

# **1. Mr. Benjamin Dell**

# FORMELE BESWAAR EN OPENBARE DEELNAME-INLEWERING

2026/27 Konsepjaarlikse Begroting en Mediumtermyn Inkomste- en Uitgaweraamwerk  
(MTREF)

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15 April 2026

**Die Munisipale Bestuurder**

Hessequa Munisipaliteit

Privaatsak X1

Riversdale

6670

en aan:

**Die Speaker van die Raad**

Hessequa Munisipaliteit

Privaatsak X1

Riversdale

6670

en aan:

**Die Uitvoerende Burgemeester**

Hessequa Munisipaliteit

Privaatsak X1

Riversdale

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**Onderwerp: Formele beswaar teen die 2026/27 Konsepjaarlikse Begroting en MTREF van Hessequa Munisipaliteit**

**Geagte Meneer / Mevrouw**

Hiermee dien ek my formele beswaar en openbare deelname-inlewering in ten opsigte van die 2026/27 Konsepjaarlikse Begroting en Mediumtermyn Inkomste- en Uitgaweraamwerk van Hessequa Munisipaliteit.

Hierdie indiening word gemeet aan die grondwetlike mandate van plaaslike regering en aan die verskafde Februarie 2026 SALGA-konsepwitskrif, naamlik die Konsep Witskrif oor Plaaslike Regering wat tans vir openbare kommentaar beskikbaar is. Die Witskrif stel uitdruklik dat dit "in die komende maande" gefinaliseer sal word, terwyl hierdie begroting, sodra dit aanvaar word,

onmiddellik in werking sal wees en die werklike lewensomstandighede van inwoners gedurende daardie tydperk sal bepaal.

Hierdie beswaar is daarom nie slegs op formele nakomingsaspekte gerig nie.

Dit is gerig op die vraag of die konsepbegroting, in wese, behoorlik uitvoering gee aan die munisipaliteit se grondwetlike en ontwikkelingspligte, en of dit strook met die hervormingsrigting wat nou duidelik in die Konsep Witskrif oor Plaaslike Regering uiteengesit word.

Die verskafde konsepwitskrif bevat die volgende waarskuwing, wat direk op die huidige begrotingsproses van toepassing is:

*"The consequences of poor governance fall first on residents, especially low-income households, informal settlements, rural communities and small towns with the fewest alternatives when services fail. Infrastructure decline is also a direct economic constraint."*

## A. Positiewe aspekte van die konsepbegroting

Voordat die besware uiteengesit word, is dit belangrik om die volgende positiewe aspekte in die konsepbegroting te erken:

| Nr. | Positiewe aspek                          | Kommentaar                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Formeel befondsde begrotingsraamwerk     | Die munisipaliteit het 'n formeel befondsde konsepbegroting met 'n positiewe bedryfsurplus, hoe klein ook al, en 'n betekenisvolle kapitaalprogram ter tafel gelê.                                                   |
| 2   | Voortgesette infrastruktuurbelegging     | Die begroting maak voorsiening vir belangrike infrastruktuur in water, sanitasie, paaie, stormwater en energie-weerbaarheid.                                                                                         |
| 3   | Behoud en uitbreiding van indigentesteun | Die begroting behou gratis basiese water, gratis basiese elektrisiteit, belastingverligting en geen basiese fooie vir kwalifiserende behoeftige huishoudings, en teken ook 'n verhoging in die indigent-drempel aan. |
| 4   | Bewustheid van langtermynbeplanning      | Die munisipaliteit het 'n langtermyn finansiële plan ingesluit en erken die behoefte aan volhoubaarheid en behoorlik gesekwenseerde kapitaalbelegging.                                                               |
| 5   | Erkenning van diensvolhoubaarheid        | Die konsep verklaar herhaaldelik dat dienslewering volhoubaar moet wees en dat inwoners bekostigbaar bedien moet word.                                                                                               |

## B. Samevatting van besware

| Nr. | Beswaarspunt                          | Hoofbekommernis                                                                                                                                                |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Bekostigbaarheid en tariefdruk        | Tariewe en huishoudelike rekeningimpakte oorskry die geprojekteerde inflasie terwyl inwoners reeds finansiële onder druk verkeer.                              |
| 2   | Brose bedryfsvolhoubaarheid           | Bedryfsuitgawes groei vinniger as bedryfsinkomste en die bedryfsurplus is uiters klein.                                                                        |
| 3   | Kruissubsidiëring deur handelsdienste | Water-, riool- en vullisverwyderingsurplusse blyk gebruik te word om nie-vergoedende en administratiewe funksies te subsidieer.                                |
| 4   | Betwisbare prioritisering             | Sekere nie-kern- of diskresionêre items bly befonds terwyl bo-inflasie druk op inwoners geplaas word.                                                          |
| 5   | Onvoldoende kostekorreksie            | Werknemerskoste- en gekontrakteerde-dienste-druk word erken, maar nie oortuigend reggestel nie.                                                                |
| 6   | Openbare deelname swak bewys          | Die begroting word as 'n "people's budget" beskryf, maar die verslag toon nie duidelik hoe openbare insette tot konkrete begrotingsveranderinge gelei het nie. |

## C. Uitgebreide gronde van beswaar

### 1. Bekostigbaarheid en tariefdruk

Die konsepbegroting teken geprojekteerde VPI van 3.7% vir 2026/27 aan, maar stel verhogings van 4.5% vir eiendomsbelasting, water, riool en vullisverwydering voor, en 7.01% vir elektrisiteit. Dit erken ook dat huishoudings reeds sukkel om hul munisipale rekeninge te betaal, terwyl die begroting se eie huishoudelike voorbeelde wys dat die totale rekeningverhogings wesenlik bo inflasie is.

Dit skep 'n direkte interne teenstrydigheid. Die verslag sê tariefverhogings moet bekostigbaar en gebalanseerd wees, maar die werklike tariefpad plaas 'n wesenlik hoër las op huishoudings as die munisipaliteit se eie inflasiemaatstaf.

In 'n munisipale gebied waar baie inwoners beperkte inkomste-weerbaarheid het, wek dit 'n ernstige kommer dat die begroting nie voldoende in lyn is met die grondwetlike plig om basiese gemeenskapsbehoefte te prioritiseer en met die witskrif se klem op betroubare, bekostigbare basiese dienste en 'n gemeenskap-eerste benadering nie.

## 2. Brose bedryfsvolhoubaarheid

Die begroting toon bedryfsinkomstegroei van 4.13% en bedryfsuitgawegroei van 5.07%, wat lei tot 'n bedryfsurplus van slegs R625 126. Dit is 'n uiters klein surplus op 'n bedryfsbegroting van ongeveer R881.8 miljoen.

'n Tegnies positiewe surplus is nie dieselfde as 'n robuust volhoubare begroting nie. Die marge lyk te klein om swak invorderings, kosteskokke, vertraagde besparings of diensleweringsdruk te absorbeer.

Hierdie kommer word versterk deur die langtermyn finansiële plan, wat aandui dat die tienjaar kapitaalbehoefte die bekostigbare tienjaar kapitaaluitgawe aansienlik oorskry.

## 3. Kruissubsidiëring deur handelsdienste

Die begroting stel dat water, riool en vullisverwydering ekonomiese of handelsdienste is, maar stel ook dat die surplusse uit daardie dienste gebruik word om eiendomsbelasting en ander nie-vergoedende of administratiewe funksies te subsidieer.

Dit wek 'n ernstige kommer dat gebruikers van kerndienste as 'n algemene balanseermeganisme in die breër begroting gebruik word, in plaas daarvan dat daardie dienste eers duidelik beskerm, hernu en finansiële ring-omhein word.

Die konsepwitskrif wys in die teenoorgestelde rigting. Dit beklemtoon finance-follows-function, rolholderheid, finansiële volhoubare munisipaliteite, en diensstelsels wat op werklike uitkomstes gerig is eerder as op blote papiernakoming.

## 4. Betwisbare prioritisering van nie-kern- of diskresionêre besteding

Die uitvoerende opsomming stel dat nie-kern- en "nice-to-have"-items krities hersien en teruggesny is. Nietemin sluit die begroting steeds ongeveer R10 miljoen vir die uitbreiding van die munisipale gebou in Riversdale, R9.3 miljoen vir 'n ontspanningsswembad in Albertinia, en voortgesette kapitaalondersteuning vir karavaanparke in, ondanks die feit dat die konsep self aandui dat karavaanparke nie teen 'n tekort behoort te funksioneer nie en steeds 'n wesenlike netto verlies sal toon.

Dit is moeilik om met die stelling te versoen dat laer-prioriteit uitgawes reeds so ver moontlik teruggesny is.

Indien huishoudings verwag word om bo-inflasie tariefdruk te absorbeer, behoort die Raad te kan aantoon dat alle diskresionêre en laer-prioriteit besteding reeds veel strenger hersien is.

## 5. Onvoldoende regstelling van kostedruk

Die begroting teken werknemersverwante koste van R290.1 miljoen aan, stel dat kostevermindering by personeel 'n uitdaging is, en begroot vier addisionele poste. Die langtermyn finansiële plan identifiseer afsonderlik oormatige uitgawes aan gekontrakteerde dienste en 'n werknemersuitgaweprofiel wat die boonste perke nader as spesifieke swakhede.

Dit dui daarop dat die munisipaliteit bewus is van interne kostedruk, maar nog nie 'n voldoende sterk interne regstellingsplan toon voordat bo-inflasie tariefdruk op inwoners geplaas word nie.

Die witskrif se rigting is na meer bekwame, professionele, gedissiplineerde en gemeenskapsgerigte plaaslike regering, nie bloot uiterlik gebalanseerde begrotings nie.

## 6. Openbare deelname en afwaartse aanspreeklikheid word swak bewys

Die Burgemeester beskryf die konsep as 'n "people's budget" en die verslag sê dat openbare kommentaar ontvang en oorweeg is, veral met betrekking tot die indigentebeleid. Die dokument verskaf egter nie 'n duidelike gestruktureerde skedule van openbare deelname wat wys wat geopper is, hoe dit oorweeg is, en watter spesifieke begrotingsveranderinge daaruit gevolg het nie.

Die konsepwitskrif is uitdruklik dat deelname te dikwels 'n blote nakomingsoefening word eerder as 'n werklike proses waardeur gemeenskappe prioriteite vorm, dienslewering monitor en munisipaliteite aanspreeklik hou.

Die beswaar is dus nie dat geen deelname plaasgevind het nie, maar dat die verslag nog nie die diepte van responsiewe, gemeenskapsgerigte aanspreeklikheid toon wat huidige beleidshervorming duidelik verwag nie.

## D. Versoekte stappe

In die lig van bogenoemde word die Raad eerbiedig versoek om:

- die tariefpakket te heroorweeg, veral waar die impak op huishoudings die munisipaliteit se eie inflasiemaatstaf oorskry;
- nie-kern- en diskresionêre toekennings te heroorweeg voor finale aanvaarding van die begroting;
- duideliker bewys te lewer dat handelsdienste beskerm word en nie buitensporig gebruik word om breër munisipale funksies te subsidieer nie;
- 'n duideliker skedule te publiseer van openbare voorleggings ontvang, munisipale reaksies, en begrotingsveranderinge wat gemaak of geweier is;
- 'n meer eksplisiete interne kostedissipline- en herprioriteringsplan voor te lê, veral ten opsigte van personeel en gekontrakteerde dienste; en
- te heroorweeg of die konsep, in sy huidige vorm, ten volle uitvoering gee aan die munisipaliteit se grondwetlike en ontwikkelingsverpligtinge.

## E. Slot

Hierdie beswaar ontken nie dat die konsepbegroting belangrike infrastruktuur- en indigentesteunmaatreëls bevat nie. Die kommer is dat die konsep steeds te veel van die aanpassingslas op inwoners plaas terwyl daar onopgeloste vrae bly oor bekostigbaarheid, interne herprioritering, ring-omheining van dienste, en gemeenskapsgerigte aanspreeklikheid.

Gemeet aan die grondwetlike mandate van plaaslike regering en die huidige rigting van die Konsep Witskrif oor Plaaslike Regering, bly die begroting materieel kwesbaar en behoort dit hersien te word voor finale aanvaarding.

Hoogagtend



Benjamin Dell

# **FORMAL OBJECTION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUBMISSION**

2026/27 Draft Annual Budget and Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework  
(MTREF)

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15 April 2026

**The Municipal Manager**

Hessequa Municipality

Private Bag X1

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and to:

**The Speaker of Council**

Hessequa Municipality

Private Bag X1

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and to:

**The Executive Mayor**

Hessequa Municipality

Private Bag X1

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**Subject: Formal objection to the 2026/27 Draft Annual Budget and MTREF of Hessequa Municipality**

Dear Sir / Madam

I hereby submit this formal objection and public participation submission in respect of the 2026/27 Draft Annual Budget and Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework of Hessequa Municipality.

This submission is measured against the constitutional mandates of local government and against the supplied SALGA draft white paper, namely the Draft White Paper on Local Government currently out for public consultation. The White Paper expressly states that it will be finalised "in the coming months", while this budget, once adopted, will be in force immediately and will shape the lived conditions of residents during that period.

This objection is therefore not directed at compliance formalities alone.

It is directed at whether the draft budget, in substance, gives proper effect to the municipality's constitutional and developmental duties, and whether it is consistent with the reform direction now clearly set out in the Draft White Paper on Local Government.

The supplied draft white paper contains the following warning, which is directly relevant to the present budget process:

*"The consequences of poor governance fall first on residents, especially low-income households, informal settlements, rural communities and small towns with the fewest alternatives when services fail. Infrastructure decline is also a direct economic constraint."*

### A. Positive features of the draft budget

Before recording the objections, it is important to acknowledge the following positive features in the draft budget:

| No. | Positive feature                          | Comment                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Funded budget structure                   | The municipality has tabled a formally funded draft budget with a positive operating surplus, however narrow, and a substantial capital programme.                                 |
| 2   | Continued infrastructure investment       | The budget makes provision for important infrastructure in water, sanitation, roads, stormwater and energy resilience.                                                             |
| 3   | Indigent protection retained and expanded | The budget retains free basic water, free basic electricity, rates relief and no basic fees for qualifying indigent households, and records an increase in the indigent threshold. |
| 4   | Long-term planning awareness              | The municipality has included a long-term financial plan and recognises the need for sustainability and sequenced capital investment.                                              |
| 5   | Recognition of service sustainability     | The draft repeatedly states that service delivery must be sustainable and that residents must be served affordably.                                                                |

## B. Summary of objections

| No. | Objection point                       | Main concern                                                                                                                    |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Affordability and tariff pressure     | Tariffs and household bill impacts exceed forecast inflation while residents are already under financial pressure.              |
| 2   | Fragile operating sustainability      | Operating expenditure grows faster than operating revenue and the operating surplus is extremely thin.                          |
| 3   | Trading-service cross-subsidisation   | Water, sewerage and refuse surpluses appear to support non-remunerative and administrative functions.                           |
| 4   | Questionable prioritisation           | Certain non-core or discretionary items remain funded while above-inflation pressure is placed on residents.                    |
| 5   | Insufficient cost correction          | Employee-cost pressure and contracted-services pressure are acknowledged but not convincingly corrected.                        |
| 6   | Weakly evidenced public participation | The budget is described as a “people’s budget”, but the report does not clearly trace public inputs to concrete budget changes. |

## C. Expanded grounds of objection

### 1. Affordability and tariff pressure

The draft budget records forecast CPI at 3.7% for 2026/27, yet proposes increases of 4.5% for property rates, water, sewerage and refuse, and 7.01% for electricity. It also acknowledges that households are already struggling to pay municipal accounts, while the budget’s own household-bill examples show overall increases that are materially above inflation.

This creates a direct internal contradiction. The report says tariff increases must be affordable and balanced, yet the actual tariff path places a materially higher burden on households than the municipality’s own inflation benchmark.

In a municipal area where many residents have limited income resilience, this raises a serious concern that the budget does not sufficiently align with the constitutional duty to prioritise basic community needs and with the white paper’s emphasis on reliable, affordable basic services and a community-first approach.

## 2. Fragile operating sustainability

The budget records operating revenue growth of 4.13% and operating expenditure growth of 5.07%, resulting in an operating surplus of only R625 126. This is an extremely narrow surplus on an operating budget of approximately R881.8 million.

A technically positive surplus is not the same as a robustly sustainable budget. The margin appears too thin to absorb collection weakness, cost shocks, delayed savings, or service-delivery pressures.

This concern is reinforced by the long-term financial plan, which records that ten-year capital demand significantly exceeds ten-year affordable capital expenditure.

## 3. Trading-service cross-subsidisation

The budget states that water, sewerage and refuse are economic or trading services, but it also states that the surpluses from those services are used to subsidise property rates and other non-remunerative or administrative functions.

This raises a serious concern that users of core services are being used as a general balancing mechanism in the wider budget instead of those services first being transparently protected, renewed and financially ring-fenced.

The draft white paper points in the opposite direction. It emphasises finance-follows-function, clarity of responsibility, financially sustainable municipalities, and service systems designed around real outcomes rather than paper compliance.

## 4. Questionable prioritisation of non-core or discretionary spending

The executive summary states that non-core and “nice-to-have” items were critically reviewed and cut back. Yet the budget still includes approximately R10 million for expansion of the municipal building in Riversdale, R9.3 million for a recreational swimming pool in Albertinia, and continued capital support for caravan parks despite the draft noting that caravan parks should not operate at a deficit and will still show a material net loss.

This is difficult to reconcile with the claim that lower-priority expenditure has already been cut back as far as possible.

If households are expected to absorb above-inflation tariff pressure, Council should be able to demonstrate that all discretionary and lower-priority spending has already been more aggressively reviewed.

## 5. Insufficient correction of cost pressures

The budget records employee-related costs of R290.1 million, states that staff-cost reduction is a challenge, and budgets four additional posts. The long-term financial plan separately identifies excessive expenditure on contracted services and an employee-expenditure profile approaching upper limits as specific weaknesses.

This suggests that the municipality is aware of internal cost pressures but has not yet shown a sufficiently strong internal correction strategy before resorting to above-inflation tariff pressure on residents.

The white paper’s direction is toward more capable, professional, disciplined and community-centred local government, not merely outwardly balanced budgeting.

## 6. Weakly evidenced public participation and downward accountability

The Mayor describes the draft as a “people’s budget” and the report states that public comments were received and considered, particularly in relation to indigent policy. However, the document does not clearly provide a structured public-participation schedule showing what was raised, how it was considered, and what specific budget changes followed from those submissions.

The draft white paper is explicit that participation too often becomes a compliance exercise rather than a real process through which communities shape priorities, monitor delivery, and hold municipalities to account.

The objection is therefore not that no participation took place, but that the report does not yet demonstrate the depth of responsive, community-facing accountability that current policy reform clearly expects.

## D. Relief requested

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that Council:

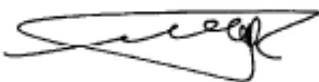
- Reassess the tariff package, particularly where the impact on households exceeds the municipality’s own inflation benchmark.
- Reconsider non-core and discretionary allocations before final adoption of the budget.
- Provide clearer evidence that trading services are being protected and not used excessively to subsidise wider municipal functions.
- Publish a clearer schedule of public submissions received, municipal responses, and budget changes made or refused.
- Present a more explicit internal cost-discipline and reprioritisation plan, particularly regarding staffing and contracted services.
- Reconsider whether the draft, in its current form, fully gives effect to the municipality’s constitutional and developmental obligations.

## E. Conclusion

This objection does not deny that the draft budget contains important infrastructure and indigent-support measures. The concern is that the draft still places too much of the balancing burden on residents while leaving unresolved questions about affordability, internal reprioritisation, service ring-fencing, and community-facing accountability.

Measured against the constitutional mandates of local government and the current direction of the Draft White Paper on Local Government, the budget remains materially vulnerable and should be revised before final adoption.

Yours faithfully



**Benjamin Dell**

## Summarised responses:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gee die konsep begroting behoorlik uitvoering aan die munisipaliteit se grondwetlike en ontwikkelingspligte en strook dit met die hervormingsrigting wat in die Konsep witskrif oor plaaslike regering uiteengesit word? (Die Witskrif sal in die komende maande gefinaliseer word, terwyl hierdie begroting, sodra dit aanvaar word, onmiddelik in werking sal wees.) | Ons glo dat die OP en Begroting voldoen aan die huidige, sowel as die konsep-witskrif. Ons begroting is eerstens gemik op kwaliteit en volhoubare basiese dienste en daar word ook groot klem op ontwikkeling geplaas, veral na die goedkeuring van die Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk (ROR).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Positiewe aspek nr. 1: Formeel befondsde begrotingsraamwerk- Die munisipaliteit het 'n formeel befondsde konsepbegroting met 'n positiewe bedryfsurplus, hoe klein ook al, en 'n betekenisvolle kapitaalprogram ter tafel gelê.                                                                                                                                        | Neem kennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Positiewe aspek nr. 2: Voortgesette infrastruktuurbelegging- Die begroting maak voorsiening vir belangrike infrastruktuur in water, sanitasie, paaie, stormwater en energie-weerbaarheid                                                                                                                                                                               | Neem kennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Positiewe aspek nr.3: Behoud en uitbreiding van indigentesteun- Die begroting behou gratis basiese water, gratis basiese elektrisiteit, belastingverligting en geen basiese fooie vir kwalifiserende behoeftige huishoudings, en teken ook 'n verhoging in die indigent-drempel aan.                                                                                   | Neem kennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Positiewe aspek nr.4: Bewustheid van langtermynbeplanning- Die munisipaliteit het 'n langtermyn finansiële plan ingesluit en erken die behoefte aan volhoubaarheid en behoorlik gesekwenseerde kapitaalbelegging.                                                                                                                                                      | Neem kennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Positiewe aspek nr.5: Erkenning van diensvolhoubaarheid- Die konsep verklaar herhaaldelik dat dienslewering volhoubaar moet wees en dat inwoners bekostigbaar bedien moet word.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Neem kennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Beswaarspunt nr.1: Bekostigbaarheid en tariefdruk- Tariewe en huishoudelike rekeningimpakte oorskry die geprojekteerde inflasie terwyl inwoners reeds finansiële onder druk verkeer.                                                                                                                                                                                   | Die Raad het ten doel gehad om die tariefverhogings met die inflasiekoers in lyn te bring, maar as gevolg van groot insetkoste en ander kontraktuele verpligtinge kon ons nie laer as 4.5% verhoog nie. Water en Riolerings gebruik 'n groot hoeveelheid elektrisiteit vir suiwering en pompstasies en die kragverhoging is 9.01%. Vullisverwydering is afhanklik van dieselverbruik en hierdie prys wissel deur die boekjaar en is tans 50% hoër as wat in die begrotingsberekeninge in ag geneem is. Die Raad het wel die elektrisiteitstarief, wat die grootste uitgawe vir baie huishoudings is, met 2% gesubsidieer omdat hulle bewus is van die finansiële druk wat huishoudings ervaar. |
| Beswaarspunt nr.2: Brose bedryfsvolhoubaarheid- Bedryfsuitgawes groei vinniger as bedryfsinkomste en die bedryfsurplus is uiters klein.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Neem kennis. Die voorstel van die begrotingskomitee was aanvanklik om tariewe en die uitgawebegroting in lyn met inflasie te verhoog. Weens kostedruk moes die tariewe na maksimum 4,5% aangepas word om ten minste gelyk te breek of vir 'n klein surplus te begroot. Die grootste kostedrywers is Personeelkoste(wat bepaal word deur die 2024-2029 SALGBC kollektiewe ooreenkoms) en Grootmaataankope van elektrisiteit vanaf Eskom (tariefverhoging van 9,01%)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Beswaarspunt nr.3: Kruissubsidiëring deur handelsdienste- Water-, riool- en vullisverwyderingsurplusse blyk gebruik te word om nie-vergoedende en administratiewe funksies te subsidieer.                                                                                                                                                                              | Die munisipaliteit sal aandag skenk aan die toewysing van kostes om elke diens in lyn te bring sodat inkomste en uitgawes meer akkuraat in die begrotingsverslag weerspieël word. Dit sal oor 'n paar finansiële jare gefaseer moet word indien daar groot veranderinge in tariewe gaan wees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Beswaarspunt nr.4: Betwisbare prioritisering- Sekere nie-kern- of diskresionêre items bly befonds terwyl bo-inflasie druk op inwoners geplaas word.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Die nuwe "mSCOA" toewysing van begrotings het diskresionêre items uitgewis en moet ons 'n projek skep vir elke lyn item. Daar is begrotings gesny oor die afgelope twee jaar waar fondse nie spandeer was nie.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beswaarpunt nr.5: Onvoldoende kostekorreksie- Werknemerskoste- en gekontrakteerde-dienste-druk word erken, maar nie oortuigend reggestel nie.                                                                  | Die persentasie verhoging in werknemerskoste word bepaal deur die 2024-2029 SALGBC kollektiewe ooreenkoms. Die raad se doelwit is om die werknemerskoste te verminder na ongeveer 30% van die uitgawebegroting. Die uitdaging word as volg aangespreek: 1) Werknemers wat voor 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is het outomaties gekwalifiseer vir kerfverhogings addisioneel tot die jaarlikse verhogings. Hierdie is verander deurdat werknemers wat na 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is nie outomaties sal kwalifiseer vir die kerfverhogings nie. Die verhoging word nou gekoppel aan prestasie evaluering. 2)deur slegs uiters noodsaaklike poste te befonds. Gekontrakteerde dienste sluit ook die behuisingsskenkings in. Die uitgawe op behuising word dus 100% befonds deur 'n skenking van Provinsiale tesourie. Die balans tussen interne poste skep en sekere dienste uitkontrakteer word ook noukeurig bestudeer en waar 'n nuwe pos bv. onbekostigbaar is sal daar na die opsie gekyk word om dit uit te kontrakteer bv. grassnydienste ens. |
| Beswaarpunt nr.6: Openbare deelname swak bewys- Die begroting word as 'n "people's budget" beskryf, maar die verslag toon nie duidelik hoe openbare insette tot konkrete begrotingsveranderinge gelei het nie. | Ons neem kennis van die inset. Die publieke insette word aan al die direkteuratses versprei en elkeen word beantwoord. Ongelukkig kan alles nie in een begroting pas nie, en moet daar prioriteer word aan die grootste behoeftes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Versoekte stappe: In die lig van die bogenoemde word die Raad versoek om:                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| die tariefpakket te heroorweeg, veral waar die impak op huishoudings die munisipaliteit se eie inflasiemaatstaf oorskry                                                                                        | Die voorstel van die begrotingskomitee was aanvanklik om tariewe en die uitgawebegroting in lyn met inflasie te verhoog. Weens kostedruk moes die tariewe na maksimum 4,5% aangepas word om ten minste gelyk te breek of vir 'n klein surplus te begroot. Water en Riolerings gebruik 'n groot hoeveelheid elektrisiteit vir suiwering en pompstasies en die kragverhoging is 9.01%. Vullisverwydering is afhanklik van dieselvverbruik en hierdie prys wissel deur die boekjaar en is tans 50% hoër as wat in die begrotingsberekening in ag geneem is. Die Raad het wel die elektrisiteitstarief, wat die grootste uitgawe vir baie huishoudings is, met 2% gesubsidieer omdat hulle bewus is van die finansiële druk wat huishoudings ervaar. 'n Vermindering in die tarief gaan 'n negatiewe impak op dienslewering hê.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Die nie-kern- en diskresionêre toekennings te heroorweeg voor finale aanvaarding van die begroting                                                                                                             | Daar word jaarliks gekyk na die lyn items en waar daar nie sinvolle spandering is nie, word begrotings gesny. Elke begroting lyn item moet 'n projek het.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| duideliker bewys te lewer dat handelsdienste beskerm word en nie buitensporig gebruik word om breër munisipale funksies te subsidieer nie                                                                      | Die kapitaalbegroting vir die opgradering, vervanging of nuwe infrastruktuur vir die handelsdienste oor die MTREF tydperk is soos volg: elektriese infrastruktuur R77,7 miljoen, Sanitasie infrastruktuur R76,8 miljoen, Vaste afval infrastruktuur R13,3 miljoen en Waterinfrastruktuur R108,1 miljoen. Al die munisipale funksies is tot voordeel vir die gemeenskap van Hessequa.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| n duideliker skedule te publiseer van openbare voorleggings ontvang, munisipale reaksies, en begrotingsveranderinge wat gemaak of geweier is                                                                   | Die repliek op kommentaar van die begroting word in die begrotingsverslag vervat wat wel publiseer word met die finale begroting. Elke skrywe ontvang antwoord op hul kommentaar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| n meer eksplisiete interne kostedissipline- en herprioritiseringsplan voor te lê, veral ten opsigte van personeel en gekontrakteerde dienste; en                                                               | Die persentasie verhoging in werknemerskoste word bepaal deur die 2024-2029 SALGBC kollektiewe ooreenkoms. Die raad se doelwit is om die werknemerskoste te verminder na ongeveer 30% van die uitgawebegroting. Die uitdaging word as volg aangespreek: 1) Werknemers wat voor 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is het outomaties gekwalifiseer vir kerfverhogings addisioneel tot die jaarlikse verhogings. Hierdie is verander deurdat werknemers wat na 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is nie outomaties sal kwalifiseer vir die kerfverhogings nie. Die verhoging word nou gekoppel aan prestasie evaluering. 2)deur slegs uiters noodsaaklike poste te befonds. Gekontrakteerde dienste sluit ook die behuisingsskenkings in. Die uitgawe op behuising word dus 100% befonds deur 'n skenking van Provinsiale tesourie. Die balans tussen interne poste skep en sekere dienste uitkontrakteer word ook noukeurig bestudeer en waar 'n nuwe pos bv. onbekostigbaar is sal daar na die opsie gekyk word om dit uit te kontrakteer bv. grassnydienste ens. |
| te heroorweeg of die konsep, in sy huidige vorm, ten volle uitvoering gee aan die munisipaliteit se grondwetlike en ontwikkelingsverpligtinge                                                                  | Neem kennis. Die tariefverhogings was so laag as moontlik gehou met bekostigbaarheid in gedagte. Enige verlaging in die voorgestelde tarief sal 'n bedryfstekort teweeg bring wat uiteindelik 'n negatiewe impak sal hê op dienslewering.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## 2. Ms. A.G. Sollons

Dear Mr Mayor & Committee Members

I have unearthed several flaws regarding the Capital Expenditure Plan the period 2026/2027 in terms of the abovementioned WARDS.

- Upgrading of ablution facilities for STAFF in Community structures : R40 000 . My concern is I need more detail regarding this proposed expenditure.

Feedback: This input was done in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 95 of 1993 and Regulations requirements. The specific regulations referred to, are the Facility Regulations (GNR 294 of 3 August 2004) , section 2, which state the following: " It is required from every employer to provide sanitary facilities at the workplace in accordance with Parts F, P and Q of the application of the National Building Regulations."

- Electrical Infrastructure gets a whopping R5 500 000 for New extensions and refurbishments overall ; New extensions in Diepkloof & Upgrading of LV line in Eksteen Street. This expenditure looks very excessive and suspect. What does the Actual work entail. Please elaborate further by providing a detail breakdown.

Feedback: This cost entail the supply of cables and equipment, excavation cost and testing for all refurbishment and new electrical network upgrades.

- Furniture & Equipment expenditure of a R101 500 is it really needed especially item referring to Curtains & Blinds for an amount of R40 000 for Where?

The budgeted allocation is required to replace curtains and blinds that are no longer serviceable and cannot be repaired.

- Gazebo Combination to the value of R20 000 Wow , Wow . Isn't that a bit extravagant???

The previous set amounts to around R12 000, this amount was budgeted for to provide sufficient funds for the new set.

- Wood Tables valued at R20 000 for the Community Halls or is it for the "Stadsaal" in the "Dorp" excluding Duivenhoks Gemeenskap saal? if this is TRUE then this dubious expense needs to be scrapped because the "Stadsaal" don't need such expensive furniture.

The budgeted amount is not R20 000,00 per table. Steel tables are more susceptible to damage and corrosion, whereas wooden tables offer greater durability. The estimated cost per table is approximately R2 500,00.

- Creepy Crawley Swimming Pool Equipment R30 000 & Fire Hydrants of R50 000 is way too excessive . This expense needs a huge scale down. There are cheaper and quality equipment in this regard.

Industrial scale Swimming Pool Equipment is required and we are building an additional swimming pool.

Fire safety is a great priority for Hessequa Municipality, therefore to ensure pro-active fire fighting services infrastructure must correspond. The budget allocation is for installation of new firehydrants and repair and maintenance of existing ones.

Kind regards.

Yours truly  
A. G. SOLLONS

**[External Mail]** This email was sent outside of our organisation (Hessequa Municipality). DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

Excessive expenditure regarding FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT in Riversdale to the tune of R830 000 NEEDS TO BE RE LOOKED AT AGAIN.

Neem kennis. Uitgawes op ameublement word so laag as moontlik gehou

MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT - R1 800 000 WAY TOO HIGH ESPECIALLY FOR ITEMS SUCH AS : CABLE AND FAULT DETECTOR ; MINISUB ; TELESCOPING TOOLS

It is specialised electrical equipment.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS REALLY NECESSARY - WASTEFUL EXPENSE THIS

The municipality does not regard the construction of additional office space on municipal property as wasteful expenditure. The development of office space at the existing municipal building will enable the municipality to discontinue current lease agreements for rented office accommodation, resulting in measurable savings on operational costs. Furthermore, the centralisation of staff within a single facility is expected to enhance operational efficiency and improve overall service delivery.

KIND REGARDS

**[External Mail]** This email was sent outside of our organisation (Hessequa Municipality). DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I would like to comment regarding the Budget & IDP for 2026 / 2027.

- **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN**
- ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE
- UPGRADE OF ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN **WARD 9** AND BUDGETED FOR R5 000 000 AND NO FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE UPGRADE OF ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN **WARD 5**.
- THIS TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIABLE AND COMPLETELY UNFAIR WHEN THE ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE IN WARD 9 LOOKS 100 TIMES BETTER THEN THE DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF THE ROADS IN WARD 5 ESPECIALLY THE POT HOLES WHICH HAVE BEEN PATCHED NUMEROUS TIMES WITH NO IMPROVEMENT WHATSOEVER.
- THIS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF WARD 9 (WES DORP) ABOVE WARD 5 (OOS DORP) NEEDS TO CEASE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.
- IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT BECAUSE WARD 9(WES DORP) IS PREDOMINANTLY OCCUPIED BY WHITE PEOPLE THEREFORE THEY ARE DEEMED TO BE MORE PRIVILEGED AND ENTITLED TO THE "CREAM OF THE CROP" & THE PEOPLE OF WARD 5(OOS DORP) OF WHOM THE CITIZENS ARE PREDOMINANTLY SO - CALLED COLOURED ; AS CLASSIFIED BY THE PRIVILEGE WHITE PEOPLE ; THEY SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE CRUMBS THAT FALL FROM THE TABLE AS BEEN THE CASE ALL THOSE YEARS.
- RECOMMENDATION - REVERSE THE FUNDS TO WARD 5 FROM WARD 9 WHERE IT'S MORE NEEDED.

Ward 5 has an award of R 4 000 000 for upgrading of roads in ward 5 in the current 2025/26 financial year, that will be completed before 30 June 2026. We further take note of the request of the reversal of funds.

KIND REGARDS.

A. G. SOLLONS

### 3. Audit Committee

1. There is some discomfort that tables were presented where calculations are clearly incorrect. Errors currently caused by software should be highlighted as such, so that APAC can see that these errors were identified and still receives attention and not overlooked.

Noted. The Budget report is the official report of the Hessequa Municipality. The budget tabled and submitted in March was the draft budget. National Treasury's A-Schedules are upgraded annually in time for the draft budget submission. Errors on the draft schedules are usually communicated to the service provider and/or National Treasury and subsequently corrected before the final budget is tabled to council. No manual manipulation of schedules are allowed.

2. Comments under tables should explain outliers and not merely repeat what is already clearly observable in the tables.

Noted. To be addressed with the final budget.

3. Property tax:

- a. Future property valuations, which may cause dissatisfaction among taxpayers due to market values increasing more in some areas than others, should be considered proactively now to minimize the impact on taxpayers. HM should not become over reliant on property taxes as a source of income.

HLM is not over-reliant on Property Rates, the tariff is conservative and competitive with other similar municipalities. Business Property Rates are also too low. The comment made by management on the pre-empting of the new general valuation roll is to be seen that we are cautious and mindful of the impact on the consumer not as a source of additional income. It is however a reality that certain property owners would pay more. The expectation of Provincial Treasury was that we were to implement the GV earlier to benefit from higher property values, but the municipality exercises prudence to take the affordability of consumers into account as well.

- b. HM should be creative to solicit untapped resources to be exploited to generate sufficient income to keep Hessequa Municipality sustainable. The issue of farms was raised in the meeting as maybe fitting within this category, however the CFO explained very clearly that the farmers are not serviced directly by the municipality for all services as most farmers obtains water directly from Water boards and Electricity directly from ESKOM. There is some refuse removal, but this also proves to be a challenge, and HM is still evaluating their options in this regard. Property rates are billed according to HM policy and by law, under the MPRA, farmers may not be billed more than 25% of the residential rate (which serves as the base rate) for Property Rates (provided there is farming

activity), otherwise it will be billed as per dominant use. The general valuation however captures additional market values when businesses such as wedding venues and guest farms is run on farms. HM also rate according to the usage. At this stage the agriculture sector contributes to the Municipal Area through its GDP.

The comments are noted and CFO's response captured. The municipality will always explore untapped revenue sources and present those proposals to Council as they arise.

4. There are no cost-saving objectives or actions highlighted in the MTREF, other than a statement that “nice to haves” have not been funded. For taxpayers, it is critical that they are convinced that the municipality is extremely prudent in the use of their funds. The appearance and explanation of cost-saving initiatives will contribute to a positive relationship between HM and taxpayers. The suggestion is that cost-saving initiatives be included/highlighted in future MTREFs. Currently the solar farm constitutes such an example, as well as the savings in design costs because the Director: Technical Services is Registered as a Professional Engineer, doing some internal design work in-house. The municipality is also in the process to have other senior managers mentored to obtain registration with ECSA to strengthen internal design capacity. However, one would really like to see it in more efficient use of current resources too.

The advice is noted and additional comments will be added to the final budget report.

5. NPV, IRR and other commercial assurances regarding projects such as the solar project and the expansion of offices to reduce rental costs - We would like greater assurance that HM has applied sufficient financial expertise to confirm that the savings from such projects will have a positive long-term impact on cost reduction. The positive impact of solar on the kWh cost for consumers is extremely encouraging. It would be useful to confirm how the decision for a 2% reduction (i.e. from 9% to 7%) was reached and what the effect would be looking into the future.

The comment is noted and information has been prepared by our Consultants that performed the cost of supply studies. Not all management information is made available due to the intellectual property that may be exploited or presented out of context.

6. The MTREF should make reference to medium- and long-term Master plans and extract evidence from them to confirm that basic service needs will be met by means of graphs that present forecasted electricity, water, sewage, and solid waste supply and demand of each ward over the MTREF period.

Masterplanning and Consulting Services are budgeted on the operational Budget. There are masterplans in place for infrastructure. We take note of your request to be discussed with Management.

7. APAC cannot confidently speak to the general application of Asset management. The MTREF does list items and detail spending over the period but one cannot comment as to the actual meeting of capital (assets) needs. APAC realizes that HM annually updates its Asset Register but feels it would be good to have it summarised in this report too, even if attached in an annexure. Per example - How many vehicles does HM have and how many must be replaced over the MTREF period? How many km of roads does HM maintain and how many km need maintenance? Same with water lines, electricity distribution, etc. The MTREF does not explain the current status of assets/infrastructure vs what is required – we only know what will be done. Is that too little or too much? We do not know.

The Asset Register is a substantial and detailed document, which is available on request. The municipality is also in the process of finalising its Capital Expenditure Framework, which will reflect the entire capital demand of the municipality at a given time. This Capital expenditure framework will include public inputs and also incorporate all the master plans. It should be noted that the projects are placed on the capital budget according to priority and funds availability. Demand will always be more than what can be afforded. The challenge is to have sufficient repairs, maintenance, renewal, upgrading and expansion plans in place (Master Plans & the CEF) that will ensure assets are not stretched past their limits.

8. The combined capital and maintenance expenditure as a percentage of revenue is roughly 30% which is very positive. Repairs and maintenance as a % of property, plant and equipment is exactly on the national norm target of 8 %, which is commendable.

The comments are noted and appreciated.

9. The above point also relates to development of housing. APAC understands that internal municipal services forms part of the funding allocation by the Provincial Department of Human Settlement's Development Grant. What is planned for the MTREF period in terms of new housing and will Bulk infrastructure cope? Are we, maybe reaching a point where major investment will be required to sustain development? Are we currently on the continues part of the curve or are we reaching the next major step up in terms of required investment?

Hessequa Munisipaliteit het verskeie projekte op die Raad se Goedgekeurde Behuisingsspylyn. Dit maak voorsiening vir huidige en toekomstige projekte en word jaarliks aangepas in terme van die aantal

mense op die behuisingswaglys, jaarlikse subsidietoekennings van die Provinsiale en Nasionale Regerings, en die beskikbaarheid van goed geleë geskikte grond. 100 BNG eenhede te Melkhoutfontein (2627), 500 BNG eenhede te Aloeridge Riversdal (2728 en 2829), 300 BNG eenhede te Kwanokuthula Riversdal (2728 en 2829), 50 gedienste erwe te Tembanistraat Riversdal (2829), 6 Rebuilds te Diepkloof Heidelberg (2627), Alvorens enige projek deur die Departement van Infrastruktuur goedgekeur word, moet die bulk dienste in plek en genoegsaam wees.

10. The +/-34% employee cost as a percentage of total operating expenditure, albeit in the middle of the national norm of 25% - 40%, is a bit concerning and the municipality should target 30% but without lowering the performance levels. The reduction over the last couple of years is commended.

The percentage increase in employee costs is determined by the 2024-2029 SALGBC collective agreement. The council's goal is to reduce employee costs to approximately 30% of the expenditure budget. The challenge is addressed as follows: 1) Employees appointed before 1 February 2022 automatically qualified for notch increases in addition to the annual increases. This has been changed in that employees appointed after 1 February 2022 will not automatically qualify for the notch increases. The increase is now linked to performance evaluations. 2) by funding only positions that are critical to service delivery. 3) By managing and reducing overtime

11. Concerns were raised about the sustainability of the "Long Term Financial Plan" as the Capex demand far exceeds the Capex affordability. Should this situation prevails in future, how would projects be prioritised for implementation? This is also the reason why it is recommended in point 3(b) that more income should be generated.

The municipality is in the process of finalising its Capital Expenditure Framework, which will reflect the entire capital demand of the municipality at a given time. This Capital expenditure framework will include public inputs and also incorporate all the master plans. It should be noted that the projects are placed on the capital budget according to priority and funds availability. Demand will always be more than what can be afforded. The challenge is to have sufficient repairs, maintenance, renewal, upgrading and expansion plans in place (Master Plans & the CEF) that will ensure assets are not stretched past their limits. The CEF is going to build in a prioritisation model to assist with budgeting for the most critical and high impact projects. It can also serve as a basis for funding applications for additional grant allocations.

12. The sale of land to make the budget balance is a concern, since it is uncertain how sustainable this is. "Normal" income funds would be preferable, rather than extraordinary items such as the sale of property. Linked to this is the above inflation increase of most services. A continual annual increase above inflation will at some point impact upon the ability of HM to collect taxes and fees. There is a well-researched phenomena called the Laffer Curve. Excessive taxes may encourage tax avoidance and reduce government revenue. This therefore does speak to the long-term financial sustainability of the HM.

The comment is noted and the municipality is in agreement. Our primary focus was to breakeven and generate minor surpluses. The previous deficit budgets also included land sales and therefore it was included in the primary focus. Our focus is now shifting to prepare a surplus budget without taking land sales into account as disposal of land is not sustainable and is not intended to fund operations. All our land sales and development contributions are part of surplus funds transferred to the CRR.

13. There are many specific questions to be asked and answered to ensure effective oversight and to provide assurance that the HM future is sustainable. We should guard against becoming complacent because of the clean audits (although this is highly commendable) we have had over many years. We must continuously push for continued excellence. Especially utilizing internal audit as a source of information to the APAC. HM needs, as a minimum, a complement of three internal auditors that can help to generate the detailed answers to questions by way of internal audits. Thus, another two positions should be created. It also serves a good purpose should a middle manager be trained up timeously in the process of smooth handing over of such key position, as a crucial aspect of a well-executed succession plan.

HR: The comments are noted, but there is no immediate need for additional posts in Internal Audit Unit.

14. The interaction with the Municipal Manager, Director: Finance, and Accountant: Budget and Financial Reporting, did impress members of APAC and the three officials are to be thanked.

The comments are noted and appreciated.

## 4. Mr. Sollie Liebenberg

Middag Meneer ek wil u bedank vir u vriendelik diens en gesprek rakende die begroting soos aan my voorgele. Daar is egter n paar dinge in die begroting wat my pla.

Die volgende aspekte moet u onder u Raad se aandag bring voordat die begroting goedgekeur word.

Daar is n voorstel dat die toepassing van belastinguitklaring gewysig word en verslap word. Aldus die dokument stel u voor dat mense met uitstaande bedrae uitklaring onder sekere voorwaardes kry.

Dit is strydig met Artikel 118 en veral met Artikel 118 par 3 van die Stelselswet 32 van 2000. U moet asseblief die saak deeglik oorweeg en n deurdagte besluit neem. Aangesien dit n presedent kan skep vir die Munisipaliteit.

Die belastinguitklarings word volgens die Artikel 118 gedoen en die beleid kan ongelukkig nie verslap word nie.

Die ander saak is dat u n redelike wins op water, vullis en riool maak en dan die gelde kruis subsidieer na erfbelasting ens. Die aksie is ook strydig met die MFMA en ander finansiële protokolle

Die munisipaliteit sal aandag skenk aan die toewysing van kostes om elke diens in lyn te bring sodat inkomste en uitgawes meer akkuraat in die begrotingsverslag weerspieël word. Dit sal oor 'n paar finansiële jare gefaseer moet word indien daar groot veranderinge in tariewe gaan wees

Wat betref die deernis gevalle is daar n deel in die beleid wat lui dat iemand wat deernis kry nie sy eiendom mag verkoop vir n tydperk van agt jaar nie. Wat is die logika agter dit en welke wetgewing is hier van toepassing . Die betrokke eienaars mag nie so gepenaliseer word nie. Dit skep n anomalie en kan nie regverdig toegepas word nie.

Die agt jaar is 'n kontrak klousule in die staatsbehuisings projekte. Die Deernisbeleid het nie die verkoop van eiendom verbied nie, net dat die skuld sal teruggeskryf word en betaalbaar wees. Ons het die beleid verander na 3 jaar wat nou in lyn is met ander skuldafskrywings is.

Ek het ook gesien dat u die uitgawe op salarisse afgebring het na 32 persent dit nou is vir vorige boekjaar dit lyk beter as die 39 present van voorheen my mening is dat dit nog moet verlaag na minstens 30 persent.

Die persentasie vir verhoging in werknemerskoste word bepaal deur die 2024-2029 SALGBC kollektiewe ooreenkoms. Die raad se doelwit is om werknemerskoste tot ongeveer 30% van die uitgawebegroting te verminder. Die uitdaging word soos volg aangespreek: 1) Werknemers wat voor 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is, het outomaties gekwalifiseer vir kerfverhogings benewens die jaarlikse verhogings. Dit is verander deurdat werknemers wat na 1 Februarie 2022 aangestel is, nie outomaties vir die kerfverhogings sal kwalifiseer nie. Die verhoging is nou gekoppel aan prestasie-evaluerings. 2) deur slegs poste te befonds wat krities is vir dienslewering. 3) Deur oortyd te bestuur en te verminder.

Laastens volgens my inligting word die die meerderheid van die finansiële state opgestel deur n privaat firma en ek neem aan dat Duachme die konsultant is. Gaan hierdie besluit op tender uit en word die rotasie van konsultante toegepas.

Wat is die kostebedrag wat die konsultante ons vra om sodanige werk te doen per boekjaar.

Die meerderheid van die werk word deur munisipale amptenare gedoen en die privaat firma doen die finale opstel van die state met die "GRAP-compliance review". Dit is spesialiswerk wat ons uitkontrakteer. Dit word elke 3 jaar op tender gesit en die firma met hoogste punte / meestal laagste prys word aan gestel. Die kostes vir hierdie doel in 2024/25 was R284,448.

Ek weet ook dat dat Grap en Mscoa nog van toepassing en is en dat dit nou gespesialiseerd en ingewykend raak. My mening is dat die proses finansiële amptenare onnodig onder druk plaas. n Aanbeveling behoort na die Ouditeur Generaal te gaan om die prosesse vir die opstel van finansiële state te vereenvoudig aangesien dit onprakties is.

Daar word kennis geneem van die inset. Nasionale en Provinsiale Tesourie is verantwoordelik vir hierdie gesprekke.

Geliewe my kommentaar aan die Raad voor te le vir oorweging en terugvoering.

Groete

## 5. Mr. Clifton Donald

**From:** Clifton Donald [<mailto:cliftondonald@lantic.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 April 2026 17:49  
**To:** LOUW DE VILLIERS ([louw@hessequa.gov.za](mailto:louw@hessequa.gov.za)) <[louw@hessequa.gov.za](mailto:louw@hessequa.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** 'Martin Groenewald' <[mfgroenewald@gmail.com](mailto:mfgroenewald@gmail.com)>; PIETER BURGER ([pb171162@gmail.com](mailto:pb171162@gmail.com)) <[pb171162@gmail.com](mailto:pb171162@gmail.com)>; Denis Fraser <[frasers.two.mail@gmail.com](mailto:frasers.two.mail@gmail.com)>; [gustav.radloff@gmail.com](mailto:gustav.radloff@gmail.com); Andre Steyn <[andrelsteyn@gmail.com](mailto:andrelsteyn@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** LAPSKUIT PATHWAY FUNDIN

Good day Louw

### Funding Request/Enquiry

Refers Attached Pic

The Stilbaai Community Forum approached HM almost 3 years ago to action and fund the paving of 77m<sup>2</sup> of the pathway on the west side of the river as per the pic. This is as a result of high seas that damaged sections of the path way. The SCF were advised that funding wasn't available and the paving wasn't seen as a priority. This section of pathway is currently very rough under foot and is unsightly in an area of town that is frequented by many visitors, walkers, runners etc. Recently 2 reports have been received of walkers slipping/tripping on this section of pathway resulting in injury. The SCF arranged a quotation via a recognised, local contractor to pave this section of the pathway at R34000.00. The SCF initiated a campaign to recover funding via the community and have managed, to date, to recover R11 000.00 towards this project. \_

Could you please advise whether there would be funding available via HM, for projects such as this, to make up the shortfall and if so how could this funding be accessed?

I await your response and comments.

The Technical Department will investigate the proposal and provide feedback on whether the request can be accommodated, considering already planned maintenance work within available budget in the Department. If the request can not be accommodated , it must be included in the new inputs for consideration during the next budget input cycle.

Kind regards

Clifton Donald  
Stilbaai Community Forum

## 6. Adv. H.P van Staden

**24 April 2026**

**Aandag:** Mnr. Boesak, Onder Burgemeester van die Hessequa Munisipaliteit

Mnr. Albert de Klerk, Stadsbestuurder Voorsitter

Me. Nicolene van Zyl van die Witsand/Port Beaufort Inwonersvereniging

Sangrivier, Witsand en Heidelberg Gemeenskappe

**Onderwerp:** Slangrivier–Heidelberg–Witsand Pendelaarvervoerkrisis – Voorstelle vir Praktiese Inmenging en Kapitaalverkryging

Geagte Mnr. Boesak, Mnr. de Klerk, Voorsitter en Gemeenskappe,

Ek dien hiermee formele insette in op die Konsep Hersiene 2026/2027 Geïntegreerde Ontwikkelingsplan (GOP), die Mediumtermyn Inkomste- en Uitgaweraamwerk, en die Multi-jaar Begroting. Hierdie insette fokus op die dringende pendelaarvervoeruitdagings wat inwoners van Slangrivier, Heidelberg en Witsand daagliks ervaar, en stel praktiese oplossings voor om die krisis te verlig.

## **1. Probleemstelling**

Pendelaars betaal tans buitensporige tariewe (R90–R100 per dag, en selfs R180 vir dubbele skofte) vir vervoer tussen Slangrivier, Witsand en selfs Heidelberg.

Ou en duur bussies verhoog koste en verminder betroubaarheid, en dit is die bussies wat tans die meeste gebruik word, veral deur Rossouw vervoer.

Pendelaars wag sonder skuiling by die Sands Winkelsentrum en die R322/R324-kruising vir vervoer, anders as in Slangrivier en ander plekke in Witsand waar daar goeie bushaltes is wat die pendelaars teen die elemente beskerm..

Werkgewers ervaar produktiwiteitsverliese weens te vroeë taxi-vertrektye.

## **2. Skakeling met GOP Strategiese Doelwitte**

Hierdie krisis ondermyn plaaslike ekonomiese ontwikkeling, armoedeverligting, toegang tot werkseleenthede en volhoubare vervoerbeplanning.

### **3. Voorgestelde Inmenging vir 2026/27**

#### **3.1 Pendelaarbelanghebbende Forum**

Stel 'n forum saam met taxi eienaars/bestuurders, werkgewers, wykskomitees, inwoners, en die plaaslike raadslid.

Onderhandel oor buigsame vertrektye, afslagkaartjies en werkgewerbydraes, sodat daar aan die verbruikers van die vervoer hulp verleen kan word, asook dat die werkgewers in Witsand waarde uit hul werknemers kan kry.

Stop die onregverdigte dubbele tarief vir dubbele skofte.

Ondersoek moontlikhede om meer ekonomiese voertuie aan te skaf wat die pendel diens lewer, om die ouer voertuie wat se onderhoud duur is te vervang.

Die Hessequa Public Transport Liaison Committee is reeds gestig. Vergadering het reeds met die Hessequa Taxi Vereniging plaasgevind op 30/04/2026. Voorsitter sal versoek verder met die lede van die vereniging bespreek en hul besluit amptelik publiseer.

