



SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2026
AT 9:00**

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C09/04/26 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 2026

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to Council an update on the operational performance, compliance status, challenges, and progress of the Solid Waste Management Section for the period January 2026 to March 2026, in line with Council-approved objectives and resolutions.

BACKGROUND

The Solid Waste Management Unit of Knysna Municipality is mandated to provide efficient, sustainable, and compliant waste management services across the Greater Knysna area, including Knysna, Sedgefield, and surrounding settlements. This mandate is executed in alignment with national and provincial legislation, as well as Council-approved policies, the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), and the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

During the period January 2026 to March 2026, the Unit continued to operate under significant operational and financial constraints, while striving to maintain service delivery standards. Key focus areas included ensuring the uninterrupted collection and transportation of domestic waste, improving compliance at waste management facilities, strengthening waste minimisation initiatives, and addressing infrastructure and fleet challenges.

The reporting period was characterised by increased pressure on the Waste Transfer Station, which remains a critical facility for the consolidation and transportation of waste to regional disposal sites. Mechanical breakdowns, particularly relating to the conveyor belt system, impacted operational efficiency and required interim measures, including the reallocation of resources and increased reliance on transport logistics.

In addition, the Unit continued to utilise the PetroSA facility in Mossel Bay for waste disposal on a month-to-month basis, pending the finalisation of long-term regional landfill agreements.

This arrangement has necessitated careful coordination of transport resources, including hook-lift systems and tipper trucks, to ensure that waste is removed timeously and in compliance with environmental standards.

Operationally, the Unit faced ongoing challenges related to an ageing fleet, limited availability of critical equipment, and staff shortages, particularly in driver and general worker positions. Despite these constraints, waste collection services were largely maintained, with contingency measures implemented where required.

Furthermore, the Unit intensified efforts to address illegal dumping, garden refuse management, and public compliance, working collaboratively with Law Enforcement and other municipal departments. These interventions contributed to a reduction in certain non-

compliant activities, although challenges persist, particularly in relation to illegal burning of waste and improper disposal practices.

The period also included continued engagement with the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) regarding regional waste management initiatives, including the review of the IWMP and discussions on the regional landfill site and associated service level agreements.

Overall, the January to March 2026 period reflects a continued commitment by the Solid Waste Management Unit to deliver essential services under constrained conditions, while actively planning for improved infrastructure, fleet capacity, and institutional strengthening in the upcoming financial year.

DISCUSSIONS

A. Waste Management Facilities and Compliance:

1. Waste Transfer Station:

The Waste Transfer Station remains a critical operational facility for the consolidation and transportation of waste to the PetroSA disposal site in Mossel Bay. During the reporting period, the facility experienced mechanical challenges, specifically the breakdown of the conveyor belt system and associated chain components.

Funding for the required repairs was approved during the Adjustment Budget, with maintenance scheduled for implementation between 20 and 24 April 2026. In the interim, contingency measures were implemented to ensure continuity of operations, including increased reliance on manual processes and alternative waste handling methods.

To sustain daily waste removal operations, the Unit utilised two hook-lift vehicles, each transporting approximately three open-top containers per trip, completing an average of two trips per day. This was further supplemented by four 30m³ tipper trucks operating between Knysna and Mossel Bay to manage the waste volumes effectively.

In support of improving operational capacity, the procurement process for an additional hook-lift vehicle is currently underway, with delivery anticipated by end of April 2026 or early May 2026. Requests for additional containerised and open-top bins were submitted; however, budgetary constraints limited procurement within the current financial year. These requirements have been resubmitted for consideration in the 2026/27 financial year.

2. Waste Fleet Status

The operational efficiency of the Solid Waste Unit is heavily dependent on the availability and reliability of its fleet. As of 07 April 2026, the fleet consists of a combination of relatively new and ageing compactor trucks, with several units currently non-operational due to mechanical failures.

Breakdowns include issues such as hydraulic failures, overheating, gearbox faults, and structural defects (e.g., mounted back area failure). Older vehicles, particularly those exceeding 15–20 years, are increasingly unreliable and costly to maintain. One vehicle has been identified for decommissioning and disposal through auction due to its unserviceable condition.

