

NELSON MANDELA BAY METROPOLITAN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (MSDF) UPDATE



GET INVOLVED IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF YOUR CITY!

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality is updating its Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework (MSDF), a key planning tool that will shape the future growth and development of our metro. We invite residents, businesses, and stakeholders to participate in this important process and share their insights on how to create a more sustainable, inclusive, and well-planned city.

WHAT IS AN MSDF?

The **Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF)** is a strategic planning document developed by the Municipality to guide how land is used and how development should take place across Nelson Mandela Bay over the next 10 to 20 years. In simple terms, the MSDF is the city's long-term plan for managing growth and change in a way that benefits all residents.

It answers important questions like:



Where should new housing be built?



Where should businesses, schools, clinics, and transport facilities go?



How can we protect natural areas while still growing our economy?



WHAT IS THE MSDF IMPORTANT?

The MSDF is one of the most important tools for creating a well-functioning city. Without a proper spatial plan, development can become scattered, inefficient, and unsustainable. The MSDF helps the Municipality avoid this by:



Coordinating Development: It aligns land use, infrastructure, housing, and transport to avoid wasteful spending and duplication.



Focusing Investment: It shows where the Municipality should prioritise service delivery and public investment.



Balancing Growth and Preservation: It ensures we grow our economy and cities while protecting the environment and cultural heritage.



Promoting Fairness: It encourages inclusive development so that all communities, including poorer and previously disadvantaged areas, can benefit from municipal support and services.

Ultimately, the MSDF supports the Municipality's broader goals of creating a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable city that works for everyone.

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WHAT LAWS GUIDE THE MSDF?

The MSDF isn't just a planning tool it is a legal requirement. Two national laws set the rules for how the MSDF must be prepared and used:



The Municipal Systems Act (MSA), 2000

This law requires every municipality to prepare an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) to guide its overall development goals. The MSDF as part of the IDP provides the spatial (land-related) vision of how these goals will be achieved on the ground.



The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), 2013

The MSDF must guide how land use decisions are made, and these decisions must be fair, transparent, and support long-term sustainability.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

As a councillor, you play a key role in the MSDF process. You represent the needs, challenges, and aspirations of your ward and help ensure that all voices especially those of marginalized communities are heard in the planning process.

Here's how you and your communities can take part:



Attend public meetings and workshops where the MSDF is discussed and explained. These events are held to give residents and stakeholders a chance to learn, ask questions, and provide feedback.



Encourage community members to submit comments and suggestions. Every view counts, and written input helps planners understand local needs.



Use online platforms to stay updated on the MSDF process and encourage others to do the same. Many documents, maps, and updates are available digitally for easy access.



Be a community champion by sharing information, clarifying what the MSDF is about, and collecting input from people who may not attend formal meetings.

Together, we can shape a better future for Nelson Mandela Bay one where development is fair, well-planned, and benefits all residents.

For more information and to stay updated, visit <https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za> or email thandi@tshani.co.za or msdf@mandelametro.gov.za.

TOGETHER, LETS PLAN FOR A THRIVING, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE NELSON MANDELA BAY!