



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Theewaterskloof Municipality – Administrative Head Office
6 Plein Street, PO Box 24 Caledon, Western Cape, 7230
Tel: +27 (28) 2143300 | Fax: +27 (28) 2141289
Website: www.twk.gov.za

28 May 2026

Mr. Sarel Stone
Villiersdorp

Email: sarelstone52@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Municipal Response on Comments Received Draft Budget 2026-2027

Thank you for your submission regarding the Draft Budget 2026/2027 and for the time taken to set out your concerns and observations in detail.

The Municipality notes the seriousness of the issues raised in your correspondence, particularly those relating to the Financial Recovery Plan (FRP), affordability, infrastructure investment, debt recovery, governance, service delivery priorities and the public participation process itself.

As correctly noted in your submission, the Municipality is currently operating within the framework of an approved Financial Recovery Plan aimed at restoring long-term financial stability and institutional sustainability. The preparation of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget has therefore required difficult decisions and a careful balancing of available resources against operational realities, ageing infrastructure, regulatory obligations and community service expectations.

Your comments regarding the prioritisation of core services such as water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal are acknowledged. The Municipality is acutely aware that the sustainability of these essential services remains critical, particularly within the current financial environment.

At the same time, concerns raised regarding roads, stormwater infrastructure and maintenance backlogs are recognised as legitimate service delivery pressures experienced by communities across the municipal area.

The concerns raised in relation to staffing levels, salary-related expenditure, debtors, creditors, revenue assumptions and cash flow projections have been formally

recorded as part of the public participation process. We also note your views regarding the interpretation of certain financial tables and assumptions contained within the draft budget documentation. These matters form part of the ongoing internal review process as public submissions are consolidated and assessed.

Your comments regarding electricity and water losses, debt recovery, operational efficiency and governance matters are similarly noted. The Municipality recognises that residents expect measurable improvement in financial discipline, accountability and service delivery performance while the institution is under financial recovery. We assure you that the establishment of our weekly cash-flow committee aims to address this and has already implemented many cost containment strategies.

With regard to the public participation process, the Municipality acknowledges the concern that residents would prefer more detailed, town-focused engagement and greater opportunity to influence priorities earlier in the planning cycle. Public participation remains an important component of the budget process and we assure you all submissions received are formally considered and debated before the final budget. We will also try to improve on the format of these engagements for future budget cycles. The Municipality further notes your request for engagement and appreciates the constructive manner in which several recommendations and proposals were put forward in your submission.

We thank you 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 continued interest in the development of Villiersdorp.

Yours in Service Delivery

.....
Mr. GW Hermanus
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER
THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY