

COUNCIL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL



IN SEPTEMBER, WE
CELEBRATE SPRING!

African Paradise Flycatcher: The undisputed star of spring arrivals in the Garden Route. Known for the male's spectacular, trailing orange-rufous tail and bright blue eye-rings, they are highly active as they build nests in the canopy.



p. 02

WATER RESTRICTIONS

p. 03
PUBLIC INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY
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inclusive
innovative
inspired



FROM THE **EXECUTIVE** **MAYOR'S DESK**

Celebrating the people and places that make Knysna special.

September is a month that reminds us who we are and what we have to offer.

It is Tourism Month, Heritage Month and Public Service Month, and we mark World Environmental Health Day on 26 September. Each of these observances speaks to an important part of the Greater Knysna story: our people, our culture, our natural environment and our responsibility to one another.

Recent events have also reminded us of the importance of working together as a community.

The tragic killing of former Knysna Mayor and Ward 8 Councillor **Aubrey Tsengwa**, followed a day later by the shooting of former Ward 7 Councillor **Mandla Matiwane**, has deeply affected



many people in Knysna. Violence has no place in our communities. As we mourn the loss of Councillor



Councillor

Tsengwa and former Councillor Matiwane, we must reaffirm our commitment to safety, dignity, respect and peaceful communities where everyone can live, work and participate without fear.

At the same time, we must not allow tragedy to define who we are.



Knysna remains a welcoming destination and is open for business. Our tourism establishments, restaurants, attractions and small businesses continue to welcome visitors and our natural beauty remains as extraordinary as ever. Tourism is not simply about visitors; it supports livelihoods, creates opportunities and connects communities.

Our greatest tourism asset, however, is not only the lagoon, forests, beaches or mountains. It is the people who give this place its character. Greater Knysna is a cultural canvas painted by many communities, traditions, languages, histories, talents and stories. This diversity is something to celebrate and protect.

Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to appreciate that richness while looking towards the future. Events such as the forthcoming Artisan Culture programme are examples of how creativity, heritage and entrepreneurship can come together to showcase the people and skills that make our destination unique.

Our environment is equally central to our identity and our economy. World Environmental Health Day reminds us that healthy communities

depend on healthy environments. As we continue to manage our water resources responsibly, we must remember that protecting our rivers, forests, coastline and other natural assets is not only an environmental responsibility, but an investment in the future of our communities and our tourism economy.

There is much to be proud of in Greater Knysna. Let us use this month to celebrate our people, support our local businesses, welcome our visitors, protect our environment and, above all, continue building a community in which everyone has a place.

This is our Knysna: diverse, resilient, creative, welcoming and naturally extraordinary.

Let us continue to tell that story - inclusively.

‘til next time

Thando Matika – EXECUTIVE MAYOR



FROM THE

MM'S DESK

A new season, a renewed focus

Spring brings with it a sense of renewal, a reminder that every new season presents an opportunity to take stock, learn from the past and move forward with purpose. This is true for our municipality as well. We know there is much work to be done, and we remain firmly focused on getting Greater Knysna back on track.

The recent authorisation of a Special Investigating Unit investigation into alleged irregularities relating to a municipal security tender is an important development. The municipality will provide its full cooperation to the SIU and make the information and documentation required available. Where wrongdoing is found, it must be addressed. It cannot simply be swept under the carpet. Accountability and good governance are essential to restoring and maintaining public trust.

There has also been considerable public discussion about whether I will remain in my position as Acting Municipal Manager. At present, the Council has delegated the Executive Mayor to sign my contract, and that contract remains in place. There are legal

processes and differing views surrounding the matter, and these must be allowed to run their course.

I want to reassure residents that, irrespective of these processes, the municipality remains stable and the administration continues with its work. Our officials are focused on service delivery, infrastructure, financial management and the many responsibilities that affect residents' daily lives.

The progress being made through the Strengthened Section 154 Support Plan is evidence that focused intervention, cooperation and hard work can produce results. We are seeing improvements across key areas, while recognising that significant challenges remain. The work of rebuilding cannot stop because of uncertainty or

distraction.

September is also Public Service Month, an appropriate time to remind ourselves that local government exists to serve. Our responsibility is to put residents first, to act with integrity and to keep working towards a municipality that is responsive, accountable and capable of delivering.

As spring begins, so too does another opportunity to renew our commitment to the people of Greater Knysna.

There is still much to do, but we are doing the work. And we will continue doing so.

Kind regards

Boy Ngubo
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

WATER RESTRICTIONS EASED AS KNYSNA DAM LEVELS IMPROVE

Greater Knysna's water restriction level has been lowered from Level 4 to Level 2, following improvements to the municipal water reticulation system and increased river flows.

The Akkerkloof storage dam, which serves as the key indicator for determining water restriction levels, has risen steadily in recent weeks. Repairs to the Charlesford pump station, together with increased river flows, have contributed to an average increase of approximately 4% per week in the dam's water level.

The Akkerkloof dam, at the time of print, is currently at 65%, placing it within the Level 2 restriction bracket.

Under Level 2 water restrictions, municipal potable water is restricted to human consumption and business use. The watering of gardens and washing of cars and boats are prohibited.

Domestic water consumption is limited to 20 000 litres per household per month. Households exceeding this limit on two occasions may have water-restricting or water-management devices installed. Households receiving a free basic water allocation are limited to 6 000 litres per household per month.

The construction industry, car washes and nurseries are required to use alternative water sources.