#### **3.2 Vervoerinfrastruktuur en Bushaltes**

Skep formele bushaltes met skuiling by die Sands Winkelsentrum en die R322/R324-kruising.

Ons sal die versoek ook aan die Pad Owerheid van die Distrik deurgee vir aandag en terugvoering, maar sal dit aspek as nuwe inset moet deurgee in die volgende Begroting siklus vir kommentare, daar is nie nou fondse hiervoor begroot nie.

Prioritiseer padopgraderings op die Slangrivier–Heidelberg–Witsand-korridor, dit sal help indien die pad geteer of geplavei word, wat sal aanleiding gee tot verminderde sluitasie van voertuie wat die pad gebruik, asook veiliger pad omstandighede en vinniger pendel tyd tussen Witsand en

Jaarliks word daar fondse begroot vir paaie opgraderings. die gedeeltes waarna verwys word, val in die gedeelte onder die Distrik se infrastruktuur. Ons sal die versoek ook aan die Pad Owerheid van die Distrik deurgee vir aandag en terugvoering.

#### **3.3 Moderne en Ekonomiese Vervoermiddele**

Vervang ou bussies met moderner voertuie wat ligter op brandstof is en goedkoper om te onderhou.

Voomemende rolspelers het reeds aangedui dat hulle die diens teen R80 per dag kan lewer.

Vergadering het reeds met die Hessequa Taxi Vereniging plaasgevind op 30/04/2026. Voorsitter sal versoek verder met die lede van die vereniging bespreek en hul besluit amptelik publiseer

#### **4. Prosesse vir Kapitaalverkryging**

Om die pad tussen Slangrivier en Witsand te teer/plavei en die infrastruktuur te verbeter, kan die volgende prosesse gevolg word:

**Munisipale Infrastruktuurtoelaag (MIG):** Rig 'n formele aansoek in vir MIG-fondse, spesifiek gemotiveer deur die sosio-ekonomiese impak van die pendelaarvervoerkrisis, veral in agneme die hoë werkloosheidskoers in veral Slangrivier.

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**Provinsiale Mobiliteitsfonds:** Betrek die Wes-Kaap Departement van Mobiliteit (wat nou paaiverantwoordelikheid oorgeneem het) om 'n gesamentlike projek te finansier.

**Publiek-Private Vennootskappe (PPPs):** Werkgewers in Witsand en Heidelberg kan genader word om by te dra tot padverbeterings en bushalte-infrastruktuur, aangesien hulle direk baat by meer betroubare personeel.

**Nasionale Toekennings en Fondse:** Dien aansoeke in by die Departement van Vervoer en die Departement van Samewerkende Regering en Tradisionele Sake (CoGTA) vir addisionele kapitaal.

**Distriksondersteuning:** Skakel die Tuinroete Distriksmunisipaliteit se Rural Roads Asset Management Systems (RRAMS) data in om 'n bewysgebaseerde motivering te versterk.

**Gemeenskapsbydraes en Fondsinsameling:** Oorweeg 'n gemeenskapsfonds of samewerking met nie-regeringsorganisasies wat fokus op landelike mobiliteit en armoedeverligting.

Hierdie is n provinsiale / Distrik pad .Ons sal die versoek ook aan die Pad Owerheid van die Distrik deurgee vir aandag en terugvoering.

## 5. Addisionele Voorstelle

**Subsidie-model:** Onderzoek 'n beperkte subsidie vir pendelaars wat minder as 'n sekere inkomste verdien.

Vergadering het reeds met die Hessequa Taxi Vereniging plaasgevind op 30/04/2026. Voorsitter sal versoek verder met die lede van die vereniging bespreek en hul besluit amptelik publiseer.

**Skedulering en Roeteformaliseering:** Werk saam met die provinsiale regering om 'n formele roetediens met vasgestelde skedules en tariewe te implementeer.

Versoek moet aan die Provinsiale Departement van Mobiliteit en Infrastruktuur bevorder word.

- **Plaaslike Ekonomiese Projekte:** Skep werkseleenthede in Slangrivier self (bv. agri-verwerking, kleinskaalse toerisme) om pendeldruk te verminder, veral in die lig van die uitdagings met die huidige Slangrivier kleinboere projek.

Probeer befondsingsgeleenthede kry.

## 6. Versoekte Uitkomste

Insluiting van 'n **“Slangrivier–Witsand-Heidelberg Pendelaar Mobiliteitsprojek”** in die 2026/27 GOP met duidelike KPI's, begrotingstoewysing en verantwoordelike departement.

Terugvoering aan die gemeenskappe oor hoe hierdie insette oorweeg is.

Samewerking met die Wes-Kaap Departement van Mobiliteit vir subsidiering en roeteformaliseering.

Ons neem kennis. Ons sal die versoek ook aan die Wes-Kaap Departement van Mobiliteit vir subsidiering en roete formalisering deurgee vir aandag en terugvoering.

## **1. Bo-inflasie Tariefverhogings en Vergelyking met Ander Munisipaliteite**

Hessequa Munisipaliteit se voorgestelde gemiddelde tariefverhogings van **4,5 %** (vir eiendomsbelasting, water, riool en vaste afval) is steeds bo die Nasionale Tesourie se voorspelde verbruikersprysindeks (VPI) van **3,7 %** (en selfs die 3,6 % waarna in sommige dokumente verwys word). In teenstelling het George Munisipaliteit daarin geslaag om hul gemiddelde tariefverhogings vir 2026/27 tot **3,7 %** (in lyn met die VPI) te beperk. Dit laat ernstige vrae ontstaan of Hessequa Munisipaliteit sy begroting so doeltreffend as moontlik bestuur, veral in die lig van die Nasionale Tesourie se riglyne wat munisipaliteite aanmoedig om tariefverhogings te handhaaf op vlakke wat 'n toepaslike balans weerspieël tussen bekostigbaarheid vir armer huishoudings en ander verbruikers, terwyl finansiële volhoubaarheid verseker word. Alle verhogings bo inflasie moet duidelik in die begrotingsverhaal geregverdig word, dit is egter tans nie die geval nie.

Die voorstel van die begrotingskomitee was aanvanklik om tariewe en die uitgawebegroting in lyn met inflasie te verhoog. Weens kostedruk moes die tariewe na maksimum 4,5% aangepas word om ten minste gelyk te breek of vir 'n klein surplus te begroot. Water en Rioleringsgebruik 'n groot hoeveelheid elektrisiteit vir suiwing en pompstasies en die kragverhoging is 9.01%. Vullisverwydering is afhanklik van diesilverbruik en hierdie prys wissel deur die boekjaar en is tans 50% hoër as wat in die begrotingsberekeninge in ag geneem is. Die Raad het wel die elektrisiteitstarief, wat die grootste uitgawe vir baie huishoudings is, met 2% gesubsidieer omdat hulle bewus is van die finansiële druk wat huishoudings ervaar. 'n Vermindering in die tarief gaan 'n negatiewe impak op dienslewering hê.

## 2. Onbillike en Nie-Koste-Reflektiewe Vaste Heffings op Elektrisiteit

Die **ampere heffing**, wat in 2023 ten spyte van openbare besware en 'n petisie van inwoners ingestel is, bly onbillik. Dit word aan eiendoms waarde gekoppel eerder as aan werklike verbruik en plaas 'n swaar las op sekere huiseienaars, veral eiendomme werd **R850 000** en meer, terwyl dit ander vrygestel. Hierdie heffing het my elektrisiteitsrekening van ons eiendom in Witsand met ongeveer vêr laat styg by implementering. Dit blyk moontelik onwettig te wees omdat die Nasionale Energie-Reguleerder van Suid-Afrika (NERSA) nie die koppeling aan eiendoms waarde goedgekeur het nie.

Ek maak ook beswaar ook sterk teen die maandelikse elektrisiteitsheffing van ongeveer **R725** op konvensionele meters. Hierdie vaste koste is nie verwant aan werklike verbruik

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nie en skep 'n swaar vaste las vir huishoudings, veral dié wat verbruik probeer verminder. 'n Regverdigde tariefstruktuur moet doeltreffendheid beloon, nie huishoudings met onvermydelike vaste heffings straf nie.

Inteendeel is ons vaste koste te laag vir vooruitbetaalde krag aankope, en die konvensionele meters se kostes is reg. Ons konsultante se aanbeveling was ons die vaste koste komponent moet verhoog en verbruik tarief verminder. NERSA het ook ons plan aan gevra oor hoe ons die vaste koste gaan verhoog. Die munisipaliteit se prioriteit is bekostigbare tariewe vir almal en vir hierdie rede het ons nog nie die vaste koste tarief verder verhoog nie.

## 3. Hoë Vaste Heffings op Water, Sanitasie en French-style Dreine

Ek maak verdere beswaar teen die heffing wat toegepas word op huiseienaars met **French-style dreine**. As geen munisipale diens gelewer word nie, behoort geen tarief gehef te word nie. Hessequa Munisipaliteit moet nie voortgaan om vir 'n diens te hef wat nie gelewer word nie, veral waar soortgelyke heffings elders na openbare dispute laat vaar is, bv. Swartland Munisipaliteit.

Ons het 'n studie in 2025 gedoen rondom tariewe en ons tariewe was nog redelik goedkoop in vergelyking met ander munisipaliteite. Ons het hoër vaste heffings weens die vakansie huise wat nie reg deur die jaar verbruik het nie. Die verbruik tarief vir water is laer as ander munisipaliteite.

#### 4. Oormatige Personeeluitgawes en Bestuursfoute

Belastingers is geregtig om te bevraagteken of huidige bestedings prioriteite geregverdig is, insluitend die gebruik van betaalde persoonlike assistente vir wykraadslede en die feit dat die burgemeester en speaker ongeveer **agt persoonlike assistente** het, teen aansienlike koste vir ratepayers.

Personeelkoste beloop **R290,1 miljoen** (32,9 % van totale bedryfsuitgawes) en styg met **4,75 %** ingevolge die kollektiewe ooreenkoms van die Suid-Afrikaanse Plaaslike Regering Onderhandelingsraad (SALGBC). Vier nuwe poste word bygevoeg, terwyl die toewysing van persoonlike assistente aan wykraadslede en opgeblase poste in die Kantoor van die Uitvoerende Burgemeester duplisering en vermorsing verteenwoordig. In die meeste Suid-Afrikaanse munisipaliteite het wykraadslede nie persoonlike assistente nie hul rol is primêr verteenwoordigend en toesighoudend.

Ingevolge **Artikel 23** en **Artikel 32** van die **Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge 66 van 1995**, tesame met die bepalinge van die kollektiewe ooreenkomste gesluit onder die **Suid-Afrikaanse Plaaslike Regering Onderhandelingsraad (SALGBC)**, is 'n munisipaliteit geregtig om aansoek te doen vir **vrystelling (exemption)** van enige bepaling van die ooreenkoms, insluitend die ooreengekome salaris- en loonverhogings.

Die SALGBC se **Salaris- en Loonkollektiewe Ooreenkoms** bepaal uitdruklik dat enige party of munisipaliteit geregtig is om skriftelik aansoek te doen vir gedeeltelike of volledige vrystelling van enige bepaling van die kollektiewe ooreenkoms. Sodanige aansoek moet voldoende en objektiewe redes bevat, asook volledige finansiële inligting wat die munisipaliteit se finansiële posisie en die redes waarom die vrystelling noodsaaklik is vir fiskale volhoubaarheid, ondersteun.

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Gelet daarop dat personeeluitgawes 'n vinnig groeiende kostekomponent verteenwoordig en die munisipaliteit se langtermyn fiskale volhoubaarheid bedreig (terwyl bedryfsuitgawes vinniger groei as inkomste en bo die verwagte inflasie), kan Hessequa Munisipaliteit wettiglik aansoek doen vir gedeeltelike of volledige vrystelling van die 4,75 % salarisverhoging, mits dit deur objektiewe finansiële bewyse ondersteun word en die prosedures van die SALGBC nagekom word.

Die personeeluitgawes is binne die maatstaf soos voorgesryf deur Nasionale Tesourie. Die vrystelling van kollektiewe ooreenkomste is nie outomaties nie. Enige vrystellings aansoek word oorweeg deur die algehele finansiële posisie van die munisipaliteit te oorweeg. Slegs as dit onbekosbaar is kan sal die vrystelling oorweeg word deur 'n vrystelling-paneel. Die personeel wat in die Politiek Kantoor van die Burgemeester, Speaker en Wyksraadslede aangestel is, is vaste-termyn aanstellings wat gekoppel is aan die amp van die Raadslid.

## 5. Konkrete Voorstelle vir Kostebesparings

Om volhoubaarheid te herstel, moet die munisipaliteit dringend koste besnoei deur:

Die uitfasering van onnodige poste, insluitend die persoonlike assistente vir wykraadslede en oortollige poste in die burgemeester se kantoor.

Die **versnelling van die uitrol van slim (elektroniese) water- en elektrisiteitsmeters** (voorafbetaalde of AMR-stelsels). Hierdie maatreef sal die meterlesersposte geleidelik uitfaseer, nie-inkomste-water- en elektrisiteitsverliese (NRW) drasties verminder, invorderingskoerse verbeter en arbeidskoste aansienlik sny. Die koste van die oorskakeling is befondsbaar uit bestaande toelaes soos die Munisipale Infrastruktuurtoelaag (MIG), Energie-doeltreffendheid en Vraagkantbestuur (EEDSM) en die Geïntegreerde Nasionale Elektrifiseringsprogram (INEP). Baie munisipaliteite het reeds bewys dat hierdie benadering beduidende besparings meebring sonder om dienslewering te benadeel.

Daar word 'n "Organisational Review" gedoen na die aanwysing van die nuwe Raad. Enige oorwegings vir die bevaarlyning van organogramme en nuwe tegnologie sal in die herseining van die diensstaat oorweeg word.

