

Bauer, Janine. Susceptibility of municipal infrastructure and related services to extreme weather events in the Western Cape: A comparative study of three towns. (BSc Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2006)

Climate change predictions indicate that there will be a global increase in the frequency of extreme weather events. The Western Cape recurrently experiences extreme weather events which result in significant losses to municipal infrastructure, but there is increasing evidence that infrastructure within the Province will come under even greater pressure as a result of future climate variability. Sustained growth is influenced by the Province's capacity to withstand and recover from recurrent natural and other threats that potentially undermine development potential. In this context, public infrastructure plays a critical role in minimizing disaster risks, particularly those generated by extreme weather. This research investigates three extreme weather events in the Western Cape and their impacts, identifying disaster risk and related vulnerabilities in critical municipal infrastructure in the affected towns. The study suggests that by establishing strategies for prevention and mitigation of extreme weather events and resulting floods, capacity can be developed for adaption to predicted climate change scenarios for the Western Cape.