



**Knysna**

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Cleaning of reed bed to prevent flooding of George Rex Drive**

Knysna Municipality has appointed a contractor to clear the outflow canal for the Knysna wastewater works. Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis said that the canal, which was constructed in 1984, accommodates the treated effluent from the works.

“The canal also reaches a confluence with the Bongani Stream and conveys stormwater runoff from Vigilance- and George Rex Drive,” he explained. “The accumulation of silt and plant material has greatly reduced the canal’s flood conveyance ability and, as a result, this area experiences severe flooding during heavy rainfall. Cleaning the canal will allow for more efficient stormwater runoff.”

A Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) for the wastewater works was compiled in November 2019, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed its implementation until now. Adonis confirmed that works will proceed in accordance with the MMP and under strict supervision of aquatic freshwater specialists Confluent Environmental. The MMP, which is structured to prevent silt from reaching the estuary, was compiled after meetings had been held between the municipality, SANParks, the Knysna Basin Project, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, Confluent Environmental, B&V Contractors and consulting engineers.

The outflow canal has gradually silted up to the point where it is now submerged beneath, and indistinguishable from, a functional wetland. Silt and plant material will be removed to facilitate the unhampered flow of runoff into the estuary.

“We will ensure that these works are handled responsibly and with the sensitivity the area demands,” said Adonis. “Optimising service delivery while respecting our natural environment allows us to work towards an inspired, innovative, inclusive Knysna.”

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