## 6. Lenings en Fiskale Risiko

Ek is besorg oor die munisipaliteit se voorneme om addisionele lenings aan te gaan. In die onlangse openbare kennisgewing is geen melding gemaak van die spesifieke leningsbedrag of die munisipaliteit se huidige totale leningsverpligting nie. Hierdie twee syfers moet duidelik en ondubbelsinnig in enige sodanige openbare kennisgewing vermeld word.

Van 2005/06 tot 2010/11 is ongeveer **R56 miljoen** in lenings onder die vorige administrasie aangegaan. In teenstelling het dit van 2016/17 tot 2023/24 toegeneem tot ongeveer **R180 miljoen**. In 2023/24 het Hessequa se leningsverpligting ongeveer **R156 miljoen** bedra. Vandag mag die totale leningsverpligting **hoër** wees, maar dit moet bevestig word teen die jongste geouditeerde syfers.

Dit moet in ag geneem word dat hoër lenings verdere druk plaas op die belastingbetalers om die rente daarop asook die kapitaal bedrag te delg.

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Hessequa Munisipaliteit moet beter bestuur toepas met die inkomste wat dit reeds invorder, eerder as om addisionele finansiële druk op belastingbetalers in die jare vorentoe te plaas.

Die leningsverpligtinge word jaarliks openbaar in ons finansiële state asook in die begrotingsdokument. Die wetlike vereiste van Artikel 46 (MFMA) vereis nie dat die totale leningsverpligtinge in die advertensie openbaar nie. Die ander inligting rondom die voorgestelde lening is beskikbaar.

## 7. Ander Belangrike Kwessies

Die munisipaliteit verdien aansienlike rente op openbare fondse, terwyl huiseienaars geen rente ontvang op deposito's wat by die munisipaliteit gehou word nie. Hierdie reëling is onbillik en moet hersien word.

Daar is geen verpligting om rente op depositos te allokeer nie. Die munisipaliteit is ook nie geregistreer as 'n bank of trust wat rente mag betaal op depositos nie.

Die huidige rebate-basis is verouderd. Hessequa vrygestel tans slegs die eerste **R50 000** van residensiële eiendoms waarde van eiendomsbelasting, en hierdie drempel moet aansienlik verhoog word tot ten minste **R350 000** om huidige eiendoms waardes te weerspieël. Die pensioenaris-inkomste-drempel, tans ongeveer **R12 600**, het ook aansienlike koopkrag verloor sedert 2020. 'n Hersiene drempel van **R16 000** sal beter pariteit herstel en meer realistiese verligting bied. Hessequa Munisipaliteit het van die swakste reënte in die Wes-Kaap, veral vir pensioenarisse. Dieselfde beginsel moet op kwesbaarheids-ondersteuning toegepas word.

Daar word kennis geneem van die inset en dit was oorweeg om die R50,000 te verhoog, maar daar is onvoldoende fondse om dit nou te bekostig. Die R12,540 word jaarliks verhoog vanaf 2024 met dieselfde % as die tariefverhoging. Ongelukkig was dit nie voorheen jaarliks hersien nie en het die Raad hierdie jaar die gyskaal van inkomste verbeter. Die inset sal in toekomstige jare oorweeg word.

Die buitensporig hoë onderverdelingsfooie en kapitaalbydraes vir grondeienaars om ongeveer **R120 000** onderverdelings-koste in Heidelberg te spandeer is skokkend en belemmer plaaslike ekonomiese groei.

Die kapitaalbydraes is sedert 2024 nie verhoog nie om ontwikkeling aan te spoor.

Die munisipaliteit moet sy totale jaarlikse litigasiekoste openbaar maak, insluitend besteding aan onafhanklike regs menings en litigasie teen personeel en ratepayers.

Onnodige litigasie soos teen Mnr Gielie Gunter kon opgelos gewees het deur kommunikasie tussen die partye.

Uitgawes word gerapporteer ingevolge die statutêre finansiële verslagdoeningsraamwerk, in ooreenstemming met die Wet op Munisipale Finansiële Bestuur (MFMA), mSCOA en die vereistes van die Ouditeur-generaal.

Tot op hede is geen onafhanklike regsmenings tydens die 2025/2026 finansiële jaar bekom nie, en litigasie is slegs een aspek van die totale regs-begroting.

#### **8. Skryf af van agterstallige skuld**

Laastens beswaar ek teen die voortgesette afskryf van tarief- en eiendomsbelastingagterstalliges vir seker individue veral buitelanders, of die toelaat van agterstallige skuld sonder behoorlike invordering en afdwinging, aangesien dit nie in die beste belang van die belastingbetalers van Hessequa Munisipaliteit is nie.

Skuldafskrywing is die laaste uitweg na alle aksies implementeer is deur die munisipaliteit. Tans is daar amper R9 miljoen oorhandigde skuld by die prokureurs. Die munisipaliteit het reeds R14miljoen se skuld afgeskryf in hierdie boekjaar. Ons kan nie diskrimineer met afskrywing nie, en word elkeen op sy eie meriete gedoen.

#### **Gevolgtrekking en Eis vir Aksie**

Die konsepbegroting voldoen nie voldoende aan die Nasionale Tesourie se riglyne oor die balans tussen bekostigbaarheid en volhoubaarheid nie, veral vir pensioenarisse en klein besighede. Die afslagkriteria is ook minder gunstig as dié in sommige ander munisipaliteite.

Daar word kennis geneem van die inset. Die begroting word jaarliks deur die Tesourie ontleed en as geloofwaardig gesertifiseer.

Ek eis dat die Raad dringend:

1. Alle tariefverhogings tot 'n maksimum van **3,7 % (VPI)** verminder en alle vaste heffings (insluitend die 0-32 amp-heffing, die R725 konvensionele meter-heffing, water- en sanitasie-vaste heffings, en French-style dreine-heffings) hersien of beëindig.

Die voorstel van die begrotingskomitee was aanvanklik om tariewe en die uitgawebegroting in lyn met inflasie te verhoog. Weens kostedruk moes die tariewe na maksimum 4,5% aangepas word om ten minste gelyk te breek of vir 'n klein surplus te begroot. Water en Riolerings gebruik 'n groot hoeveelheid elektrisiteit vir suiwering en pompstasies en die kragverhoging is 9.01%. Vullisverwydering is afhanklik van dieselverbruik en hierdie prys wissel deur die boekjaar en is tans 50% hoër as wat in die begrotingsberekeninge in ag geneem is. Die Raad het wel die elektrisiteitstarief, wat die grootste uitgawe vir baie huishoudings is, met 2% gesubsidieer omdat hulle bewus is van die finansiële druk wat huishoudings ervaar. 'n Vermindering in die tarief gaan 'n negatiewe impak op dienslewering hê.

2. Onmiddellik by die SALGBC aansoek doen vir vrystelling van salarisverhogings en onnodige poste (insluitend persoonlike assistente) rasionaliseer.

Die personeeluitgawes is binne die maatstaf soos voorgesryf deur Nasional Tesourie. Die vrystelling van kollektiewe ooreenkomste is nie outomaties nie. Enige vrystellings aansoek word oorweeg deur die algehele finansiële posisie van die munisipaliteit te oorweeg. Slegs as dit onbekosbaar is kan sal die vrystelling oorweeg word deur 'n vrystelling-paneel. Die personeel wat in die Politiek Kantoor van die Burgemeester, Speaker en Wyksraadslede aangestel is, is vaste-termyn aanstellings wat gekoppel is aan die amp van die Raadslid.

3. Die uitrol van slim (elektroniese) water- en elektrisiteitsmeters versnel om meterlesersposte uit te faseer, nie-inkomste-verliese te verminder en invordering te verbeter.

Hierdie projek is tans onder bespreking tussen finansies en Tegniese dienste.

4. Volledige deursigtigheid verskaf oor leningsbedrae, totale leningsverpligting, litigasiekoste, rente-inkomste versus deposito-rente, en die gebruik van die Nasionale Tesourie se Tarief-instrument.

Hierdie inligting is reeds openbaar en bekend.

5. Rebates en indigent-drempels aansienlik verbeter.

Hierdie sal in toekomstige jare oorweeg word.

6. Openbaar verslag doen oor 'n hersiene begroting en hierdie aanbevelings voor finale goedkeuring in Mei 2026.

Alle kommentaar met repliek sal aan die Raad voorgelê word vir oorweging.

## 7. Mr. Alexander Panzek

The Municipal Manager  
Hessequa Municipality

Subject: Objection to the 2026/27 Draft Budget and Tariff Policy

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby submit my formal input and objection to the proposed 2026/27 Draft Budget and associated tariff policies, as invited in your public notice.

Hessequa's proposed average tariff increases of 4.5% are still above the forecast CPI of 3.6%. By comparison, George Municipality has reportedly managed to keep its increases below 4%, which raises the question of whether Hessequa is managing its budget as efficiently as it could.

The budget committee's proposal was initially to increase tariffs and the expenditure budget in line with inflation. Due to cost pressures, the tariffs had to be adjusted to a maximum of 4.5% to at least break even or budget for a small surplus. Water and Sewerage uses a large amount of electricity for purification and pump stations and the electricity increase is 9.01%. Refuse removal is dependent on diesel consumption and this price varies throughout the financial year and is currently 50% higher than what was taken into account in the budget calculations. The Council subsidized the electricity tariff, which is the largest expense for many households, by 2% because they are aware of the financial pressure that households are experiencing. A further reduction in tariffs will have a negative impact on service delivery.

Ratespayers are entitled to question whether current spending priorities are justified, including the use of paid personal assistants for councillors and the mayor and speaker having approximately eight personal assistants, at considerable cost to ratepayers.

Die personeel wat in die Politieke Kantoer van die Burgemeester, Speaker en Wyksraadslede aangestel is, is vaste-termyn aanstellings wat gekoppel is aan die amp van die Raadslid. The personnel appointed in the political office are appointed on a fixed-term contract basis. The Council decides on the amount of staff and the deployment of staff within the guidelines of the Municipal Staff Regulations.

The low 0- 32 amp levy, currently approximately R200/ per month, was introduced in 2023 despite public objection and a petition from residents.

It appears unfair because it is linked to property valuation rather than actual usage, and it places a burden on certain homeowners, with properties worth R850,000 and more while exempting others.

This levy should be terminated, as it is not proportional to consumption. It also inflated my electricity by approx. 300% when it was introduced. I also believe it is unlawful, because NERSA did not approve this levy being linked to property value.

I also object to the monthly electricity levy of approximately R725 on conventional meters. It is unrelated to actual usage and creates a heavy fixed cost for households, especially those trying to reduce consumption. A tariff structure should reward efficiency, not penalise households with unavoidable fixed charges .

On the contrary, our fixed costs are too low for prepaid Electricity purchases, and the conventional meters' costs are correct. Our consultants' recommendation was that we should increase the fixed cost component and reduce the consumption tariff. NERSA also asked for our plan on how we will increase the fixed costs. The municipality's priority is affordable tariffs for everyone and for this reason we have not yet increased the fixed cost tariff further than general increase.

The high monthly water and sanitation levy is another concern. A fixed charge of more than R200 per month is difficult to justify for low-consumption users, some of whom pay far less in actual usage. A fairer model would reduce the fixed component and better align charges with consumption. Our Heidelberg water wasn't of good quality in the past decade, many times we had dirty water not fit for consumption. We undertook a study in 2025 around tariffs and our tariffs were still quite cheap compared to other municipalities. We have higher fixed charges due to the holiday homes that does not consume services throughout the year. The consumption tariff for water is however lower than other municipalities.

I further object to the levy applied to homeowners with French drains. If no municipal service is rendered, then no tariff should be charged.

Hessequa should not continue charging for a service that is not provided, particularly where similar levies have already been abandoned elsewhere following public dispute, e.g. Swartland Municipality.

The municipality cannot levy for french drains as they are actually illegal. We charge for septic tanks and there is a service of emptying the tanks periodically. Any resident with a french drain can approach the municipality.

National Treasury's budget guidance states that municipalities should balance affordability and financial sustainability, and that increases above the inflation target must be clearly justified in the budget narrative .

The budget does not adequately address affordability, particularly for pensioners and small businesses, and the discount criteria are less favourable than those applied in some other municipalities.

We believe our narration is sufficient but will be expanded on to explain the cost drivers. The rebates in the budget is based on the municipality's affordability constraints. Any rebate is revenue foregone and carried either by a state grant (indigents) or the ratepayer.

I am also concerned about the municipality taking on additional loans.

In the recent public notice regarding the municipality's intention to take out additional loans, no mention was made of the specific loan amount or the municipality's current total loan liability?

These two figures should be stated clearly and unmistakably in any public notice of this nature.

The loan commitments are disclosed annually in our financial statements as well as in the budget document. The legal requirement of Section 46 (MFMA) does not require the total loan commitments to be disclosed in the advertisement. It is however included in the information statement that the advertisement refers to. The

other information surrounding the proposed loan can also be found in the information statement.

From 2005/06 to 2010/11, approximately R56 million in loans was raised under the previous administration. By contrast, from 2016/17 to 2023/24, this increased to about R180 million.

In 2023/24, Hessequa's loan liabilities stood at approximately R156 million. Today, the total loan liability may be around R250 million, but this should be confirmed against the latest audited figures.

The loan liability was R122 million as at 30 June 2025 and decreased to R110 million as at 31 December 2025. Further repayments are due on 30 June 2026 and the new loan is anticipated to be taken up by 30 June 2026 as well. The Long-term Financial Plan reflects that we are conservative with our borrowing approach and advises that we can increase the frequency of borrowing to annually.

Hessequa should manage more prudently with the revenue it already collects, rather than placing additional financial pressure on ratepayers in the years ahead.

The comment is noted and we consider ourselves as prudent as we have been cutting unnecessary expenditures and unutilised budgets.