Despite these challenges, the Unit has managed to maintain a functional fleet of approximately eight operational compactors across Knysna and Sedgefield, supported by ongoing repairs and workshop interventions. However, the high frequency of breakdowns continues to place a strain on service delivery and resource allocation.

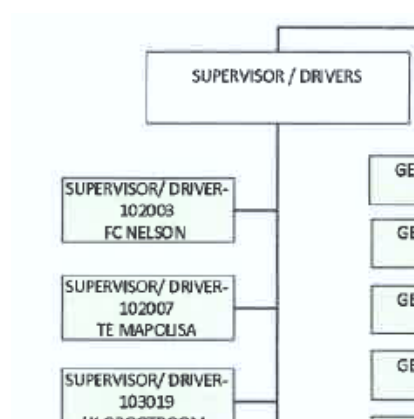
2. WASTE Vehicles:

As of 07 April 2026

Registration	Type	Year	Age	Drivers	Area	Working Y/N	Date	Problem
CX 69905	Compactor	2022	4	Koko	Knysna	Y	n/a	
CX 71376	Compactor	2022	4	Freddie	Knysna	Y	n/a	
CX 22069	Compactor	2022	4	Ashton (Acting)	Knysna	Y	n/a	
CX 69636	Compactor	2022	4	Jas	Sedgefield	N	Within the next week	Ramco – Mounted back area came loose
CX 53081	Compactor	2013	13	Johan	Sedgefield	N	Within the next week	Short - overheat
CX 41457	Compactor	2009	17	Johan (Use in Sedgefield) Knysna	Sedgefield	N	n/a	Workshop -Hydraulic nipple and V-Belt(awaiting parts)
CX 72250	Compactor	2022	4	Slinger (Acting)	Knysna	Y	n/a	
CX 69904	Compactor	2022	4	Jas (Knysna)	Knysna	Y	n/a	Sedgefield (Jas)

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CX 16479	Compactor	2015	11	(Benny)	Knysna	N	Within the next week	Short – Gearbox and tires
CX 30994	Compactor	2009	17	Benny	Knysna	Y		
CX 44145	Compactor	2009	17	Spare	Knysna	N		Shorts – Clutch and brakes
CX 44032	Compactor	2005	21		Knysna	N		No Lifters – Scrap Need to go on the auction list
CX 44033	Compactor	2005	21	Spare	Knysna	Y		
CX 28385	Compactor	2003	23	Spare	Knysna	N	Within the next 2 days.	Break -07 April (Hydraulic Pipes)
CX 26454	Hook-lift	2018	8	Roman	Knysna	Y		T/Station



Drivers:

Acting Drivers: x2 (Original Post GA)

- Need: Additional x2 driver and 8 GA (Northern Area)
- Urgently needs: x3 - Knysna x1 - Sedgefield on current Org Structure
- Plus, x4 for future expansion (include Sedgefield)
- Total Request for 8 posts on Org Review.

Hook-lift (Sift systems)

- x1 Heavy Duty and x1 Assistant
- Purchased new Hook-lift (Posts on Org Structure, but not funded)

Knysna

General Assistance (GA) – Refuse 28:

- Vacant = x3 – unfunded (25)
- x2 GA – Acting Drivers (23)
- x1 GA - Retired (22)

- x4/5 GA per/ Truck (average)

*x8 trucks = 32 GA

*x2 trucks (N/Areas) = 8 GA

40 GA – 28 GA = 12 GA (Solid waste post on Org Structure, the unit doesn't have)

Artisan Post (Transfer Station)

Currently, this position is not on the approved list Org Structure. However, this position is needed to Assist with artisan work at the Transfer Station, public toilets, and some repairs on the compactors. This post is also assisting the Parks Department with the repairs at the play parks.

