



**COUNCIL NEWS**  
June 2026



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S DESK



With local government elections now proclaimed for 4 November 2026, this newsletter contains the final municipal budget of the current Council term. It is therefore both a moment of reflection and a moment to look ahead.

Difficult decisions had to be made to ensure that we place Greater Knysna on a stronger and more sustainable path. Our vision remains clear: to restore Knysna as the Jewel of the Garden Route, and to build a municipality that is clean, functional, financially stable and attractive for residents, businesses, and investors.

Maintaining infrastructure is not simply about fixing pipes, roads, substations, or stormwater systems. It is about creating the conditions for economic growth, job creation, tourism and investment. This budget places strong emphasis on infrastructure renewal and maintenance. While residents will continue to see repairs and upgrades taking place across our towns and wards, these projects are also intended to stimulate local economic activity and improve service delivery over the long term.

At the same time, we remain mindful of the pressures facing many households. The rising cost of living continues to impact especially lower-income families, pensioners, and vulnerable residents. I encourage all qualifying residents to reapply for social rebates on rates and service charges.

This month marks Youth Month, a significant reminder of the sacrifices made by previous generations to secure the freedoms we enjoy today. Our young people carry enormous potential, and they must seize the opportunities available to them through education, skills development, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

The future cannot be built on dependency alone. Young people must be encouraged to move beyond the expectation of handouts and become active participants in building their own futures and strengthening our economy. Government can create opportunities and enabling conditions, but ultimately it is the energy, discipline, creativity and determination of our youth that will shape the future of this municipality and country.

Let us continue working together to build a municipality we can all be proud of, one that creates opportunity, restores confidence, and which is inclusive, innovative and inspired.

‘til next time

**Thando Matika – EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

# FROM THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S OFFICE



Accountability in local government is not optional. It is a responsibility we carry on behalf of every resident who places their trust in this municipality. That is why the recent R10 million fine imposed on the municipality relating to several statutory environmental contraventions is a matter we must confront honestly and directly.

Quite simply, this should not have happened.

We must acknowledge where we went wrong. While the matter has now been finalised through a plea and sentence agreement, it serves as a serious reminder that compliance with environmental legislation and operational standards can never be treated lightly. We respect the conditions of the agreement and accept the responsibility that comes with it.

More importantly, we are committed to ensuring that the corrective measures arising from this process are implemented effectively, transparently, and without delay. The repair process is non-negotiable. Residents deserve to know that lessons are being acted upon and that systems are being strengthened to prevent similar failures in future.

Consequence management can no longer simply be words used in reports and meetings. It must translate into accountability, improved oversight, and measurable action. Knysna deserves better, and it is our responsibility as public servants to ensure that we rebuild public confidence through our actions.

The municipality faced severe weather conditions which caused damage to property, infrastructure and disrupted services in several communities in May. I thank our municipal staff, emergency personnel, contractors, and supporting agencies who worked long hours under extremely challenging conditions to restore services, clear roads, respond to residents, and ensure that communities remained safe.

We recently bid farewell to our Chief Financial Officer, Mr Clifford Julies, who had to step down due to ill health. Mr Julies played a major role in strengthening the municipality's financial position and restoring stability within the organisation during a particularly challenging period in our history.



On behalf of the administration and Council, I wish to extend sincere gratitude to him for his professionalism, leadership, and years of dedicated service to the people of Knysna. We wish him strength, good health, and a long and prosperous retirement with his family. The process to fill this critical position has already commenced to ensure continuity and stability within the municipality's financial administration.

We remain committed to building a municipality that is inclusive, innovative, and responsive to the needs of all residents.

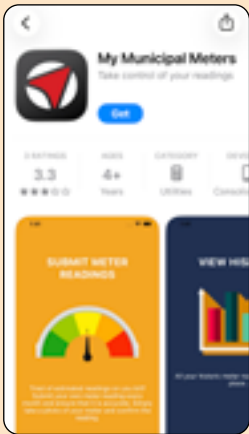
Kind regards

**Boy Ngubo – ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

## 1. Submit your meter readings easily with the My Municipal Meter App and WhatsApp

We encourage all residents to ensure accurate billing by submitting their own electricity and water meter readings using the MY MUNICIPAL METER app. For enquiries, please contact Enrico Oosthuizen at [eoosthuizen@knysna.gov.za](mailto:eoosthuizen@knysna.gov.za) or 044 302 6408.

Available on all mobile platforms.



## 2. Receive your monthly bill via e-mail

To receive your monthly account electronically, send an email to [accounts@knysna.gov.za](mailto:accounts@knysna.gov.za).



APPROVED BUDGET: A STRATEGIC PLAN TO RESTORE THE JEWEL OF THE GARDEN ROUTE

The **R1.57 billion** 2026/2027 Annual Budget has officially been approved. This marks a decisive shift toward financial stability and a massive reinvestment in our town’s crumbling infrastructure. The budget includes a total revenue budget of R1.57 billion and an operating expenditure budget of R1.53 billion, resulting in a projected surplus of R42.1 million. Most notably, the capital expenditure budget has seen a significant increase to R249.3 million, up from R137 million in the previous year.

The budget is unapologetically focused on restoring the municipal infrastructure backbone. Approximately 80% of the capital budget, roughly R200 million, is dedicated to infrastructure projects that include electricity, roads, stormwater, water and sewerage.

Key projects funded in this cycle include:

- **R15 million** over the Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework period for the refurbishment of the Knysna **Wastewater Treatment Works**.

R15m

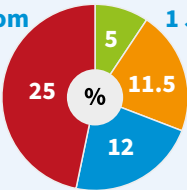
R30m

R11.6m
- **R30 million** for network **pumpstation upgrades** across Greater Knysna.
- **R11.6 million** for the urgent upgrade of the **CBD sewer pumpstation and sewers**.
- Water security initiatives including **pipe replacements** in Westhill and Old Place to reduce non-revenue water losses, and the installation of **8,000 new water meters** to ensure fair billing.
- **Road rehabilitation**, specifically the resurfacing of George Rex Drive and flood-damaged access routes: R5 million 2026/2027, R8,9 million 2027/2028 and R8 million for 2028/2029 financial year.
- **R2.8 million** for the **Homeless shelter** construction.

This is a cash preservation budget, designed to manage our cash flow while moving critical infrastructure projects forward. To address service delivery challenges and rising costs, and to ensure the municipality remains a going concern capable of providing sustainable services, Council approved the implementation of cost-reflective tariffs.

The tariff increases effective from 1 July 2026 are:

- Property Rates
- Electricity
- Water and Sanitation
- Refuse



The steep 25% increase in refuse tariffs is a painful necessity driven by the escalating costs of outsourced truck hire, which currently costs the town R8.4 million. Our reliance on expensive, outsourced service delivery is a model we must move away from by rebuilding our internal capacity. By filling critical vacancies in our infrastructure department and the Project Management Office, we are ensuring that we have the warm bodies needed to implement these projects ourselves and save the taxpayers’ money in the long run.

Addressing a social focus beyond infrastructure, the budget makes provision for ward-specific community needs. This includes **R1 million for mayoral projects**, **R1 million for the Expanded Public Works Programme**, and **R2.25 million for housing rectification** across several wards (including Wards 1 through 8 and Ward 11).

The approval of the budget and the 2026/2027 Integrated Development Plan signifies a dedication to improving and preserving the long-term health of the region. While the road to full recovery is littered with challenges, the municipality is now equipped with a funded, balanced budget to begin the hard work of restoration.

The approved budget and budget related policies are available on the municipal website at [www.knysna.gov.za/government/important-documents/budget-and-related-documents/](http://www.knysna.gov.za/government/important-documents/budget-and-related-documents/).



**3. Download the Collab App** for easy, effective communication

Remember to download the Collaborator Citizen Application (Collab App) and to subscribe to the Knysna Municipality channel.

ON THE STAFF FRONT

Meet our new Manager: Environmental Management, Philip Hendricks



From the small town of Riversdale to travelling across the country in pursuit of his dreams and passion, Mr. Philip Hendricks embodies the saying “*get uncomfortable before you get comfortable*”.

Born in Riversdale, Philip completed his primary schooling in Melkhoutfontein before returning to Riversdale for his high school education. Raised in a household where both parents were educators, learning and personal development became core principles that shaped his future.

After high school, he relocated to Cape Town to study at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, where he obtained both his National Diploma and BTech degree in Environmental Management. In 2009, he also completed a certificate in Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, qualifying as an Environmental Management Inspector.

In 2008, he was given the opportunity to participate in a six-month internship programme at Hessequa Local Municipality. In 2011, he joined OptiPower Projects as an Environmental Officer and was deployed to Mthatha within two months, where he spent two years working on-site and further developing his professional expertise.

Appointed as Assistant Environmental Officer, he returned to Hessequa Municipality in 2013. Through dedication and hard work, he was promoted to the position of Senior Environmental Officer, a role he fulfilled for more than eight years while contributing significantly to environmental management initiatives within the municipality. Philip has also been designated as an Environmental Management Inspector (Green Scorpion) for more than 10 years, demonstrating his commitment to environmental compliance and enforcement.

He accepted the role of Environmental Management Manager at Knysna Municipality earlier this year. Once again, this required him to relocate and spend time away from his wife and children in pursuit of professional growth and service to local government.

We welcome Philip and wish him many years of success in guiding our environmental management team. >>>





### Knysna engineers exchange ideas with SAICE President

Officials from the Infrastructure Services Department had the opportunity to engage with Chris Roth, President of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE), on critical industry issues during a session held on 5 May.

The purpose of the engagement was to discuss key challenges currently experienced by engineers within the industry and to explore ways in which SAICE can provide support and assistance in addressing these challenges.

### New appointments

We are filling various vacant positions within our organisation as part of our ongoing commitment to improve on service delivery. By appointing qualified, knowledgeable and experienced candidates, we aim to ensure efficient and effective services for our residents. We are pleased to introduce the following individuals who have recently joined our team:



**Ms Charlene April**  
Senior Clerk: Expenditure



**Ms Gaynor Kangela**  
Meter Reader



**Ms Aviwe Yona**  
Cashier: Income



**Ms Pumelela Pike**  
Cashier: Income



**Mr Byron Botha**  
Superintendent Water and  
Wastewater Reticulation

### LEVEL 4 WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

Level 4 water restrictions remain in place. Municipal potable water is for human consumption only; Limited to less than 50 litres per person per day.

Residents should report water wastage or broken pipes on 044 302 6311 or **WhatsApp** 060 998 7032.



### GREEN COLUMN ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY: PROTECTING WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Endangered Species Day, observed on the third Friday of May, raises awareness about animals and plants at risk of extinction. This day reminds communities, governments, and organizations of the importance of protecting biodiversity and preserving ecosystems that support life on Earth.

Our rich biodiversity, indigenous forests, and estuarine ecosystems provide habitats for endangered species such as the Knysna Seahorse, dwarf chameleon and Brenton Blue butterfly. The commemoration highlights the importance of protecting local ecosystems through conservation efforts, clean-up campaigns and environmental awareness to ensure the survival of species for future generations.

Many species become endangered because of habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, illegal hunting, overfishing, and other human activities. Forest clearing, water pollution and urban development often destroy the natural habitats of animals, leaving them without food or shelter. The extinction of one species can disrupt ecosystems and negatively affect other plants, animals, and even human communities.

Protecting rivers, wetlands, forests, and oceans is essential to ensuring that endangered species survive and continue to play their role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Communities can contribute to protecting endangered species by reducing pollution, avoiding illegal wildlife products, conserving water, planting indigenous vegetation, and supporting conservation programmes. Small actions, when done collectively, can make a significant difference in protecting biodiversity.

Check the links below to access the full profiles on Knysna's threatened species and find out how you can contribute to their conservation.

[www.visitknysna.co.za/explore/rainy-day/the-knysna-seahorse-the-only-known-true-estuarine-species/](http://www.visitknysna.co.za/explore/rainy-day/the-knysna-seahorse-the-only-known-true-estuarine-species/)  
[www.candlewood.co.za/big-5-knysna/](http://www.candlewood.co.za/big-5-knysna/)

### 4. WhatsApp Channel

You can now follow the Knysna Municipality WhatsApp channel for important news, updates and other information.

Find us by scanning:

