Chronology of the use of drought framing policies and media releases of the City of Cape Town (2010 – 2018), identifying shifts to a New Earth (Anthropocene) episteme.

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| **Date** | **Use** | **Framing SHIFT** | **Document Type** | **Reference** |
| 2010.01.01 | Absent | Holocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2010. [State of Cape Town 2010](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/City%20research%20reports%20and%20review/State_of_Cape_Town_2010.pdf). |
| 2011.11.01 | Cape Town is a developing city on the coast. It is particularly vulnerable to climatic changes. These changes will likely involve sea-level rise, an increase in storm-surge frequency and intensity, an increase in extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, increasing temperature extremes, and shifting wind patterns and extremes. These changes present a range of risks to Cape Town, including water and food in-security, damage to key infrastructure and transport routes, interruption to service delivery, health risks, heat stress, flooding, and negative impacts on the groundwater table, ecosystem health and biodiversity. | Holocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2011. [Moving Mountains: Cape Town’s Action Plan for Energy and Climate Change](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/City%20strategies,%20plans%20and%20frameworks/Cape%20Town%20Energy%20and%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20(ECAP).pdf) |
| 2012.05.01 | Absent | Holocene  Frame | Policy | CoCT. 2012. [Spatial Development Framework](Cape%20Town%20Spatial%20Development%20Framework) |
| 2015.12.04 | The City of Cape Town’s Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Programme (WCWDM) was announced as the winner in the Adaptation Implementation Category in the 2015 C40 Cities Awards in Paris.  … Successful control of water demand growth has allowed the City to avoid or delay costly capital expansions to the water system. | Holocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2015. [Cape Town scoops C40 Cities Award at COP21 conference in Paris](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Cape%20Town%20scoops%20major%20water%20award%20in%20Paris) |
| 2017.05.21 | Cape Town was chosen from more than 325 applicants on the basis of our willingness, ability, and need to become resilient in the face of future challenges. ‘City governments are on the front line of dealing with acute shocks and chronic stress. Cape Town is part of a group of cities leading the way on resilience to better prepare for, withstand, and recover more effectively when disruption hits’ | Transition | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Mayor De Lille appoints City’s first Chief Resilience Officer](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Mayor%20De%20Lille%20appoints%20City's%20first%20Chief%20Resilience%20Officer) |
| 2017.05.25 | I am appealing to all residents again to please change their mind-sets and water behaviour. Things simply cannot go on as normal as drought will become the **New Normal** and we have to adapt because we will all suffer if there is no water. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [City hosts inter-faith prayers for rain and calls for all hands on deck to manage drought crisis](City%20hosts%20inter-faith%20prayers%20for%20rain%20and%20calls%20for%20all%20hands%20on%20deck%20to%20manage%20drought%20crisis) |
| 2017.05.31 | And importantly we need a new relationship with risk. Climate change, most notably, adds significant uncertainty. The models are in flux. We nevertheless understand the impacts of climate change, some of which are devastating. Feedback loops add complexity. This means making some decisions in the context of unpredictability. We cannot be sure whether it will rain this winter. We have gone through May with nothing much to show with regard to rainfall. June might be better, but the point is we do not know. The confidence in weather prediction is low. We all need to change our approach to scarcity. It does not mean that our lives should be diminished or the economy negatively affected.  The **New Normal** is an opportunity for us to significantly change our approach to water. It is about building resilience, which is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kind of stresses and acute shocks they experience. We need to rethink our over-reliance on surface water and increasingly embrace more non-surface water options such as water reuse and desalination. We need improved design and innovation with regard to water use and reuse in both public infrastructure and, private households and businesses. And we need an improved public understanding of water. Water does not come from a tap but through an expensive process.  We all need to change our approach to scarcity. It does not mean that our lives should be diminished or the economy negatively affected. The **New Normal** is an opportunity for us to significantly change our approach to water. It is about building resilience, which is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kind of stresses and acute shocks they experience.  We need to rethink our over-reliance on surface water and increasingly embrace more non-surface water options such as water reuse and desalination. We need improved design and innovation with regard to water use and reuse in both public infrastructure and, private households and businesses. And we need an improved public understanding of water. Water does not come from a tap but through an expensive process.  This is what I am proposing today. This is how a responsible, modern, forward looking government works. Building water resilience is now our most important goal. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Water resilience: a heightened approach to](file:///Water resilience/ a heightened approach to avoiding water shortages and achieving long-term water security)  [avoiding water shortages and achieving long-term water security](file:///Water resilience/ a heightened approach to avoiding water shortages and achieving long-term water security) |
| 2017.06.14 | We are overlaying climate change and building resilience into all the work we do to ensure the sustainability of our city and its residents. | Holocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Mayor’s Portfolio of Urban Sustainability and ThinkWater exhibition on show at Civic Centre](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Mayor's%20Portfolio%20of%20Urban%20Sustainability%20and%20ThinkWater%20exhibition%20on%20show%20at%20Civic%20Centre) |
| 2017.07.01 | Resilience has emerged as an important urban concept. Resilience refers to the ability to bounce back from shocks or stresses, and to do so with a measure of success greater than prior to the shock. Underlying resilience are the ideas of adaptive capacity (the ability to adjust to changing conditions) and transformative capacity (the ability to change both internally and externally to keep pace with changing contexts). Resilience is and will be an important characteristic of cities and their residents now and into the future.  … Urban resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems in a city to survive, overcome, adapt and grow, no matter what chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience. Building resilience forms part of Goal 11, of the UN SDGs, namely making cities “inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.  The City views urban resilience as a core factor in achieving its strategic objectives of building a safe, caring, opportunity, inclusive and well-run city. Therefore, the City is committed to building resilience to urban challenges that leave households vulnerable to social, environmental and economic shocks. Resilience, as a guiding principle, should be institutionalised across the organisation and be incorporated into the City’s strategic, planning and decision-making mechanisms. | Holocene  Frame | Policy | CoCT. 2017. [City of Cape Town Integrated Development Plan (2017-2022)](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Family%20and%20home/Meet-the-City/our-vision-for-the-city/the-citys-idp-2012-2017) |
| 2017.07.27 | Strategy 2: Manage water conservation, supply and demand to ensure sustainability   * Ensuring sustainability of supply and managing demand to reduce wasteful consumption and encourage efficient use is essential in ensuring sustainable water utilisation. * The Climate Change Policy supports a number of objectives under this strategy, by supporting improved resilience and reduced vulnerability, and promoting climate change conscious urban design and infrastructure, both of which have strong connections to water conservation, supply, and demand management. | Holocene  Frame | Policy | CoCT. 2017. [City of Cape Town Climate Change Policy](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Bylaws%20and%20policies/Climate%20Change%20Policy.pdf) |
| 2017.07.31 | ‘Many of our water users continue to inspire us with their efforts and we thank them for understanding that this is our **New Normal**. Our rainfall thus far in July has been minimal – at most recorded points at least half to one-third less than our long-term July average. If we do not save now, we will run out of water,’ said the City’s Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Councillor Xanthea Limberg. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [Drought crisis: enforcement stepped up amid continuing high usage](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Drought%20crisis%20enforcement%20stepped%20up%20amid%20continuing%20high%20usage) |
| 2017.08.01 | Absent | **-** | Strategy | CoCT. 2017. [Environmental Strategy](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Bylaws%20and%20policies/Environmental%20Strategy.pdf) |
| 2017.08 | Cape Town was chosen from more than 325 applicants on the basis of our willingness, ability, and need to become resilient in the face of future challenges. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Cape Town selected as a winner of the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Cape%20Town%20selected%20as%20a%20winner%20of%20the%20100%20Resilient%20Cities%20Challenge) |
| 2017.08.16 | I will be making further announcements on the City’s Water Resilience Plan at my office tomorrow in terms of the alternative water sources the City will be tapping into over the short to medium-term to augment our water supplies and avoid acute water shortages. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [City moves to restrict high consumption households with water management devices](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/City%20moves%20to%20restrict%20high%20consumption%20households%20with%20water%20management%20devices) |
| 2017.08.17 | in May this year, I announced a new strategic approach to the drought: building water resilience. It signalled a new approach to risk and a new appreciation of the unpredictability of the impacts of climate change.  … As a proactive government, we have had water restrictions in place since 2005, which were intensified from the beginning of 2016 – over 20 months ago.  Up until May this year, the City’s approach to responding to the drought was based principally on driving down demand and supplementing supply with limited new augmentation schemes. The approach, based on projections from hydrological and dam modelling, had worked in the past. It did not provide us with sufficient confidence on this occasion. Internally we developed new scenarios and decided to take the most pessimistic view of the drought and likely rainfall as possible. We accept that the impacts of climate change add significant uncertainty to existing models. Climate feedback loops add further complexity. That means that some decisions need to be made in the context of unpredictability. That does not imply making poor decisions. It means making decisions that factor in a greater understanding of risk. It means making decisions that mitigate against shocks, that in the context of our city affect the most vulnerable parts of our population most acutely. That is why we believe we are within a scenario called The New Normal – a scenario in which we do not bank on the drought ending but rather actively plan as if it will continue indefinitely.  …Our intent is to both drive down collective usage to 500 Ml/day and to ensure that there is always at least 500 Ml/day of water in production. Cape Town has up until now relied on its dam system for more than 90% of its potable water requirements. While our dams may fill up over time, our future will include an improved ratio of non-surface water to surface water options.  Building water resilience is the number one priority of the City administration. I am confident that we have started a journey that will result in an improved public understanding of water, in which risk is better understood and planned for, and where we can more comfortably adjust to shocks and stresses as they relate to water. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Advancing water resilience: getting to an additional 500 million litres of new water a day](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Advancing%20water%20resilience%20getting%20to%20an%20additional%20500%20million%20litres%20of%20new%20water%20a%20day) |
| 2017.08.17 | The City’s Water Resilience Plan has been developed based on the **New Normal scenario** where we no longer bank only on rain water for our drinking water supplies, but look at a range of technologies to augment our supply of drinking water in order to build greater water security. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [City to receive R20, 8 million grant towards drought relief](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/City%20to%20receive%20R20,8%20million%20grant%20towards%20drought%20relief) |
| 2017.09.12 | ‘We are committed to ensuring that Cape Town gets through this tough time with these short-term emergency supply schemes as well as getting consumption down to 500 million litres of water per day. Every bit of experience that we build up now will stand us in good stead as we try to adapt to prolonged drought conditions as part of our **New Normal** approach to the unpredictability of climatic conditions,’ said the City’s Mayoral  Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Councillor Xanthea Limberg. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [Drought crisis: City to boost water resilience projects](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Drought%20crisis%20City%20to%20boost%20water%20resilience%20projects) |
| 2017.09.14 | ‘Saving water has become the **New Normal** here in Cape Town. Every drop of water counts. We appeal to all visitors to appreciate the seriousness of the current drought crisis and to be mindful of their water usage while exploring all the beauty that this city has to offer,’ said Councillor Mamkeli. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [City urges tourists and visitors to join Cape Town in saving water](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/City%20urges%20tourists%20and%20visitors%20to%20join%20Cape%20Town%20in%20saving%20water) |
| 2017.09.27 | As I am sure you are all aware, we are currently experiencing the most stubborn, intense and protracted drought in recent history. This has necessitated a new strategic approach to how we view and manage our water supply.  At its core, we recognise that we are situated in a water-scarce region characterised by climatic unpredictability. **We call this our New Normal**. The **New Normal** applies at home. The **New Normal** applies at work. The **New Normal** applies in city and business operations. It has required us to bring significant resources to bear on building water resilience and securing a sustainable supply of water to our city and its residents. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | Neilson. 2017. [Water scarcity, New Normal calls for adaptation](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Water%20scarcity,%20New%20Normal%20calls%20for%20adaptation%20across%20society)  [across society](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Water%20scarcity,%20New%20Normal%20calls%20for%20adaptation%20across%20society) |
| 2017.10.01 | If we don’t pull together now and drive down water usage even further…  In order to avoid this disruption, everyone in the city will have to endure some discomfort and inconvenience, but this will be better than the alternative, which is extensive disruption at a later point. The drought and actions required to get Cape Town through a difficult time are everyone’s responsibility, and while the City will continue to lead this process, all residents are going to need to contribute and to take leadership in their own communities. …The disaster plan for managing critical water shortages adopts a pessimistic approach, and **assumes very little additional supply will arise from water augmentation measures**, such as desalination and increased ground water abstraction. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [Critical Water Shortages Disaster Plan – Public Summary](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/City%20strategies,%20plans%20and%20frameworks/Critical%20Water%20Shortages%20Disaster%20Plan%20Summary.pdf) |
| 2017.10.04 | RISK MANAGEMENT: the plan **adopts a pessimistic approach** and assumes no additional supply until the next rainy season. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [Critical Water Shortages Disaster Plan](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Family%20and%20home/residential-utility-services/residential-water-and-sanitation-services/critical-water-shortages-disaster-plan) |
| 2017.10.09 | ‘The **New Normal** requires us to adapt the way that we have been doing things, in all aspects of our lives. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | CoCT. 2017. [Drought crisis: City's summer water-saving campaigns to kick off soon](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Drought%20crisis%20City's%20summer%20water-saving%20campaigns%20to%20kick%20off%20soon) |
| 2017.10.29 | The City is securing our water resilience through saving and bringing more **alternative water sources** into our network. We are not only building water resilience in the immediate future, but also looking ahead to the years to come and how we ensure water security beyond 2018. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | De Lille. 2017. [Mayor De Lille Speech at visit to desalination plant site at V&A Waterfront](http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Speeches%20and%20statements/29%20October%20Mayor%20De%20Lille%20visits%20desalination%20plant%20site.pdf). |
| 2017.11.19 | ‘We call on communities to please partner with us in this process. We understand that there is a perception among many residents that toilets other than full-flush toilets deny them dignity, but we cannot be closed-minded about this. Our track record when it comes to providing sanitation services is unparalleled, and we hope that this give us enough credibility to facilitate open and constructive discussion on the challenges we face as a city, and what compromises are necessary to adapt to our **New Normal**,’ said the City’s Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services, Councillor Xanthea Limberg. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media release | CoCT. 2017. [City affirms commitment to improving sanitation on World Toilet Day](https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/city-has-made-great-strides-in-delivering-sanitation-services-12105168) |
| 2017.11.26 | Other areas of the TMG aquifers are being assessed as part of the broader water resilience project that aims to ensure water security in the years beyond 2018. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media release | De Lille. 2017. [Aerial mapping of the Cape Flats Aquifer to establish prime abstraction sites for additional water](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Aerial%20mapping%20of%20the%20Cape%20Flats%20Aquifer%20to%20establish%20prime%20abstraction%20sites%20for%20additional%20water) |
| 2017.11.29 | ‘We call on members of the plumbing sector to act as ambassadors for best practice on the ground. Their role in helping us all on the journey to adapting to the **New Normal** is incredibly important as we all work to review our operational methods. It is vital, however, that work is done responsibly and in accordance with our guidelines for alternative water systems. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media release | CoCT. 2017. [City calls on plumbing sector to join battle against Day Zero](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/City%20calls%20on%20plumbing%20sector%20to%20join%20battle%20against%20Day%20Zero) |
| 2018.02.22 | We have to make sure that we plan for the medium term and position the city to cope with the unknown. That means among other things less reliance on surface water and a greater appreciation for diverse water supply options. | **SHIFT**  Anthropocene  Frame | Media Release | van Merwe. 2018. [Launch of the Greater Cape Town Water Fund](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Launch%20of%20the%20Greater%20Cape%20Town%20Water%20Fund%20Pilot%20Project)  [Pilot Project](http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/Launch%20of%20the%20Greater%20Cape%20Town%20Water%20Fund%20Pilot%20Project) |