The reduction from Level 4 to Level 2 also brings a reduction in the applicable drought tariff. The drought tariff has been reduced from Stage 3 to Stage 1. Consumers exceeding the 20 000-litre monthly domestic consumption limit will therefore be charged an additional 50% of the approved water consumption tariff.

Despite the improved dam levels, continued water conservation remains important. Knysna remains dependent on rainfall and river flows, leaving our water resources vulnerable to changing weather conditions.

The current El Niño event is expected to contribute to higher temperatures and drier conditions. Forecasts indicate the potential for below-normal rainfall during the spring and summer months, placing continued pressure on available water resources.

The improved condition of the Akkerkloof dam reflects ongoing maintenance and repairs to the water network, as well as cooperation between national and provincial government, local stakeholders and the community.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to maintain water-saving practices and implement responsible water-harvesting measures to help protect our water resources during the warmer and potentially drier months ahead.



PUBLIC INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON PROPOSED KARATARA MUNICIPAL POUND

A municipal-owned property in Karatara has been identified as a potential site for a dedicated municipal pound for stray livestock. This proposal will now be subject to a public participation process.

A portion of Erf 240, covering just over 2.4 hectares, has been identified as a suitable site. The property is zoned Agricultural Zone 1 and is situated away from residential areas while remaining relatively central within the municipal area (Sedgefield to Brackenhill).

The municipality is responsible for impounding stray and wandering animals where necessary, to protect public safety, road users and private property. Knysna currently does not have its own municipal pound, with stray livestock previously transported to the George SPCA. That arrangement has been discontinued due to the national foot-and-mouth disease situation.

A local pound could reduce response times and transportation costs while serving as a dedicated facility to manage impounded livestock and improve animal welfare. Any impoundments, fines and reclamation fees would be administered in accordance with the Knysna Municipality Animal Keeping and Pound By-law.

The proposed facility would require site preparation, drainage, fencing, ramps, storage facilities, offices and ablutions, as well as water and electricity infrastructure. Operational requirements would include appropriately trained staff, animal feed, veterinary services, waste disposal, fuel and ongoing maintenance.

Although no funding was initially provided for the facility in the 2026/2027 capital budget, Council has resolved to make R1.15 million available as a matter of urgency should the proposal ultimately be approved. This includes an estimated R650 000 in once-off capital expenditure and R500 000 in operational costs for the current financial year.

The proposed pound is intended to address the ongoing challenge of stray livestock while ensuring that animals are handled in accordance with applicable by-laws and appropriate animal welfare standards. The public participation process will give the community an opportunity to scrutinise the proposal, raise concerns and contribute to shaping a practical solution for us all.

For information, please contact Siyasanga Vandala at svandala@knysna.gov.za or telephone 044 302 6492.

ON THE STAFF FRONT

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 individual who has recently joined our team:

Mr Anelisa Yani
Manager: Waste Management



VANDALISM COSTS US ALL

Several communities across Greater Knysna experienced electricity outages during August as a result of cable theft and the vandalism of electrical infrastructure.

For affected residents, the impact is immediate and personal. Electricity is essential to our daily lives. Outages disrupt households, businesses, schools and essential services, and can result in spoiled food, interrupted work, additional transportation costs and other unexpected expenses.

But there is another cost that is less visible.

When cables and other municipal infrastructure are stolen or damaged, municipal teams must divert time, equipment and money from planned maintenance and service delivery to emergency repairs and replacement. These are resources that could otherwise be used to improve and expand services.

Ultimately, the cost is carried by the community.

Other municipalities have faced similar challenges and their experience points to an

important lesson: enforcement alone is not enough. Protecting infrastructure requires cooperation between municipalities, law enforcement, businesses and residents. Communities are often the first to notice suspicious activity, and prompt reporting can help prevent damage, identify offenders and reduce the duration and impact of outages.

Residents should never attempt to repair, reconnect or interfere with damaged electrical infrastructure themselves. Exposed cables, damaged equipment and illegal connections can be fatal. Rather keep a safe distance and immediately report the problem to the appropriate authorities.

Municipal infrastructure belongs to all of us. Protecting it is therefore not simply the municipality’s responsibility, but it is a shared responsibility.

Every cable stolen is more than a piece of metal. It can mean another outage, another repair bill, another disruption to a household or business, and money diverted from other services.

We can do better. By reporting suspicious

activity, refusing to support the market for stolen materials and treating public infrastructure as a community asset, residents can play an important role in protecting the services on which we all depend.

Report damaged electrical infrastructure and suspected vandalism to 044 302 6397 / 044 302 6399.



LEVEL 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED

Level 2 water restrictions are currently being implemented.
Under Level 2 restrictions:

- Municipal potable water is restricted to human consumption and business use. Gardens may not be watered, and cars or boats may not be washed.
- Domestic consumption is limited to 20 000 litres per household per month.
- Households exceeding this limit on two occasions may have water-restricting/management devices installed.
- Households receiving free basic water are limited to 6 000 litres per month.
- Construction, car washes and nurseries must use alternative water sources.

Let’s continue using water responsibly and maintain our water-saving habits. **Every drop counts! Be Knys, Save Water.**
To report leaks, pipe bursts and water misuse:

WhatsApp 060 998 7032 



1. WhatsApp Channel

You can now follow the Knysna Municipality WhatsApp channel for important news, updates and other information. Find us at <https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaddGzkKwqSX9z7fPm2V>.

2. 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.



3. 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 or 044 302 6408.



4. Receive your monthly bill via e-mail

To receive your monthly account electronically, send an email to accounts@knysna.gov.za.