



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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28 May 2026

Ms. Jacqui Visser
16 de la Vigne Street
Riviersonderend

Email: jacvisser@mweb.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

Municipal Response on Comments Received Draft Budget 2026-2027

Thank you for your participation in the public meeting held in Riviersonderend on 8 April 2026 and for taking the time to submit your detailed concerns regarding the Draft Budget 2026/2027.

The Municipality acknowledges the pressures currently being experienced by many households, particularly pensioners and residents on fixed incomes. We recognise that tariff and rates increases have a direct impact on affordability, especially in smaller towns where economic growth opportunities remain limited. Your concerns in this regard are understood and appreciated.

As outlined during the public participation process and reflected in the Mayor's foreword to the draft budget, the Municipality is currently operating within a constrained financial environment while implementing a Financial Recovery Plan aimed at restoring long-term financial sustainability. In this context, tariff considerations are informed by a range of factors, including rising operational costs, ageing infrastructure, bulk service increases, regulatory requirements and the need to maintain essential service delivery.

The concern you raise regarding the cumulative impact of above-inflation increases over time, particularly in relation to rates affordability and revenue collection, is an important one and forms part of the broader considerations currently being assessed through the public participation process.

We also note your comments regarding service delivery standards, preventative maintenance and operational efficiency. The Municipality recognises that residents expect visible value and sustainable infrastructure management alongside tariff

adjustments. These concerns have been recorded and formed part of the feedback considered before the final adoption. We can assure you that the municipality aims to structure tariffs in a way that promotes fairness and equity, while still recovering the actual cost of supply. Our decisions were also informed by a cost of supply study conducted, while trying to keep it as affordable as possible for consumers.

We thank you once again for your constructive submission and for engaging with the Municipality on matters affecting the future sustainability of our communities.

All public inputs were considered and discussed at a Council Workshop that took place on 14 May 2026. The matters raised were further deliberated at the Budget Steering Committee meeting on 18 May 2026.

The final budget, together with consideration of all comments received, was tabled at the Council meeting on 28 May 2026 for final approval.

This response serves as the municipality's formal reply on the matter. We appreciate your constructive input and your continued interest in the development of Riviersonderend.

Yours in Service Delivery

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Mr. GW Hermanus
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER
THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY