



Local Government Landscape, Challenges and Choices

Cryptic Notes

July 2026

South African Local Government Landscape

Characterised by:

Severe financial distress
(across the sector)

Spiralling cost
(and diminishing ROI)

Service delivery failures

Unstable coalitions

Governance failures
(fraud and corruption)

Administrative instability

Weak institutional capability

Growing civic oversight and scrutiny



Overstrand - Economic and Spatial Reality

Strong natural assets

Dual economy
Affluence alongside under-serviced
communities

Tourism-driven economy

Attractive investment destination

Significant in-migration

Affordability concerns

Infrastructure and
Service Delivery Pressure

Gradual decline masked by
short-term performance



Key Challenges the Overstrand Municipality Faces

Financial Health

Ageing Infrastructure and
Rising Maintenance Backlog

Rapid Population and
Informal Settlement Growth

Water and Energy Security

Local Economic Development

Institutional Capacity Constraints

Operating Model Transformation

Rising Citizen Expectations

Environmental Protection

Spatial Planning



Strategic Overstrand Choices

Aspiration: Protecting Functionality, Managing Growth and Avoiding Gradual Decline

Maintenance versus Expansion

Growth versus Infrastructure Capacity

Service Affordability versus Financial Sustainability

Economic Growth versus Environmental Protection

Stability versus Innovation

Operational Focus versus Strategic Transformation

Digital Transformation versus Traditional Operating Models

Short-term Visibility versus Long-Term Resilience

Centralisation versus Community Partnerships





Curated by Errol van Staden

E-mail: errol@ocan.co.za

WhatsApp +27 83 637 0700

