



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna water safe to use

After an attempt to sabotage Knysna's water supply earlier this week tests confirmed that the water is safe for human consumption.

Cllr Peter Myers, Chairperson of the Technical Services Committee said laboratory results received on Tuesday confirmed that the treated water complies with the SANS241-1:2015 requirements. "The only requirements not met were in terms of colour and turbidity, or clarity, which exceeded the limits relevant to the parameters measured. Even so the turbidity complied with the required aesthetic limits."

He said that since yesterday, both plants were once again up and running. "The second plant was re-connected yesterday. We had to close and isolate the affected unit to clean it and to make sure that no contaminated water entered the system. With demand staying the same, but production capacity limited, the reservoirs were running low and loose sediment ended up in the pipes, causing the discoloration of the water. It must be emphasised that at no time was any contaminated water release into the distribution system."

Myers explained that the problem was caused when residents from White Location dumped their refuse bags into the water purification plant. "We've met with them numerous times before the incident and are working with them to try and resolve their issues. They are unhappy with a service provider appointed in the area, so much so that the contractor was chased off site numerous times."

"As we know the Technical Department is under enormous pressure as our available budget and resources are needed to address a variety of urgent issues. It is unfortunate that resources had to be spent on an act of sabotage, rather than focusing it where it is needed most."

He concluded by saying that he wants to commend the Technical Department for the professional way in which they handled an extremely difficult situation. "Their fast and efficient actions not only ensured that we managed to keep the water supply running, but also prevented it from becoming contaminated."

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