

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA  
16 JANUARY 2026



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Notice is hereby given, in terms of Section 19(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 as amended, that a **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** of Knysna Municipality will be held on **Microsoft Teams** on **FRIDAY, 16 JANUARY 2026** at **9:00** to consider the business set forth in the attached agenda.

Kennis geskied hiermee as gevolg van Artikel 19(b) van die Plaaslike Regering : Munisipale Stelsels Wet, 32 van 2000, dat 'n **SPESIALE VERGADERING** van die **MUNISIPALE RAAD** van Knysna Munisipaliteit **Microsoft Teams** op **VRYDAG, 16 JANUARIE 2026** om **9:00** gehou sal word ten einde sake soos uiteengesit in die aangehegte agenda te oorweeg.

Ibhunga lika**MASIPALA** waseKnysna lazisa ngomthetho okwisolotya 19(b) wenkqubo mgaqo olawula oMasipala, 32 of 2000, njengoko utshintshiwe, **NGENTLANGANISO EKHETHEKILEYO** ye**BHUNGA** lika**MASIPALA** waseKnysna eyakubanjelwa ku Microsoft Teams **NGOLWESIHLANU, NGOMHLA WE 16 EYOMQUNGU 2026** ngentsimbi ye **9:00** umba iyakuba lushishino oluchazwe kwi-agenda.

CLLR M WILLEMSE

The Speaker  
Die Speaker  
Usomlomo

MR LULAMILE MAPHOLOBA

Municipal Manager  
Munisipale Bestuurder  
Mphathi kaMasipala

Date : 15 January 2026

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# **A G E N D A**

1. **OPENING AND WELCOMING**
2. **SILENT PRAYER**
3. **ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS**
  - 3.1 **COUNCILLORS PRESENT**
  - 3.2 **COUNCILLORS WITH LEAVE**
  - 3.3 **COUNCILLORS WITHOUT LEAVE**
4. **NOTING OF THE PROVISIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND CODE FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**
5. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**

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6. **NEW MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

6.1

|                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SC01/01/26 DECLARATION OF THE GREATER KNYSNA MUNICIPAL AREA AS A<br/>LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER</b></p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTORS COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to request the Knysna Municipal Council to declare the Knysna Municipal Area as a local disaster area due to water challenges of well below normal rainfall, coupled with infrastructure challenges.

**PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

**SC01/12/25 REQUEST TO DECLARE GREATER KNYSNA MUNICIPAL AREA AS A  
WATER -STRESSED AREA/ LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE  
WATER SITUATION**

*Democratic Alliance caucus at 17:29 – 17:40.*

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

- [a] That the current water challenges within the Greater Knysna Area be noted;*
- [b] That the request for the declaration of Greater Knysna Municipal Area as a water-stressed/ state of emergency be approved, to allow for National- as well as Provincial interventions to be completed, as well as to be evaluated for their effectiveness in providing sustainable water solutions for the area;*
- [c] That the Garden Route District Disaster Management Centre be mandated in consultation with the Knysna Local Disaster Management Unit to coordinate the short as well as medium term interventions needed to address this crisis;*
- [d] That if required, approval of additional funds be dealt with in terms of Section 29 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003, which allows the Executive Mayor to authorise unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure in emergency or exceptional circumstances for which no provision was made in the approved budget;*
- [e] That approximately 20 X 5000 litre water tanks be purchased and placed at strategic points within the various critical Wards in the Greater Knysna Municipal Area;*

- [f] That all communication regarding the water emergency be dealt with by the Knysna Municipal Communications Section and the Public Participation Unit;*
- [g] That the overall co-ordination of the water-stressed/ state of emergency situation be dealt with as per the Knysna Disaster Management Plan under the Directorate Community Services; and*
- [h] That the water restrictions be increased to level 4 but that the current status quo in terms of approved drought tariff remain in effect.*

*Execution: Director: Community Services*

## **BACKGROUND**

The Knysna Local Municipal Area is currently experiencing severe water supply constraints that have the potential to result in significant adverse impacts on the municipality, its communities, and the local economy.

Drought conditions can be classified into two (2) categories, namely:

- (1) **Hydro-meteorological drought**, and
- (2) **Agricultural drought**.

The current water situation within the Knysna Local Municipal Area, driven by prolonged dry conditions and declining storage levels, has become a matter of serious concern and requires urgent intervention should conditions persist. This is further exacerbated by the infrastructure challenges.

### **Current Water Supply Situation Knysna Local Municipal Area**

Knysna Municipality has experienced escalating water supply challenges over the past two (2) months. The main off-channel bulk water storage dam, Akkerkloof Dam, is used as the barometer to determine the *status quo* of water provision to consumers in the Knysna Municipal Area. This dam is a critical water source of potable water for the municipality and has shown a steady decline over the last two months. At the time of drafting this report, the dam is at approximately 15% capacity. At the current abstraction and consumption rates, this equates to approximately ten (10) days of water remaining in the bulk supply infrastructure.

The situation has been significantly exacerbated by the absence of meaningful rainfall within the municipal area since 03 December 2025, with no significant rainfall expected over the next four (4) to five (5) months, according to current forecasts from the South African Weather Services.

Water supply is currently being supplemented through the following measures:

- Continued abstraction from Glebe that is currently at 60% (6 days);
- Contributions from Bigai Springs and additional boreholes; and
- Consideration of the potential limited impact of light rainfall forecast for later in the week.

Despite these measures, water storage levels continue to decline, which can be attributed to various factors.

### **OPERATIONAL RESPONSE AND JOC COORDINATION**

Knysna Municipality established a Local Joint Operational Centre (JOC) shortly after the announcement of Level 4 water restrictions. Since 06 December 2025, a joint JOC, Chaired by the Head of Department for Local Government and the Director: Community Services at Knysna Local Municipality, has been operational. Due to the rapidly escalating situation, the municipality has now up-scaled to twice-daily operational JOC meetings and initiated additional cluster meetings from 13 January 2026, including the following Departments: Health, Education, Safety and Security, Technical Services, Business, Economic and Tourism, and Communications.

On 15 December 2025, an Integrated JOC was formally established, incorporating senior officials and Heads of Department from the Western Cape Provincial Government, and co-chaired by the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Knysna Community Services Director. In parallel, the Garden Route District Municipality Joint Operational Centre was convened to provide district-wide oversight, with more than fifty (50) stakeholders in attendance. This Forum now meets bi-weekly to monitor water security risks across the Garden Route District.

The municipality, together with its Provincial and National Government partners, is actively developing a comprehensive water augmentation programme to increase supply. Specialist teams from the National Government and the Private Sector have been working around the clock, conducting geohydrological assessments and engineering studies to ensure interventions are both effective and environmentally responsible.

Several augmentation projects are currently investigated, and some are underway and are expected to be operational within the next two weeks. These include developing two springs, Bigai and Bongani, and reconditioning and repairing seven existing boreholes, with a combined yield of approximately 3,2 megalitres per day. In addition, seven new boreholes will be drilled, with an anticipated yield of an additional 2,7 megalitres per day. All related supply chain processes have initiated and are progressing well to avoid delays.

The Knysna Municipality is also in the process of concluding an agreement with PG Bison, which has offered access to additional boreholes with an estimated yield of 3 megalitres per day. Once fully implemented, the total expected yield from all current augmentation initiatives is approximately 11 megalitres of potable water per day into the reticulation system. The total cost of these interventions is estimated at R58 million, underscoring the scale and urgency of the response. A funding application was also submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation on 14 January 2026 to cover the latter cost, and final feedback on the outcomes is pending.

Other initiatives to reduce water demand include the installation of conventional water meters to ensure the approximately 8,000 bypassed meters are reconnected to measure the consumption by customers over a given period. Law-Enforcement Officials will be deployed, and Level 4 restrictions will be communicated, monitored and intensified. Flow restrictors will be installed for users who are not adhering to the Level 4 water restrictions. The appointment of additional temporary plumbing teams is also being finalised with 5 x additional plumbers, 6 x water meter installers and 30 x general assistants to start on 19 January 2026 to ensure response times to major pipe bursts are reduced to 4-6 hours.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Section 55(1)(a) and (b) of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002**, reads as follows:

*“Declaration of local state of disaster*

*55. (1 ) In the event of a local disaster the council of a municipality having primary responsibility for the co-ordination and management of the disaster may, by notice in the provincial gazette, declare a local state of disaster if-*

*(a) existing legislation and contingency arrangements do not adequately provide for that municipality to deal effectively with the disaster; or*

*(b) other special circumstances warrant the declaration of a local state of disaster.”*

Section 55(1) have the effect that the Knysna Municipal Council is the delegated authority the initiate the process to declare an area in a state of disaster.

Furthermore, can the municipality confirm that it implemented level 4 water within the greater Knysna Municipal area, but this does not eradicate the potential eventual state of disaster that might occur.

