

Private Bag X097, Pretoria, 0001 • Tel: + 27 (0) 12 367 6000 • [www.weathersa.co.za](http://www.weathersa.co.za) • USSD: \*120\*7297#

Tuesday 4 May 2021

## **Cut-off low to cause adverse weather conditions over parts of the Western Cape**

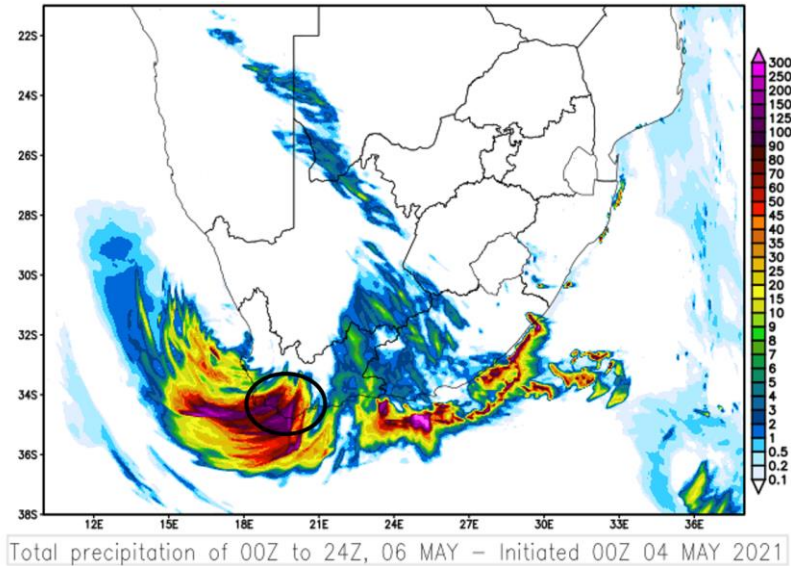
### **5 to 6 May 2021**

A cut-off low is expected to affect the Western Cape from tomorrow (Wednesday 5 May) into Thursday, resulting in widespread showers and thundershowers, strong winds, and very rough sea conditions especially from Wednesday evening, extending into Thursday.

A cut-off low pressure (a deep, closed low pressure in the mid-troposphere that is displaced equatorward of the main westerly flow) is expected to develop along the south-west coast of the Western Cape tomorrow (Wednesday 5 May) and will position itself along the coast around Saldanha Bay in the evening. Sporadic, heavy rainfall (in the form of showers and thundershowers) will likely impact the Overberg region, Garden Route District, parts of the Cape Winelands and Cape Metropole, especially during the evening and overnight hours into Thursday. Numeric weather prediction (NWP) modelling suggests 30 – 50mm is likely to occur during a 24-hour period, whilst parts of the Overberg could receive as much as 60 – 100 mm during the corresponding period.

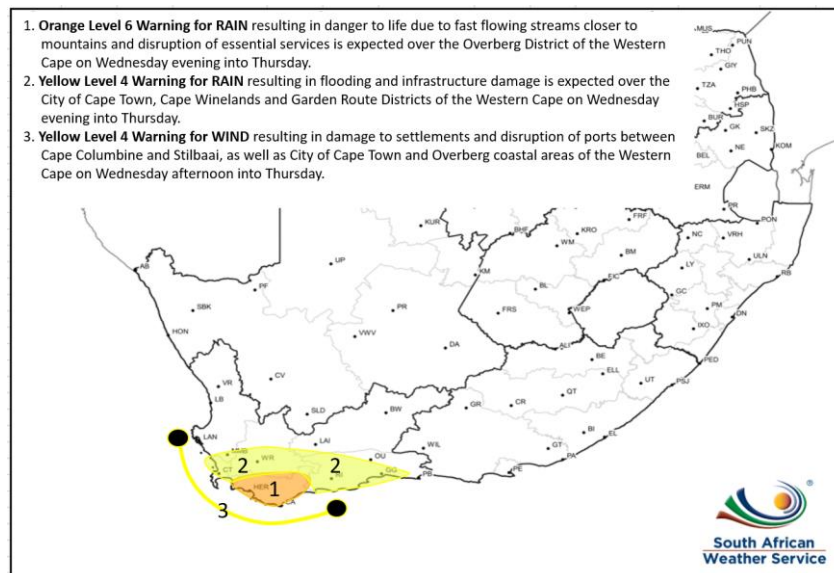
**Certified for  
Excellence**

**Board Members:** Ms Nana Magomola (Chairperson), Dr Phillip Dexter (Deputy Chairperson), Adv Derick Block, Mr David Lefutso, Dr Mphekgo Maila, Ms Kelebogile Moroka-Mosia, Ms Sally Mudly-Padayachie, Dr Thuli Khumalo (DFFE Rep), Mr Itani Phaduli, Ms Feziwe Renqe. Mr Ishaam Abader (CEO).  
**Company Secretary:** Ms Thandi Zide



**Figure 1:** Predicted 24-hour rainfall accumulation (in mm) for Thursday (6 May 2021). Source Unified model (SAWS)

The South African Weather Service has issued the following warnings for Wednesday and Thursday:



**Figure 2:** Impact Based Warnings issued by SAWS for Wednesday and Thursday (5 – 6 May 2021)

Coastal ocean users are also urged to exercise caution, as very rough sea conditions are anticipated due to strong winds associated with this system, especially along the coast between Cape Columbine and Still Bay (Stilbaai). These winds are likely to result in steep waves reaching heights of 4.0 – 5.5 metres at times. Vessels may therefore experience difficulty in safe navigation. Furthermore, the South African Weather

Service advises that there will be increased risk associated with coastal activities such as rock angling and general beach use.

*The South African Weather Service is aware of a non-SAWS Facebook message update doing the rounds about the expected system, which has already caused panic amongst recipients.* Strong south-easterly winds over the south-western section of Western Cape are typically associated with settled, fine weather. However, occasionally the additional presence of an upper-air cut off low (as in this particular case) MAY lead to a cool, moisture-laden south-easterly wind, colloquially referred to as a “black-south-easter”. Whilst the development of a black south-easter is entirely possible, given the expected circulation pattern, the public should nevertheless not be alarmed by sensationalist media articles doing the rounds on social media. Moreover the public are urged to consult reputable and reliable sources of weather information and to follow warnings and updates as issued by the South African Weather Service.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to this weather system and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio.

Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at [www.weathersa.co.za](http://www.weathersa.co.za) as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

Compiled by Wayne Venter.

Edited by Kevin Rae.

**For technical and weather enquiries:**

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

**Media enquiries:** Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: [hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za](mailto:hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za)

USSD: Dial \*120\*7297#; Weather-ready, Climate-smart

**Download our WeatherSMART APP free from the App store:**

For Apple Smartphones: <https://apps.apple.com/za/app/weathersmart/id1045032640>

For Android Smartphones: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.afrigis.saws.droid.activity&gl=ZA>