



3 December 2025

Dr Lulamile Mapholoba
Municipal Manager, Knysna Municipality

Minister Anton Bredell
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Cllrs: L Davis & C Vanston

Subject: Level 4 Restrictions – Sedgefield Water Quality vs Water Quantity

Good day,

Following Council's declaration of Greater Knysna as a water-stressed area and the implementation of Level 4 restrictions, the Sedgefield Ratepayers & Residents Association would like to formally record our concern regarding the inclusion of Sedgefield under these restrictions **despite our water quantity being stable and sufficient**.

Our long-standing issue in Sedgefield is not a lack of water supply, but **poor water quality** linked to aging infrastructure and inadequate treatment processes. This means that the reasons provided for Level 4 restrictions—namely supply constraints, excessive emergency callouts, and pressure on infrastructure—apply primarily to Knysna, not Sedgefield. Sedgefield's reservoirs and borehole systems continue to provide adequate volumes, and no shortage has been communicated to us.

We fully recognise the broader regional challenges and support any measures needed to stabilise the system. However, declaring uniform Level 4 restrictions across the entire Greater Knysna area penalises communities like Sedgefield who **have sufficient water availability** but are still experiencing unacceptable **water quality issues**.

To place residents and businesses under severe consumption limits (6kl per month for domestic use and 50% reductions for business) while the quality of the supplied water remains below expectation is neither equitable nor reasonable.

We therefore respectfully request:

1. **A clear justification** for imposing Level 4 restrictions on Sedgefield despite its adequate water quantities.
2. **Confirmation of the specific data** used to assess Sedgefield's water supply status when determining restriction levels.
3. **A reconsideration of a blanket restriction**, with the possibility of differentiated restrictions that reflect actual on-the-ground conditions.

4. **Prioritisation of interventions** addressing water quality in Sedgefield, which remains the primary concern for our community.

We support sustainable water management and understand the complexities involved, but the present approach does not align with the realities in Sedgefield. We ask that this matter be addressed urgently and transparently to restore public confidence and ensure fair treatment across the municipal area.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Kind regards,

Kevin Barnes

On behalf of the Sedgefield Ratepayers & Residents Association

Cc: EXCO Members