



Knysna

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Garden refuse site management plan

“The garden refuse site was once again temporarily closed due to a fire at the end of August,” said Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen. “We have various short- medium- and long-term plans in place to try avoiding similar situations in the future and to streamline the management of the site.”

The platform will be divided into four blocks to separate wet, dry and green waste to allow for easier fire control. Also in the short-term, it is proposed that the operating hours are amended to 9h00 – 15h00, Monday to Friday, to ensure that operational and other site issues be completed by the end of the workday. The site will be closed on weekends and public holidays.

Access will be controlled by law enforcement or security officers to ensure that only permissible waste is allowed onto the site and that vehicles only enter the facility three times per day. Vehicle capacity will be limited to three tonnes.

“We will hire a TLB to clear waste and provide access to the top of the site,” said van Aswegen. “We’ll also make use of a chipper to reduce the volumes on site. As garden services are the main users of the facility, we’ll schedule a meeting with them to discuss certain issues and encourage them to chip on site and so reduce the volume of waste that is brought to the site.”

The medium-term plan will see the municipal front-end loader repaired. 50% of the targets for the diversion of green waste from landfill, based on the Norms and Standards for the Diversion from Landfill (DEA 2013) will be reached by 2023 and 100% by 2027.

“In the long-term we will call for proposals for a private-public partnership,” said van Aswegen. “The licence for the municipal garden refuse site in Old Place expires on 15 January 2029, but the decommissioning of the site must commence before 15 January 2025.”

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