcement officers deployed to four priority areas. It has since been expanded to 13 priority areas, with 1 300 LEAP officers deployed. New technologies such as gunshot detection and 'Eye-in-the-sky' (aerial crime detection) have been introduced to bolster the effectiveness of LEAP operations.

So far, LEAP officers have made over 27 000 arrests and taken more than 554 illegal firearms off the streets. There has been a notable decrease in



the average number of crimes reported since LEAP was implemented. Provincial Rural Safety Units are on patrol in the Swartland and Overstrand municipalities, with K9 Units in the Swartland, Overstrand and Mossel Bay regions. In addition, there are now 477 accredited Neighbourhood Watches in the province, comprising 14 632 patrollers.

This investment in additional personnel and 'force multipliers' is beginning to pay off. Independent research by the Institute for Security Studies shows that of the four provinces evaluated – Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape – the Western Cape is the only province where murder has declined in the last five years.

To prevent crime before it occurs, the Western Cape Government has implemented the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU), which seeks to address the root causes of crime. It involves role players from across government and civil society targeting specific areas that require an array of societal interventions. Based on the Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention, the data from provincial



# An End to Loadshedding

## PLEDGE 3: Cut loadshedding by four stages.

National Government has failed to ensure a reliable power supply due to its insistence on an outdated model of state-led power generation. Loadshedding is a direct consequence of this reliance on a corrupt and incapable national government.

The solution to South Africa's electricity crisis must come from increased power generation outside of Eskom. Allowing private suppliers to emerge will allow for competition, thereby improving service, increasing supply and lowering energy prices.

To tackle the impact of the country's devastating energy crisis, a Western Cape Energy Council was established in late 2022. The council is formulating, coordinating and driving the province's multi-pronged approach to easing and eventually ending loadshedding.

The [Western Cape Energy Resilience Programme](#) will enable the province to reduce its dependence on Eskom for energy, and the province is well on its way to becoming the first loadshedding-free province in the country. Around R7 billion will be spent over the next three years by the provincial government and municipalities to make the Western Cape energy resilient.

The Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative develops and builds capacity at municipalities across the province to implement renewable energy projects and solutions. This initiative has so far seen the successful request for information from more than 100 potential energy generation projects. With 2 000 MWs already in the market, and more in development, the province is well on its way to meeting its target of generating 5 700 MW of energy by 2035.

The DA-run City of Cape Town is on track to meet its target of protecting its customers against the first four stages of loadshedding by 2026. In the year ahead, the city will spend R480 million on its Loadshedding Protection Plan, which includes R82.4 million for its Power Heroes demand management programme, R377 million for the Steenbras Hydro Pump Station, and R31 million in capital upgrades to continue optimising Steenbras's loadshedding protection potential.

Over the next three years, the city will spend an estimated R722 million on independent power

healthcare facilities is also used to further capacitate crime-fighting and prevention programmes.

In addition, over the next three years the Western Cape Government will assess 15 000 cases of children in conflict with the law and aims to graduate over 16 000 participants from diversion programmes. The Chrysalis Academy runs a three-month residential programme for young people from as far afield as Beaufort West and Mossel Bay. The three-month programme includes life skills, time spent in the outdoors, and vocational and work-readiness training in addition to therapeutic care aimed at supporting youth at a psycho-social level.

To provide support to individuals impacted by gender-based violence (GBV), the Western Cape Government recently opened five new GBV shelters to bring the total to 26 GBV shelters across the province. It also recently launched the GBV ambassador model in Malmesbury and Delft. These ambassadors provide communities with information on victim support programmes and services available for the intervention and prevention of GBV.

purchases, including dispatchable energy to be deployed at peak times, and R4 billion on upgrading and maintaining the city's electrical grid – a critical part of its plans to become and remain energy secure. The municipalities of George, Mossel Bay, Stellenbosch and Saldanha Bay are also investing vast sums of money in our collective fight to achieve energy resilience.

