



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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28 May 2026

Mr. Gerrit Le Roux
23 De La Vigne straat
Riviersonderend

Email: gdlr@icon.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

Municipal Response on Comments Received Draft Budget 2026-2027

Thank you for your detailed submission and for the considerable effort that went into compiling your questions, proposals and concerns regarding the Draft Budget 2026/2027 and the public participation process in Riviersonderend.

The Municipality acknowledges the frustration expressed by residents regarding the level of detail available during the public participation engagements, as well as the concern that greater consultation at town level should ideally take place earlier in the planning and budgeting process. Your comments in this regard are valued and we will find a way to incorporate your suggestions into our processes going forward.

The issues raised in your submission cover a broad range of financial, operational and service delivery matters, including tariff increases, revenue assumptions, debt collection, infrastructure priorities, staffing, capital allocations and service delivery needs specific to Riviersonderend. These matters have been formally recorded as part of the public participation process and was discussed as part of the considerations and debates before the final budget was adopted by Council.

As outlined 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, the Municipality has had to balance affordability, service delivery obligations, infrastructure pressures, cash flow management and regulatory compliance within a significantly reduced capital and operating framework.

Your concerns regarding the affordability of proposed tariff increases, particularly within lower-income communities, are fully acknowledged. The Municipality also

notes your comments relating to the impact of debt recovery assumptions, bad debt provisions and collection targets on the credibility and sustainability of the budget.

With regard to the various technical and financial questions raised in your submission, including matters relating to borrowing, debtors, cash flow assumptions, water infrastructure, capital prioritisation and town-specific service delivery allocations, these will be referred to the relevant departments as part of the ongoing review and refinement process currently underway. As part of the Financial Recovery Plan we have a weekly cash-flow committee that meets with representatives of Provincial Government and all of our current priorities and fund allocations are influenced by the oversight and decisions made during these weekly engagements on our available cash-flow.

We also note the strong emphasis placed in your submission on accountability, measurable performance targets, infrastructure maintenance and operational efficiency. The expectation from residents that available resources should translate into visible and sustainable service delivery is both understood and recognised and we assure you it is what we are working towards.

In relation to the requests concerning Riviersonderend-specific projects and priorities, including water quality improvements, roads, stormwater infrastructure, waste management and operational capacity, the Municipality acknowledges the importance of these matters to the community. Inputs received through the public participation process assist Council and administration in assessing priorities within the financial limitations currently faced by the Municipality.

The first round of public participation engagements has now concluded, however further opportunities for engagement will still be available. The Municipality remains committed to ensuring that all submissions receives the necessary attention.

Thank you once again for your constructive engagement and continued interest in the future development and sustainability of Riviersonderend.

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