



**BEAUFORT-WES (T)
MUNISIPALITEIT / MUNICIPALITY**

Notice No. 31/2026



NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 78(3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT (NO. 32 OF 2000) (Municipal Systems Act)

At present there is a very limited public transport service provision in Beaufort West and its surrounding settlements. The Municipality's engagements with communities in Nelspoort, Merweville and Murraysburg have confirmed that residents face significant difficulty accessing essential socio-economic services. This is due to limited formal transport, high travel costs, and unsafe reliance on hitchhiking. These high costs place a disproportionate burden on economically vulnerable households, further constraining their ability to travel when needed. As a result, mobility is increasingly restricted for many residents, deepening existing socio-economic hardships. In response to this longstanding challenge, the Western Cape Mobility Department, together with the Beaufort West Local Municipality, is exploring the implementation of the Inter-Town Rural Transport Solution (IRTS).

The IRTS is a scheduled, periodic public transport service intended to improve, reliable, safe and affordable mobility between Beaufort West and neighbouring rural settlements. The vision for the IRTS is: *"A demand-responsive, sustainable, balanced, and equitable rural transport system that meets the basic access needs of individuals, is affordable, operates efficiently, offers a choice of transportation modes, and supports a vibrant local economy."*

In terms of Schedule 4B of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Beaufort West Municipality is responsible for providing public transport services within its municipal area. Beaufort West Municipality has the responsibilities allocated under section 11(1)(c) of the National Land Transport Act, 5 of 2009 (NLTA). The IRTS will enable Beaufort West Municipality to fulfil its Constitutional mandate to provide municipal public transport services.

Why a Section 78 Investigation is Required Prior to Implementing the IRTS

The proposed implementation of the IRTS relates to the provision of a municipal public transport service within the jurisdiction of the Beaufort West Local Municipality. The delivery of municipal services is governed by the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2002 (MSA). In terms of the MSA, where a municipality intends to provide a new municipal service, or significantly upgrade, extend, or improve an existing service, the Municipality is required to undertake an investigation in terms of Section 78 of the MSA.

Before establishing or altering a service delivery mechanism, the Municipality must first consider whether there is an appropriate internal mechanism for delivering the service. Section 73(2) of the MSA requires that municipal services must be:

- equitable and accessible;
- provided in a manner that is conducive to the prudent, economic, efficient and effective use of available resources;
- financially sustainable;
- environmentally sustainable; and
- regularly reviewed with a view to upgrading, extension and improvement.

In terms of section 78(1) of the MSA, the Municipality assessed the Municipality's capacity to deliver the IRTS internally in compliance with these requirements. On 12 February 2026, during a Special Council meeting, and after taking into account the views of organised labour in terms of section 78(1)(a)(v) of the MSA, Council resolved to explore external service delivery mechanisms in terms of section 78(1)(3) of the MSA.

An external mechanism may include a municipal entity, another municipality, an organ of state, a community-based organisation (CBO), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) legally competent to enter into such an agreement, or any other institution, entity, or person legally competent to operate a business activity.

This process includes provision for public consultation, engagement with trade unions, a cost-benefit analysis, and a feasibility study. The review will also consider the impact on job creation and local development.

Accordingly, the Council hereby gives notice of its intention to explore the provision of the Inter-town Rural Transport Service through an external mechanism.

Any interested or affected party is invited to submit comments or request further information on this process during weekdays between 07:30 and 16:15 to the Acting Municipal Manager, Beaufort West Municipality, 112 Donkin Street, Private Bag 582, Beaufort West, 6970, Fax No. 023-415 1373, e-mail: admin@beaufortwestmun.co.za on or before 16:00 on **Friday, 13 March 2026**, quoting your, name, address or contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comments. Telephonic enquiries can be made to the Acting Manager: Manager, Mr. B.S. Jacobs at Tel. Nol. 023-414 8100. The Municipality may refuse to accept comment received after the closing date. Any person who cannot write will be assisted by a Municipal Official at the abovementioned office by transcribing their comments.

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B.S. Jacobs
Wrnde Munisipale Bestuurder //
Acting Municipal Manager

Verw nr. / Ref. No. 14/18/1
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