The Western Cape Government has allocated R89 million to municipalities to ensure that critical water and sewage infrastructure works during loadshedding. In addition, 195 health

facilities have generator capacity to continue essential services during loadshedding, 47 clinics have completed inverter installations and 10 hospitals have been exempted up to Stage 6 loadshedding. The Western Cape Government has delivered 3 996 loadshedding relief packs (lighting and charging solutions) to assist people with disabilities, older persons and victims of gender-based violence. The provincial government will deliver over 96 000 loadshedding relief packs to vulnerable learners in Grades 1 and 12 to help them study and learn – even when the lights go out.

## The Fight for More Provincial Powers

### **PLEDGE 4: Push for control of policing, transport and the ports.**

National Government has shown that it is unable to fulfil even its most basic functions, with serious consequences for the citizens of the Western Cape. One of the greatest obstacles to better services in the Western Cape is that certain functions, such as policing, transport (including passenger rail and freight rail) and the ports, are run by National Government.

It is time for the residents of the Western Cape to take control of these functions that affect their lives. This can be done by devolving these powers to provincial and local governments, which have the capacity to do a better job than National Government.

This is why the DA is pushing to have the [Western Cape Powers Bill](#) passed in the provincial legislature. The Bill's objective is to empower the DA-run Western Cape Government to fix what the ANC-run National Government has broken, creating a safer and more prosperous environment for residents of the Western Cape.

One core aim is to take over the functions of the failing South African Police Service in the province, and to direct policing resources to the areas and interventions where they are most needed. This will bring law enforcement closer to the ground and allow for localised policing strategies tailored to the unique challenges of the province's diverse communities.

The DA is also pushing ahead and preparing for



the devolution of rail. There is a desperate need for an affordable, safe and reliable rail service for city commuters, with the service in Cape Town having all but collapsed due to National Government's inability to run it properly. The City of Cape Town's Rail Feasibility Study has found that an efficient passenger rail service will save lower-income households up to R932 million, sustain over 51 000 jobs and add R11 billion in value to the local economy each year.

The harbours, and especially the Port of Cape Town, urgently need to be rescued from National Government. A functional container terminal in the port over the next four years would translate into R5.6 billion in economic growth, and 20 000 new job opportunities generating R2.1 billion in remuneration and R1.6 billion in taxes. It is crucial that the private sector is brought in to improve the efficiency of the Port of Cape Town and we will work towards building this partnership.



# Better Education, for Every Learner

## PLEDGE 5: Build more schools faster and deliver quality education for all.

The Western Cape Department of Education consistently outperforms all the other provinces on global benchmarking tests. The Western Cape is the country's top-performing province in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) results, scoring 75 points higher than the South African national average. It is also the top-performing province in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), scoring 67 points ahead of the national average for Mathematics and 91 points above the national average for Science.



The top Grade 12 candidates in the country came from the Western Cape in six of the past seven National Senior Certificate Exams. The top candidate in Mathematics has come from the Western Cape for five consecutive years. Importantly, the 2023 Grade 12 retention rate, which measures the percentage of Grade 10 learners who write their matric exams two years later, increased from 62.9% in 2019 to 69.3% in 2023.

Mindful of the need to provide quality education to every learner, the DA government in the Western Cape invests in schooling across the province – particularly in the poorest areas. In 2023, the Western Cape's 'no-fee' schools all improved their pass rates from the previous year – the pass rates of the Western Cape's poorest quintile 1–3 schools are now at 72%, 77.75% and 78% respectively. The Western Cape's education results have been made possible partly because of the 'Back on Track' learning losses recovery programme initiated in

the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which robbed many of the province's poorest learners of teaching time. It is the largest multi-grade learning recovery programme in South Africa.

The Back on Track programme targets 338 000 learners and their teachers in Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 12. The learners attend additional classes on weekends and holidays while the teachers receive extra training and professional support. As part of the programme, 333 schools were selected to receive targeted support based on systemic test results, in addition to the 1100 schools already receiving extra support in the Foundation Phase since 2022.

In 2023, systemic testing by the Western Cape Department of Education revealed significant gains in Grade 3 scores compared to the previous year: the Grade 3 Mathematics pass rate increased by 4.3 percentage points, and the Grade 3 Language

pass rate increased by 4 percentage points.

Given the growing demand for places in Western Cape schools, the Western Cape Government has introduced the Rapid School Build Programme to build more schools faster than ever before. Since 2019, the Western Cape Government has constructed 2 217 classrooms in 35 new schools, 15 replacement schools and 323 existing schools. And one school, Saxons Junior High School, was built in just 65 days.

As part of this ground-breaking programme to ensure that no learner gets left behind, the Western Cape Government aims to build at least six new schools and 300 additional classrooms at existing schools for the 2025 school year. The Western Cape Government recently announced that National Treasury has made an additional provisional allocation of R2.5 billion over the next three years to its Rapid School Build Programme.



## A Healthier Province

### **PLEDGE 6: Deliver a world-class public health service.**

The Western Cape has a functional and successful public health sector epitomised in leading tertiary hospitals such as Tygerberg, George and Groote Schuur, and others like the Red Cross Children's Hospital, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Mowbray Maternity hospitals – all public hospitals offering quality healthcare to the public.

The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness has the lowest rand value of medico-legal claims laid against it in the country. This is an indication that Western Cape healthcare practitioners make fewer mistakes, offering a higher standard of care than elsewhere in South Africa. The Western Cape is also the only provincial health department in the country to achieve five clean audits in a row, which means that it spends all its money on what it is supposed to – caring for and healing the sick and vulnerable.

Data and innovation drive decision-making and ensure that the bulk of the department's money is spent on health and wellness services. The government's health data also informs the Western Cape Safety Plan, directing law enforcement operations towards areas with higher incidences of crime-related injuries.

The introduction of Wellness Hubs has made available a variety of health and wellness services, such as family planning, chronic disease screening, child health services, and HIV and TB screening to help residents pre-empt and prevent lifestyle-related diseases like diabetes, heart disease and respiratory ailments.

The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness continues to innovate and offer cutting-edge services. For example, its award-winning tracking system follows each patient as they receive care in an emergency centre – from the time they are admitted and triaged by a nurse, through every step in the clinical process.

In December 2023, the department launched the TeleICU pilot project, which connects clinicians based at Groote Schuur with clinicians in George via a robotic device. This enables real-time access to critical care expertise, improved decision-making and knowledge transfer without needing to move patients from one facility to another.

In the past five years, the Western Cape Government has purchased two new surgical robots, which have performed 391 surgeries at Tygerberg Hospital and 192 surgeries at Groote Schuur Hospital to date. This technology is the first of its kind to be used in Africa, with Groote Schuur the first public sector hospital to start robotic surgery in South Africa. The benefits of this technology for patients include quicker operating times, fewer complications, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.



billion over the next three years, 75.4%, or R192.21 billion, will be spent on directly meeting the needs of poor and vulnerable residents. This will include allocations for primary healthcare, home and community-based care, mental health services, learner transport, the school nutrition programme, low-income housing, food gardens in communities and schools, child and youth care centres, and poverty alleviation programmes.

### **Programmes to reduce and alleviate the impact of poverty are showing results:**

- Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 25 854 housing units and 16 249 serviced sites were delivered to residents across the province. A further 13 589 housing units were delivered through the Integrated Residential Development Programme and 11 928 sites were connected to basic services.
- The provincial government makes sure that backyarders and farm dwellers are not left behind. For example, between 2019 and 2023, 1 865 housing opportunities were given to backyarders in the Overstrand region, and to 249 farm dwellers and 959 backyarders in Swartland. Last year, housing opportunities were delivered to 375 backyarders and 36 farm dwellers in the Cape metropole.
- Between 2019 and 2023, 17 705 title deeds were registered for new developments.
- For the period 2019 to 2023, on average, the Western Cape Government subsidised 5 938 beds in residential care facilities for older persons in the province. On average, a further 15 691 subsidies were transferred to community-based care to support older persons and 735 beds were funded in assisted and independent-living facilities for senior citizens.
- For persons with disabilities, between 2019 and 2023, 1 689 beds were funded in NPO residential care facilities.
- 2 034 homeless adults were provided with beds in shelters between 2019 and 2023.
- Since 2019, the provincial government has provided over 1.1 million cooked meals, through 102 community nutrition and development centres and 358 soup kitchens across the province.