Another matter of concern is the interest disparity in municipal finance. The municipality earns substantial interest on public funds, while homeowners receive no interest on deposits held by the municipality. That arrangement is unfair and should be reviewed.

There is no obligation to allocate interest on deposits. The municipality is also not registered as a bank or trust that may pay interest on deposits.

The current rebate basis is outdated. Hessequa currently exempts only the first R50,000 of residential property value from rates, and this threshold should be increased significantly to at least R350,000 to reflect current property values.

The input is noted and it was considered to increase the R50,000, but there are insufficient funds to afford it at this stage.

The pensioner income threshold, currently around R12,600, has also lost substantial purchasing power since 2020. A revised threshold of R18,000 to R24,000 would better restore parity and provide more realistic relief. Hessequa Municipality has one of the worst rebates in the Western Cape, especially for pensioners.

The R12,540 has been increased annually from 2024 by the same % as the tariff increase. Unfortunately, it was not previously reviewed annually and this year the Council improved the sliding scale of income to be more beneficial to the consumer. The input will be considered in future years.

The same principle should apply to indigent support.

We have increased the threshold by 10% to R5,500 which is above the National norm of two state pensions (R4,800).

Last but not least, I object to the excessively high subdivision fees and capital contributions. For land owners to spend approx R120,000 in subdivision cost in Heidelberg is outrageous!

The Capital Contributions have not increased since 2024 with the intention of encouraging investment and development.

Hessequa Municipality must also disclose its total annual litigation costs, including spending on independent legal opinions and litigation against staff members and ratepayers.

Expenditure is reported in terms of the statutory financial reporting framework, in line with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), mSCOA, and Auditor-General requirements. To date, no independent legal opinions were obtained during the 2025/2026 financial year and litigation is only one aspect of the entire legal budget.

I request that Council revisits these tariff increases and related policies to ensure compliance with national guidelines, fairness to residents, and support for local economic growth.

The budget committee's proposal was initially to increase tariffs and the expenditure budget in line with inflation. Due to cost pressures, the tariffs had to be adjusted to a maximum of 4.5% to at least break even or budget for a small surplus. Water and Sewerage uses a large amount of electricity for purification and pump stations and the electricity increase is 9.01%. Refuse removal is dependent on diesel consumption and this price varies throughout the financial year and is currently 50% higher than what was taken into account in the budget calculations. The Council subsidized the electricity tariff, which is the largest expense for many households, by 2% because they are aware of the financial pressure that households are experiencing. A further reduction in tariffs will have a negative impact on service delivery.

Finally, I urge Council to stop writing off rates and tariff arrears for politically connected individuals, or allowing arrears to go uncollected without proper enforcement, as this is not in the best interests of the ratespayers of Hessequa Municipality.

Debt write-off is the last resort after all actions have been implemented by the municipality. Currently, there is almost R9 million in debt handed over to the lawyers. The municipality has already written off R14 million in debt in this financial year. We cannot discriminate with write-off, and each is done on its own merits.

Yours faithfully,  
Alexander Panzek  
WhatsApp/Call: 079 707 6401

Member of the Garden Route Ratespayers Alliance  
Hessequa active citizenry

## ELECTRICITY 0-32 AMPS DOMESTIC- BASIC FEE IMPLEMENTATION

- Alternative tariff was created in the past for small power users
- Lots of users are moving to this tariff and pay no basic fee including persons who install SSEG
- Thus there is an under collection of basic fees in this category when it comes to network maintenance costs.
- It is proposed that the alternative tariff only apply to households where the municipal property valuation is R850 000 or less •
- Households that do not qualify in terms of the above, will thus pay a basic fee from 1 July 2023

*Some pay, others  
don't!*



| FINANSIES                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>Word erf gehê vir dienste beskikbaarheid?</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | JA      | NEE    |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 5.                                               | <p>Dat kapitaalbydrae vir een wooneenheid gehê sal word soos per die Raad se goedgekeurde tariewelys, wat jaarliks aangepas word, soos volg:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dienste</th> <th>Bedrae</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Paaië</td> <td>R 14 652.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td>R 29 187.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Riool</td> <td>R 20 971.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stormwater</td> <td>R 16 171.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soliede Afval</td> <td>R 14 720.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elektrisiteit</td> <td>R 23 255.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Totaal</b></td> <td><b>R 118 958.51</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Dienste | Bedrae | Paaië | R 14 652.50 | Water | R 29 187.92 | Riool | R 20 971.22 | Stormwater | R 16 171.88 | Soliede Afval | R 14 720.00 | Elektrisiteit | R 23 255.00 | <b>Totaal</b> | <b>R 118 958.51</b> |  |  |
| Dienste                                          | Bedrae                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Paaië                                            | R 14 652.50                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Water                                            | R 29 187.92                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Riool                                            | R 20 971.22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Stormwater                                       | R 16 171.88                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Soliede Afval                                    | R 14 720.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| Elektrisiteit                                    | R 23 255.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| <b>Totaal</b>                                    | <b>R 118 958.51</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 6.                                               | <p>Dat die betaling van die kapitaalbydraes, in die volgende rekening inbetaal word: Eerste Nasionale Bank (FNB), Hessequa Munisipaliteit, [redacted] dat die volgende nommer as verpligting gebruik word: [redacted]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Kwit Nr |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 7.                                               | <p>Dat [redacted] betaling van die kapitaalbydraes aan <a href="mailto:lelanie@hessequa.gov.za">lelanie@hessequa.gov.za</a> gestuur word.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | drag    |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 8.                                               | Dat geen uitklaring in die oordrag van Gedeelte A sal geskied alvorens die erf nie ten volle van diensteaansluitingspunte voorsien is nie.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 9.                                               | Dat die volgende straat adres van toepassing sal wees vir Gedeelte A:<br>Van [redacted]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 10.                                              | Dat [redacted] aangevraagde aansluitingskoste op die ontwikkelaar se rekening sal wees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| <b>Vir Kennisname</b>                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 1.                                               | Dat die normale woon tariewe gehê sal word soos per die Raad se goedgekeurde tariewelys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 2.                                               | Dat die eiendom soos geskep, onderworpe sal wees aan die herwaardasie, sodra die ontwikkeling voltooi is.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 6.                                               | Dat die goedkeuring slegs as geïmplementeer geag te wees met die registrasie van die onderverdeelde erf.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 10.                                              | Dat die goedkeuring slegs as geïmplementeer geag te wees met die registrasie van die onderverdeelde erf.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| BESTUURDER: FINANSIES                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | DATUM:  |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| <b>TEGNIES</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| <b>Is dienste beskikbaar na die perseel?</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | JA      | NEE    |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| <b>Is aansluitings gedoen op die erf?</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | JA      | NEE    |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 2 (b)                                            | Voltooiing van die installering van ingenieursdienste in ooreenstemming met die voorwaardes beoog in Artikel 20(4) en ander toepaslike wetgewing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |
| 3.                                               | Dat dit die eienaar se verantwoordelik is vir die voorsiening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |         |        |       |             |       |             |       |             |            |             |               |             |               |             |               |                     |  |  |

8. Me. S.L. Saayman

Hessequa Munisipaliteit

Riversal

6670

Geagte Mnr De Klerk

RE: INSET RAKEND KONSEP BEGROTING UITREIKINGSVERGADERING VAN 9 APRIL 2026 TE RIVERSDAL

Hiermee wil ek as inwoner van Riversdale graag my inset lewer rakend die gratis water wat aan deernis huishoudings gee word.

Tydens die konsep begroting uitreike het dit gewys dat persone wat kwalifiseer vir deernis sal sleg 6klwh ontvang, ek wil graag versoek dat die 15klwh gratis water asb behoue moet word soos wat dit alreeds aan deernis persone/huishoudings toegestaan word.

Die rede vir hierdie versoek is soos volg.

- Ons sit in gemeenskappe waar werkloosheid groot rol speel.
- Agterplaasbewoners wat soms by deernis huishoudings woonagtig, want behuising is groot nood.
- Ouetehuse waarvan bejaardes woonagtig is en wat ook net staatstoelaag ontvang
- Deernishuishoudings wat som meer water moet gebruik as gevolg van bedleënde persone wat op daaglikse basis skoon beddegoed moet hê.
- Huishoudings waar kinders werkloos is met hul eie kinders en is afhanklik van die ouer/s wat afhanklik is van staatstoelaag.

Daarom is hierdie my pleidooi om asb hierdie inset op die konsep begroting te verander vanaf 6 na 15 klwh gratis water vir huishoudings, tehuise en ander organisasie wie kwalifiseer vir deernis.

Ek hoor graag van u rakend my versoek.

Groete

Sharon Saayman

Die 6KL is 'n nasionale riglyn wat deur die regering befonds word en as 'n munisipaliteit kies om meer gratis eenhede te gee, moet die deur die belasting betaler befonds word. Die meederheid van die belasting betalers is nie ten gunste van hierdie voorstel nie en dus kon die munisipaliteit nie vir 15KL gratis begroot nie.

## 9. Kwanokuthula

During the meeting in Kwanokuthula, the following IDP inputs were made

1. Support for small scale farmers and provide perimeter fence  
Letter will be forwarded to Garden Route District Municipality to co-fund the fence. Albert Kleynhans
2. Urgency in expansion of the community hall or identification of a suitable land for the new hall  
The municipality will continue to explore potential external funding opportunities for the expansion of the community hall. The long-term financial plan currently does not make provision for funding the expansion from the municipality's own resources.
3. Identification of a suitable land and development of a sport field  
An investigation to be done to determine alternative land for a new soccer field. to be further discussed with Department of Planning.
4. Provision of more toilets in Nkanini  
To be discussed with management to see how many toilets can be purchased, subject to the availability of funds.
5. Serviced plots for those who do not qualify for housing subsidies  
Ondersoek tans die opsie in samewerking met die Provinsiale Departement van Infrastruktuur.
6. Employment of caretakers for new public facilities and a cleaner for the public toilets in Nkanini and Plankies.  
The municipality intends to appoint local persons under the Expanded Public Works Program who will be responsible for the cleaning of public toilets in Nkanini and Plankiesdorp. The request to create and fill new "municipality funded" posts are subject to available budget. The re-allocation or creation of new posts may be considered during the "organisational review" of the staff establishment that is due to take place after the local government elections.

## 10. Stilbaai Business/ Besigheidsforum

## 1. Core Observation

It is therefore a concern that, while a number of the submitted projects are reflected at the planning or consideration stage, these economically driven priorities are not sufficiently included in the current or medium-term capital budget (MTREF).

This gap is especially evident in key service and mobility-related interventions.

Importantly, the majority of the SBF inputs were not infrastructure requests in isolation but proposals aimed at unlocking economic activity, improving the visitor experience, and supporting the sustainability of local businesses.

The comments are noted. The focus of Capital projects are aligned and focused on ensuring services to businesses that will be more sustainable. The funding source for these required budget inputs are the same as for roads upgrading and maintenance. Therefore the priority is towards roads and related infrastructure. This will be referred to future budgets.

## 2. Evidence from Key Projects

This gap becomes evident when considering specific projects:

- **Public Ablution Upgrade & Expansion Programme (including Brugmark):**  
Despite its direct link to tourism activity and small-business trading conditions, this

### STILBAAI BESIGHEIDSFORUM - STILBAAI BUSINESS FORUM NPC (2023/229184/08)

Directors: Rachel Wall (Chairman), Johannes Van Zyl, Francois Smit, Jason Barnes, Wian Jonck

STILBAAI BUSINESS / BESIGHEIDSFORUM



Network towards success / Netwerk na sukses

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 +27 82 450 0850

Programme is not reflected in the current budget. At the Brugmark, ablution facilities are part of the basic infrastructure required to sustain a high-activity economic node.

The absence of adequate facilities directly affects visitor experience and trading conditions, yet represents a relatively low-cost intervention with an immediate economic return.

This to be included as new input for consideration during the next budget circle round. It should also be noted that ablution facilities are more expensive for a

municipality to maintain and is susceptible to vandalism. Discussions should be held on the private sector assisting in this regard. The discussions will be facilitated after the newly elected Council is constituted.

- **Main Road West / Voortrekker Street Intersection & Steyns Access Constraints (including Buitekant Street connection):**

The access and traffic constraints in this area constitute a longstanding, well-documented operational challenge, raised consistently over several years through both Ward and SBF processes.

The impact is clearly established — affecting traffic flow, delivery access, customer movement, and overall business operations within one of Stilbaai's key commercial nodes. While these matters are currently linked to the Transport Access Management Plan, the issues themselves are already well-defined and have been the subject of repeated engagement, including consideration of practical, incremental solutions. Continued classification within broader planning processes effectively delays resolution of a clearly identified, economically significant constraint.

We are currently busy with a TIA for Orchid rylaan in Still Bay. The AMP study is an ongoing process to improve the western side of Still Bay. We take note of the challenges in the area, but we are in the process to attend to the matter. The traffic impact study for the crossing at Steyns and Engen will be part of a development application on the Engen site. The inputs are not lost but are second to the priority of Orchid Rylaan.

### **3. Broader Implication**

The pattern that emerges is not one of misalignment in project identification, but rather a gap in how projects are advanced from planning to implementation.

Projects with clearly defined scope, demonstrated impact, and prior engagement remain within extended planning cycles without clear prioritisation for implementation **or structured feedback on progress.**

This suggests that the current approach may not sufficiently incorporate **economic impact and operational urgency** as key determinants in capital budget allocation.

The comments are noted and will be further reviewed by Management. Although the municipality's focus is on larger infrastructure projects at this stage, the approval of our new Capital Expenditure Framework tool will have a new priority matrix and longer project horizon. This in turn ensures planning and implementation are correctly aligned.

#### 4. Opportunity for Improved Alignment

An opportunity therefore exists to strengthen alignment between:

- capital investment decisions and
- the Municipality's local economic development objectives.