Sedgefield

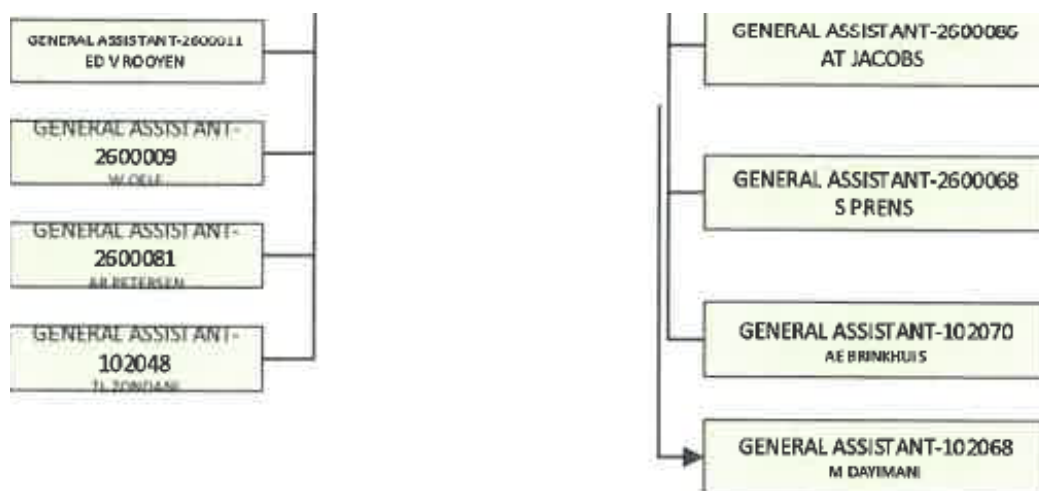
GENERAL ASSISTANT	
GENERAL ASSISTANT-103008 G WILDEMAN	GENERAL ASSISTANT E. LOURENS
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102034 J SLINGER	GENERAL ASSISTANT M. PEDRO
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102042 C SHOP	GENERAL ASSISTANT A. PIETERSEN
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102078 MP MAGXWALISA	GENERAL ASSISTANT M. WINDVEGEL
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102050 E PAUSLE	GENERAL ASSISTANT T. TOROTA
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102022 DD DAVIDSON	GENERAL ASSISTANT T. BOOI
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102013 AE HARKER	GENERAL ASSISTANT A. MAMASE
GENERAL ASSISTANT-103016 HJ PAULSE	GENERAL ASSISTANT K. PAULSE
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102010 WM DAVIDSON	GENERAL ASSISTANT D. JAPTA
GENERAL ASSISTANT-102023 MP MTHEMBU	GENERAL ASSISTANT E. FAKU
GENERAL ASSISTANT-35725008 DAYIMANI L	GENERAL ASSISTANT L. MAMBEA
GENERAL ASSISTANT-35725009 MJAMBA SJ	GENERAL ASSISTANT
GENERAL ASSISTANT S. NAKI	GENERAL ASSISTANT
GENERAL ASSISTANT W. PICK	GENERAL ASSISTANT

People resigned, but the posts were never filled (budget constraints). The current Org Structure, the only vacant post is of Mr. Krigga, the other was never filled and removed from Org Structure.

L. Ngaka – Refuse Removal Labourer
Z. Minto - Refuse Removal Labourer
L. M. Krigga – Caretaker Tipsite
N.R Mbenjane – Toilet Cleaner
Abraham Innis

Vacant = x1

- Additional truck = 1 Driver + 4 GA



Staffing and Human Resource Constraints (Expanded Explanation)

The Solid Waste Management Unit continues to experience significant staffing shortages, which directly impact operational efficiency and service delivery.

