



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Theewaterskloof Municipality – Administrative Head Office
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28 May 2026

Mr. Gerrit Visser
20 Main Road
Riviersonderend

Email: gerritvisser@mweb.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

Municipal Response on Comments Received Draft Budget 2026-2027

Thank you for your correspondence and for again taking the time to engage with the Municipality on matters affecting both your business and the broader economic future of the town.

Your concerns regarding the long-term escalation of municipal charges, the visible deterioration of certain municipal infrastructure and the impact this has on investor confidence and business sustainability are understood. We also acknowledge the frustration expressed in your letter that residents and business owners often feel that tariff increases are not being matched by visible improvements in the municipal environment.

The Municipality does not dismiss these concerns. We recognise that the condition of public infrastructure, municipal facilities and general upkeep directly influences economic activity, property values and the willingness of investors to commit to an area. This is particularly relevant in smaller towns where local businesses play a critical role in sustaining employment and economic stability.

As you correctly point out, Theewaterskloof Municipality is currently operating under a Financial Recovery Plan. While this has placed significant limitations on spending, particularly on new projects and broader capital expansion, it has also forced the Municipality to confront longstanding structural and financial challenges that can no longer be deferred.

One of the key interventions already implemented is the establishment of a weekly cash flow and financial management committee, which includes oversight participation from Provincial Government. Through this process, multiple cost-containment and financial control measures have already been introduced to

improve financial discipline, strengthen oversight and streamline outdated internal processes that have contributed to inefficiencies over time.

The current phase of the Financial Recovery Plan is focused primarily on stabilising the Municipality financially and ensuring that core service obligations can be sustained responsibly. While this necessarily limits the Municipality's ability to immediately address every infrastructure concern raised by communities, it is intended to create a more stable foundation from which investment, maintenance and long-term improvements can realistically be pursued.

Importantly, the Municipality remains committed to improving the environment for businesses and investment across the municipal area. This includes ongoing work to simplify and modernise internal processes, improve operational efficiency and rebuild institutional credibility over time.

Your request for direct engagement is noted and appreciated. The willingness to provide supporting information and practical examples of the challenges experienced on the ground contributes meaningfully to the broader discussion around economic sustainability and service delivery.

We thank you for your constructive submission and for engaging with the Municipality on matters affecting the future sustainability of our communities and we will provide further opportunities for engagement for the Municipality and stakeholders to work together.

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 input and your continued interest in the development of your Town.

Yours in Service Delivery

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Mr. GW Hermanus
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER
THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY