



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargo: Immediate**  
**DATE: 21 January 2019**

---

### **Plans to dispose of Brenton Whale carcass underway**

The Knysna Municipality have put plans in place to deal with decomposing whale carcass which has now resurfaced at Brenton Beach. The carcass will be burnt in line with the Large Marine Animal Stranding Policy and Protocol and is expected to commence on Monday, 21 January weather permitting. During this period a portion of Brenton Beach will be closed to the public.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Mark Willemse explained that a team consisting of Environmental and Disaster Management officials conducted site inspections and after weighing up the options decided to “cremate” the carcass using driftwood as fuel.

“The team anticipates that the burn will last for approximately one week. The fire will be monitored by fire fighters throughout the process. In the event of changes in weather patterns, i.e. gale force winds, the fire will be extinguished and reignited when conditions are safe.”

Willemse said that the whale carcass had no effect on Brenton’s Blue Flag status. “Brenton did not lose its Blue Flag status however, the flag will be taken down during the burn period and will be hoisted again once the process has been completed.”

“We thank all for assistance and patience during this process. We appeal to the public to stay away from the beach until the process is completed.

**ENDS**

---

**Knysna Municipality Communications Department**  
P O Box 21, Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa  
Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)  
Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail [communications@knysna.gov.za](mailto:communications@knysna.gov.za)