Although the Unit operates an average of **eight compactor trucks (Knysna) and only two (Sedgefield)**, not limited to the eight, the approved organisational structure provides for only **seven driver positions**. five (Knysna) and two (Sedgefield), resulting in a reliance on acting appointments and temporary internal arrangements. Currently:

- Two drivers are serving in acting capacities (from General Assistant positions)
- There is an immediate need for at least **four additional drivers** (three in Knysna and one in Sedgefield)
- Additional capacity will be required to support future service expansion plans

In terms of General Assistants (GA):

- Knysna currently has **28 GA positions (refuse)**, with:
 - 3 vacant (unfunded)
 - 2 acting as drivers

- 1 position lost due to retirement
- Based on operational requirements, approximately **40 GA positions** are needed to effectively support the current fleet, resulting in a shortfall of **12 positions**

In Sedgefield:

- One GA vacancy currently exist
- An additional refuse collection vehicle would require **1 driver and 4 GA staff**

Furthermore, the introduction of the new Hook-lift Refuse truck requires dedicated staffing, including:

- 1 Heavy Duty Driver
- 1 Assistant

Although most of these positions are reflected on the organisational structure, they remain unfunded.

To address both current operational gaps and future service delivery demands, a total of **ten additional positions** have been identified for inclusion in the organisational structure review process, which are:

Knysna:

- x3 Supervisor/Drivers
- x8 GA
- x1 Artisan

Sedgefield:

- x1 Supervisor/ Driver
- 10 GA

Ref.	Indicator	Status
1	Recycle 10% of the waste being transported to Mossel Bay per month during the 2024/2025 financial year	Figures included in the report below until the 22% being recycled.
2	Conduct an annual external audit of the landfill site by the end of August 2026 for the 2025/26 financial year	New RFQ for External Audit will be advertised within the next month. The next external audit to take place between May and June 2026.
3	Review of the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP)	Garden Route District Municipality went out on tender to appoint a service provider. All B Municipality signed a service level agreement (SLA) with GRDM. GRDM has also requested an extension of the review of the 3rd Generation IWMP for all the municipalities within the GRDM. The purpose of the request is to align the IWMPs, which extend to 2025, with the current Integrated Development Plan (IDP) cycle, which is currently 2022-2027. Extension was granted with conditions: • An update on the progress with implementation of the 3rd generation IWMPs (2020 – 2025). However, the current IDP cycle only end 2027. Thus, during the next Regional Waste Forum meeting, this issue will be discussed. DCOG also requested a review of the IWMP and the assistance they wish to provide to the municipality.
4	Regional landfill site	• SLA not signed with GRDM, requested to change from a “flat rate” to a “rate-based” payment option. • The municipalities in the Garden Route are still dumping on a month-to-month basis at Petro SA; height extension is granted • Next Regional Landfill Participating Municipalities Committee Meeting held on 05 February 2026.

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The status in terms of household refuse and recycling is depicted as outlined in the figure below.

HOUSEHOLD REFUSE VS RECYCLING 2025-2026													
Month	Jul-25	Tariff adju (May, Jun, July)	Aug-25	Sept-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
PetroSA Rand Value (incl VAT)	R292 154,06	R 291 415,36	R436 631,24	R400 659,79	R576 241,22	R465 278,20	R823 671,86	R506 739,48	R414 891,86	R557 456,44			
Waste Unit (Ton) - PetroSA	800		909	835	1201	971	1708	1046	863	1217			
DM Recycling - Rand Value	R169 050,00		R166 290,00	R158 700,00	R169 050,00	R172 500,00	R181 470,00	R188 370,00	R186 300,00	R188 370,00			
Recycling (TON) -DM Recycling	245		241	230	245	250	263	273	270	273			
Masiqhame - Rand Value	R 37 252,35		R 49 178,77	R 42 171,06	R 47 477,35	R 41 721,60	R 29 644,01	no data	no data	no data			
Recycling (TON) -MASIQHAME	59		78	83	75	66	47						
TOTAL TON RECYCLED (TON)	304		319	313	320	316	310	273	270	273	0	0	0
Percentage Recycled waste%	38%		35%	38%	27%	33%	18%	26%	31%	22%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003
- National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) in South Africa,
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008)
- Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989)

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996).
- The Local government: Municipal System Act (No 32 of 2000).
- National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
- National Environmental Management Act: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004 as amended).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

That Council notes the report on the solid waste unit.

File Number:

Execution: Director Community Services
Acting: Manager Solid Waste

7. CLOSURE

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