




The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Cape Higher Education Consortium

WESTERN CAPE ECONOMY INNOVATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2026

Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely but succinctly.

1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Pat Jenniker	Dept. Infrastructure		18/02/2026	Pat.Jenniker@westerncape.gov.za

Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Skills Development Programmes	Dept. Infrastructure	Public Sector	0836415064	Pat.Jenniker@westerncape.gov.za

2. Short description

+100 word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.

(e.g. new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)

Recognition: Department of Infrastructure – Skills Development Programme

The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) should be acknowledged for its impactful implementation of youth-focused training programmes within the built environment. The Department has demonstrated sustained investment in skills programmes such as Apprenticeships, 12-month Learnerships, and Short Skills Programmes targeting unemployed youth aged 18–35 years.

These programmes aim to expose young people to construction-related trades such as bricklaying, plumbing, electrical work, and carpentry, etc.; to enhance their employability and support pathways to self-employment and/or small-business development in the construction sector.

An element of the Department's investment is the provision of learner stipends during both classroom-based and experiential learning phases. This ensures that financial barriers do not prevent youth from accessing training opportunities.

Innovation

The Department's innovative approach lies in its integrated implementation of diverse developmental programmes aligned with infrastructure development needs. The underpinning principles of responsiveness, representativity, empowerment, and inclusiveness—ensure that programmes actively address skills shortages while broadening participation in the built and engineering sectors.

The sector currently faces a critical shortage of skilled labourers, artisans, technicians, technologists, and professionals, which poses a direct risk to sustainable infrastructure delivery.

The Department's interventions address key challenges, including:

- Limited public knowledge of available developmental programmes.
- A lack of clear education pathways for unskilled and low-skilled individuals.
- Barriers to accessing tertiary education due to financial constraints or geographic limitations.

Through its innovative Skills Development Programme, the Department of Infrastructure is not only responding to these systemic challenges but also enabling long-term socio-economic empowerment, industry transformation, and a sustainable pipeline of future built environment professionals.

3. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and place answers in the prescribed place as indicated in the table below (to construct a results chain):

- a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?

- e. How did this help to improve their business performance? *Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?*
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new, compared what existed before? (Novelty in the WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? *E.g. profitable business with enduring competitive advantage in the market.* What is the expected longevity of this this solution? *E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years*

Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
<p>f. The innovation is brought about by implementing a dual system of training and experiential/practical training. Learners not only received theoretical knowledge but also have an opportunity to work on a construction site, to understand the work environment.</p> <p>g. While training programmes exist elsewhere, the DOI offers Western Cape youth with a unique, integrated development experience that combines technical training, workplace exposure and community service. During Mandela Month, participants also contributed to social impact projects, creating a holistic development model.</p> <p>h. The programme gives youth direct access to construction sites, enabling them to fully understand the operational dynamics of the built environment. The realistic exposure bridges the gap between theory and practice; something many Western Cape youth previously lacked.</p>	<p>i. The department runs a month-long marketing campaign in youth month advertising the training opportunity to youth across the Western Cape. DOI also works in partnership with SA Youth.mobi (Harambee) to ensure accessibility for youth without needing data or formal internet.</p> <p>c. Participants accessed the programme through the Departmental outreach and marketing campaign. SA Youth.mobi (Harambee) platform partnered with DOI to assist with recruitment.</p>	<p>a. The programme targets unemployed youth aged 18-35.</p> <p>b. Over the past year the Department has trained more than 100 youth through its skills programmes.</p> <p>d. After training youth were placed at various construction sites to get experiential training in their respective trades.</p> <p>e. Youth exited the programme with industry-aligned training, PPE and a trade-specific toolbox. Financial support is provided by means of a stipend and where needed travel or accommodation allowances. These elements better prepared youth for work opportunities and better positioned them for self-employment in construction-related services.</p>	<p>j. This programme remains financially and operationally viable through the Department's innovative and adaptive implementation approach. By continually updating training content to reflect changing industry technologies and skills needs: DOI ensures ongoing relevance. Sustainability is strengthened by targeting inclusion of vulnerable youth and long-term planning aligned with provincial infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Expected longevity: 10+ years as ongoing infrastructure development will continue to require a steady pipeline of skilled labour.</p>

After completing the table, read from left to right. Check for coherence and improve if needed.

4. Declaration of Evidence to verify results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify the results stated above are as stated?

	Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
What evidence can be provided? e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth	There are photos attached of training programmes implemented.			

5. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
Public Sector	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth.	
Public Sector	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
Public Sector	1 x Municipal (LM+DM) innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
Public Sector	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance.	
Safety & Security	1 x Innovation enhancing precinct safety & security.	
Labour Market	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment.	x
Academia	1 x Research most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
Academia	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
Academia	1 x Most successful start-up / spin out	
Academia	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
Industry Sector Bodies	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry.	
Organised Business	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts.	

6. Check that you completed all that is necessary.

7. Submit this documented and/or video recorded to innovation@capechamber.co.za.

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!