## **Putting People before Politicians**

### **PLEDGE 7: Run a clean, innovative government that delivers for all.**

South Africa is one of the most unequal societies in the world, with one of the highest incidences of poverty. While inequality is lower in the Western Cape than in the rest of the country, the Western Cape Government is working hard to reduce inequality further by prioritising the needs of the poor and marginalised.

Success in this regard is evidenced by the Western Cape's ongoing improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI), which measures the following three aspects of human development: health, education and per capita income. HDI in the province improved from 0.61 in 2001 to 0.74 in 2021 and is higher by 10 decimal percentage points than the national score.

Of the provincial government's budget of R255.29

- The Western Cape Government is ensuring the wellbeing and dignity of girls across the province through its Sanitary Dignity Project and has delivered more than 3.432 million packs of sanitary pads to learners across the province since the inception of the project in 2019/20.
- The Western Cape Government has prioritised its Family Strengthening Programmes aimed at deepening the relationship between a primary caregiver and a child to reduce family and community violence. On average, for the period 2019 to 2023, 18 624 families participated in these programmes, 283 children were reunited with their primary caregivers, and 2 899 primary caregivers completed parent education and training programmes.
- 247 additional social service professionals are being appointed. These appointments will help stabilise an over-burdened welfare and child protection system.

The Western Cape Government is responsive to the needs of citizens because it works in partnership with communities and provides channels for people to share how they experience government services.

Since 2019, the Western Cape Government Contact Centre has logged 1 426 995 contacts and created 1 045 213 tickets. Of these, 1 010 829 tickets have been resolved – a 96.71% resolution rate. The ‘First Thursday’ initiative was introduced in 2019, offering residents a platform to raise governance-related issues and ideas in person with the Premier, Provincial Ministers and officials. In the last five years, 15 First Thursday events were hosted in person, with 6 444 residents in attendance, and 34 hosted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This level of access to government leaders is unprecedented in South Africa and is coupled with the Western Cape Government’s commitment to transparency and corruption-free government.

Lifestyle audits were conducted on all members of the Cabinet in 2020, with the final report finding that all Provincial Ministers and their spouses led lifestyles commensurate with their income. Each of the 14 Western Cape provincial departments, as well as each of their entities, achieved unqualified audits in the 2022/23 financial year, indicating that public money in the Western Cape is spent on public services and not politicians.

To use public money for maximum impact, the

Western Cape Government is focused on innovation and technology. This innovation is evidenced by the government’s pioneering work in health, education, energy and crime fighting, as mentioned earlier, as well as its approach to disaster prevention, management and climate resilience. From its traffic management system to its healthcare sector and crime fighting, the provincial government uses data to guide interventions, measure effectiveness and amend its approach.

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) has been an effective coordinator of emergency responses during major disasters, such as the 2023 Heritage Day weekend floods, the February Eskom power outage in the Karoo, and during the 2023/24 fire season when on one day over 18 severe fires were burning across the province.

The PDMC is positioning this province to be able to respond to a changing climate. The 15-Year Western Cape Integrated Drought and Water Response Plan sets the benchmark on how to deal with water scarcity and avoid a future “Day Zero” scenario.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Western Cape Government built Africa’s largest field hospital in just six weeks and launched the COVID-19 public-facing dashboard which won the Africa Tech Award for Best Use of Technology in the Public Sector. During the pandemic, the Western Cape Government delivered medicine direct to people’s homes to keep them safe and ensure clinics and hospitals could focus on responding to the unfolding crisis.

## CONCLUSION

The Western Cape works. The DA-run provincial government is leading the way in every crucial aspect of delivery: creating jobs through a growing economy, reducing crime, cutting loadshedding, building schools, improving health and putting people before politicians.

We want to keep delivering to the people of the Western Cape, but we need your vote to keep making progress. A vote for the DA is a vote for a province that works.

## Vote to Keep the Western Cape DA



**DA**