**Section 54(1) to (4) of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002**, reads as follows:

***“Responsibilities in event of local disaster***

*54. (1) Irrespective of whether a local state of disaster has been declared in terms of section 55-*

*(a) the council of a metropolitan municipality is primarily responsible for the 15 co-ordination and management of local disasters that occur in its area; and*

*(b) the council of a district municipality, acting after consultation with the relevant local municipality, is primarily responsible for the co-ordinataion and management of local disasters that occur in its area.*

*(2) A district municipality and the relevant local municipality, despite subsection (1)(b), agree that the council of the local municipality assumes primary responsibility for the co-ordination and management of a local disaster that has occurred or may occur in the area of the local municipality.*

*(3) The municipality having primary responsibility for the co-ordination and management of a local disaster must deal with a local disaster-*

*(a) in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements, if a local state of disaster has not been declared in terms of section 55( 1): or*

*(b) in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements as augmented by by-laws or directions made or issued in terms of section 55(2), if a local state of disaster has been declared.*

*(4) This section does not preclude a national or provincial organ of state, or another municipality or municipal organ of state from providing assistance to a municipality to deal with a local disaster and its consequences.”*

Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57/2002, places certain duties on District Municipalities, Garden Route District in respect of Knysna Municipality, when dealing with the occurrence or the potential occurrence of a disaster.

Knysna Council must formally inform the Garden Route District Municipality in writing about its intention to declare the Knysna Municipal area a local disaster area, whilst resolving to declare the Knysna Municipal Area a Drought Disaster Area.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

The process for this declaration is as follows:

- a) Municipal Councils of both the Local and District Municipalities are to decide on whether to declare a local disaster.
- b) With the Council Resolution of the concerned municipality, the District Municipal Disaster Management Centre ("DMDMC") will have to request Provincial Disaster Management Centre ("PDMC") for the declaration of a local disaster.
- c) The next step would be that the Provincial Disaster Management Centre ("PDMC"), through a provincial cabinet resolution, recommend or not recommend the request for a local disaster declaration.
- d) The National Disaster Management Centre ("NDMC") will have to confirm the local disaster declaration through a classification process. The outcome of this classification process will determine the declaration of a local disaster, which then has to be published in the Provincial Gazette.

## **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002  
"Knysna Munisipaliteit Droogte Bestuur Beleid"

## **ROLEPLAYERS**

- Knysna Local Municipality (Council, Administration and Local Disaster Management Unit);
- Garden Route District Municipality and District Disaster Management Centre;
- Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre;
- National Disaster Management Centre;
- National Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Western Cape Department of Local Government;
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture;
- Departments of Health & Education
- South African Weather Service;
- Private Sector Partners (including PG Bison);
- Community Stakeholders and Ward Committees.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

- [a] That Council take note of the report from the Directors of Community Services and Infrastructure;
- [b] That Council take note that the Knysna Municipality is currently experiencing severe water challenges;
- [c] That the Department of Agriculture be urgently requested to conduct an Assessment report on the agricultural areas within the Knysna Municipal Area to establish the impact of the drought in this area;
- [d] That Council resolve that the Greater Knysna Municipal Area be declared as a Local Disaster Area due to the current drought situation and Water Reticulation Ageing Infrastructure Challenges.



- [e] That the Garden Route District Municipality be requested to support the classification and declaration of a local state of disaster in the Knysna Municipal Area;
- [f] That the Garden Route District Municipality be requested to assist the established Local Joint Operation Centre (JOC) with the coordination of both short- and long-term interventions needed to address this crisis;
- [g] That Council take note of the Water Augmentation Projects as indicated under the heading Operational Response and JOC Coordination;
- [h] That Council condone and confirm the initiative taken by the JOC on the installation of conventional water meters to ensure the approximately 8,000 bypassed metered are reconnected to the system for monitoring and billing purposes;
- [i] That Council reconfirm the continuation of the Local Joint Operation Centre under the Directorate of Community Services;
- [j] That Council acknowledges, with appreciation, the support received thus far from the Western Cape Department of Local Government, BOCMA and the National Department of Water and Sanitation.
- [k] That Council resolve that the contingency measures and the necessary preparations be made to implement, should we reach "DAY ZERO" in line with the relevant Policy Restriction Levels;
- [l] That the Community be informed through the Public Participation Unit on the protocol process of "DAY ZERO" if activated.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**-oOo-**