#### **STILBAAI BESIGHEIDSFORUM - STILBAAI BUSINESS FORUM NPC (2023/229184/08)**

Directors: Rachel Wall (Chairman), Johannes Van Zyl, Francois Smit, Jason Barnes, Wian Jonck

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STILBAAI BUSINESS / BESIGHEIDSFORUM



Network towards success / Netwerk na sukses

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The structured approach introduced in the SBF submission — prioritising projects by economic value and development impact — may help improve alignment.

In addition, more deliberate integration of the LED function into the capital budgeting process could further strengthen outcomes.

We trust that these comments will contribute constructively to the finalisation of the 2026/2027 Budget.

The Stilbaai Business Forum remains available to engage further if required.

The Investment Facilitation Unit has been approved by Council and is finding its expression within the reporting and accountability cycle of the municipality. We believe there will be greater successes as we grow our LED initiatives and focus within the municipality.

**11.C.E. Botha**

Wie dit mag aangaan.

Hartlik met die derde bes bestuurde munisipaliteit in RSA, met dankbare waardering!

Dankie vir die geleentheid om as leek kommentaar te lewer op die begroting.

Wil voorstel dat terwille van deursigtigheid, die kwotasies, wat vir elke dorp oorweeg is, met die voorgestelde uitgawe vertoon word Bv. Herstel van stormwater afvoer...dit gaan my verstand steeds te bowe dat 'n raamwerk van 4 bene met 'n paar trapplekke en 'n eenman sitplek bo, vir die gebruik van die lewensredders vir hoogstens 4/5 weke van die jaar, R160,000 kan kos om te vervaardig!? Daarna behoort dit veilig gestoor te word.

Alle verkryging word op 'n openbare tender of kwotasie proses gedoen.

Markverwante pryse word oorweeg in elke verkryging. Die openbaring van pryse is op ons webtuiste vir formele geslote kwotasies en tenders.

Die swembad vir Albertinia sal nie geredelik gevul kan word, terwyl die afgelope 3 somers water vanaf Gourits voorsien moes word aan Albertinia, Riversdal en ?Herbertsdale. Daardie uitgawe moet heroorweeg word agv van waterskaarste.

Daar word kennis geneem van die kommentaar.

Na 3 Brandstigtings, net buite Gourits binne 5jaar, is 'n tenkwaentjie vir onmiddellike optrede om die vuur te begin blus, ononderhandelbaar.

'n Watertenk wa is alreeds aangekoop ons wag egter aflewering, maar behoort eersdaags dit te ontvang waarvan verspreiding na Gourits sal plaasvind.

Die pawiljoen by die sportkompleks, wat min gebruik word, kan eers bly.

Daar word kennis geneem van die kommentaar.

Sterkte vir die belangrike dienslewering aan ons gemeenskap.

Baie dankie vir u kommentare en voorstelle op die begroting, dit word waardeer.

Die uwe

C.E. Botha

Die reaksietyd na Gouritsmond is tussen 35minute tot 'n uur en langer. Na 3 insidente van brandstiging net buite die woongebied, is dit essensieel dat 'n plaaslike tenkwaentjie vir die blus van vure. beskikbaar is. Wanneer die brandkonneksies gespoel word, kan die tenk met die water gevul word, eerder as die water in die strate te laat afloop. As die tenk nog water in het met die volgende kontrollering van die brandkonneksies. kan die aangeplante bome met die water natgelei word

Dis 'n baie goeie voorstel wat voortaan oorweeg sal word.

Gouritsmond ontvang jaarliks 'n baie klein deel van die begroting. Kan die opbrengs van die verhuring van die karavaanpark, nie plaaslik gebruik word nie?

Die karavaanparke maak nie wins nie en die onlangs verhuring van die karavaanpark het nog steeds koste komponente wat gedek moet word.

12.Me. H. Leonard

**External Mail] This email was sent outside of our organisation (Hessequa Municipality). DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

Goeie middag menere Davids en Lewis-Michaels,

Ek doen hiermee navraag oor die vordering insake die identifisering en goedkeuring van 'n Smousarea in Gouritsmond **agter die gemeenskapsaal** soos voorgestel deur die Gouritsmond Belastingbetalersvereniging asook ander organisasies in Gouritsmond. Wanneer dit weer bespreek is en watter besluit is daaroor geneem is. Was daar enige prosesse opgestel en askies geneem om dit te inisieer en te begin?

Dis reeds Mei maand en dis nodig dat dit gefinaliseer moet word voor die vierde kwartaal asseblief.

Dis 'n saak van erns aangesien die huidige standplase groot risiko's inhou vir die veiligheid en toegang van inwoners, smouse, vakansiegangers, parkeerareas en verkeeropeenhoping by julle voorgestelde areas, waar voetgangers in gevaar is.

Ons sal u spoedige terugvoering waardeer.

Vriendelike groete,  
Hannelie Leonard  
Sekretaresse van Gouritsmond Belastingbetalersvereniging

Departement tans besig met 'n ondersoek na alle smousareas in die Hessequa munisipale gebied. Insette en kommentare is reeds ontvang vanaf belanghebbenes wat die wykskomitees en gemeenskapsorganisasies insluit. 'n Inspeksie is reeds vir Donderdag, 7 Mei 2026 bevestig met die Gouritsmondbelastingsbetalersvereniging. Finale insette sal gedurende Junie 2026 aan die Komitees van die Raad voorgehou word.

## 13. Jongensfontein Inwoners Vereniging (JIV)

**[External Mail] This email was sent outside of our organisation (Hessequa Municipality). DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

Vir aandag:

Die Munisipale Bestuurder

Mnr Albert de Klerk

Hessequa Munisipaliteit.

Geagte Mnr de Klerk,

JIV kommentaar op die hersiene konsep 2026-2027  
GOP inkomste en uitgawe raamwerk en multi-jaar konsepbegroting.

Ontvang hiermee asb kommentaar van die Jongensfontein Inwonersvereniging ("JIV") op die 2026-2027 GOP en die multi-jaar konsepbegroting. Buiten vir die items wat reeds in die begroting ingesluit is mbt verbeterings en instandhouding by Jongensfontein, versoek die JIV dat daar, indien enigsins moontlik, ook vir die volgende items (rofweg in prioriteitsvolgorde, met inagneming van die omvang van elke projek) voorsiening gemaak word:

1. Die voorsiening van 'n harde oppervlakte op die laaste stukkie grondpad in Jongensfontein wat langs bewoonde woonhuise verbyloop na die natuurreservaat, die tuinafvalstortingsterrein en die riooldamme agter die dorp. Dit is die grondpad wat uit Fonteinsingel uitdraai en by die ingang na die tennisbane verbygaan.

Die stukkie grondpad van ongeveer 100m ervaar druk verkeer en word daaglik deur oa die rioolsuigvragmotors en ander voertuie gebruik, wat die aangrense wonings tot groot ergenis van die inwoners voortdurend met 'n onaangename stoflaag bedek en om verstaanbare redes lei tot talle klagtes en besware van daardie inwoners. Geraamde koste R200,000. -

Hierdie item sal oorweeg word gedurende die volgende MTREF begroting inset periode. Nuwe begrotingsinsette word jaarliks tussen September en Oktober aangevra.

2. Die bou van 'n seelbare vullisoordragstasie, in 'n geskikte ligging, wat ontwerp is om vliegplae, knaagdierplae en onwelriekende reuke te voorkom.

Die vervalte bestaande struktuur is in 2025 deur die JIV opgeknop maar is nie op standaard nie omdat dit nie seelbaar is nie en gevolglik aanleiding gee tot klagtes deur nabygeleë inwoners oor vliegplae, knaagdierplae en onwelriekende reuke.

Daar sal dalk 'n openbare deelname proses gevolg moet word rakende die plasing van die stasie. Die huidige stasie is al vir meer as 5 of 6 jaar in sy huidige posisie, alhoewel 'n aanliggende inwoner skielik vanaf die begin

van 2026 teen

die plasing daarvan begin beswaar gemaak het, nadat aansienlike gedeelde onkoste aangegaan is deur die JIV en die munisipaliteit, om die pad wat na die vullisstasie lei, te verbeter. Dit is moontlik dat die betrokke inwoner sy reg om beswaar te maak teen die ligging daarvan deur tydsverloop en benadeling, in die vorm van kosteverspilling, verbeur het, maar die JIV is bereid om alternatiewe werkbare plasings te oorweeg. Tot op hede kon die JIV nie daarin slaag om 'n beter ligging vir die stasie te identifiseer nie.

'n Vullisoordragstasie is om verskeie redes 'n noodsaaklike erfenis in die dorp en die huidige stasie word gereeld benut deur die oorgrote meerderheid van inwoners vir oortollige huishoudelike rommel. Die JIV bied aan om

om die nuwe oordragstasie op eie koste met natuurlike plaaslike klipwerk te laat bedek, sodat die struktuur sal aansluit by die natuurlike omgewing en die kultuur-historiese erfenis van Jongensfontein. Dit sal meebring dat die munisipaliteit op die koste van die eksterne afwerking van

die nuwe struktuur sal kan bespaar. Geraamde koste R300,000. - Daar was 'n vergadering rakende hierdie aspek met Bestuur gewees. Geen fondse is hiervoor begroot in die 2026/27 MTREF periode nie. Dit sal weer oorweeg word tydens die volgende MTREF begrotingsproses.

3. Die gefaseerde vervanging van die oorblywende asbeswaterpype in die dorp se waterverspreidingsstelsel, wat nie net gereeld lei tot pype wat bars, waterlekke en water-afsluitings nie, maar ook moontlike gesondheidsrisiko's inhou. Geraamde koste onbekend, moontlik R1 miljoen. - Die Raad het 'n pyp vervanings programme/

Daar is nie hiervoor begroot vir 2026/27 nie, hierdie inset sal deel uit maak van die volgende Begrotingsproses.

4. Verbetering van alge-beheer by die Jongensfontein-dam, sonder om die visbevolking (wat deur die JIV aangekoop is) in die dam se oorlewing in gevaar te stel. Geraamde koste onbekend, moontlik R200,000. –

Daar word kennis geneem, die uitdaging is die voels wat die visse uitroei wie die alge onder beheer hou.

5. Die aanbring van enkele lae ligpale by die Betelgeus-wandelpad, vanaf die museum in 'n oostelike rigting. Hierdie versoek is reeds aan die Stilbaai tegniese dienste en elektriese departement voorgelê. Die JIV wag tans nog vir terugvoering of daar met die projek voortgegaan sal word. Geraamde koste R30,000.

Die Elektriese departement sal ondersoek in stel.

6. Die vervanging van die bestaande reservoirs se asbesdakke en aanbring van sekuriteitsmaatreëls, om vrye toegang tot die reservoirs te beheer. Geraamde koste R100,000. -

Daar word kennis geneem hiervan en sal die inset sal tydens die volgende begrotingsproses oorweeg word.

7. Die vervanging van die slordige en skewe toegangshek tot die Jongensfontein dam, langs Hoofweg, wat 'n onversorgde indruk by die ingang van die dorp skep, met 'n netjiese en meer doeltreffende skuifhek. Geraamde koste R30,000. -

Tegniese dienste sal ondersoek in stel en vervang indien nodig. Onderhewig aan die beskikbaarheid van fondse.

8. Die ontwerp, beplanning, omgewingsimpakstudie en gefaseerde konstruksie van 'n lae seemuur met natuurlike klipwerk en 'n voetgangerwandelpad langs die Strandstraat promenade, ten einde oa die gevaarlike afwesigheid van 'n toeganklike sygaardjie vir voetgangers op 'n smal seefrontstraat, wat seisoenaal baie besig raak met voertuie, fietse, motorfietse, drawwers, stappers, rolskaatsers, kinders, bejaardes, branderplankryers, vissermanne, rolstoele, baba-stootwaentjies, honde en talle ander, in beide rigtings. Dit sluit in die voorgestelde omskepping van die bestaande gehawende draadkliphokke (gabions) in 'n seemuur en wandelpad-kombinasie in die baai van Strandstraat. Die promenade-projek was aanvanklik omstrede nadat daar kwaadwilliglik valse bewerings oor die aard van die projek op sosiale media versprei is, maar die JIV bestuur is van mening dat by verre die oorgrote meerderheid van Strandstraat-eienaars en Jongensfontein inwoners ten gunste van die ontwerpvoorstelle sal wees wat tans deur die JIV in samewerking met Dr Andre van Tonder, kusingenieur, en sekere Strandstraat-eienaars, gefinaliseer word. Daar sal uiteraard voldoende geleenthede vir openbare deelname tav hierdie nodige projek geskep word. Geraamde koste R5 miljoen.

Daar is nie hiervoor begroot nie, verskeie studies sal eers gedoen moet word.

9. Die aanskaf van 'n rollersif vir die hoofstrand, ten einde klein plastiekdeeltjies en ander tipes besoedeling te verwyder. Geraamde koste R100,000.

Daar is nie hiervoor begroot vir 2026/27 nie, hierdie inset sal deel uit maak van die volgende Begrotingsproses.

10. Die bou van 'n lae see-muur by die parkeerterrein van die baie gewilde westelike getypool, met natuurlike klipwerk, en die verbetering van die stowwerige en klipperige parkeerterrein deur dit met plaveistene of 'n geteerde oppervlakte, te bedek. Geraamde koste R300,000. –

Hierdie item sal oorweeg word gedurende die volgende MTREF begroting inset periode. Nuwe begrotingsinsette word jaarliks tussen September en Oktober aangevra.

11. Talle inwoners en besoekers aan Jongensfontein (en Stilbaai) het al versoek dat 'n veilige fietspad met 'n soliede oppervlakte, tussen Stilbaai en Jongensfontein gebou word. So 'n fietspad sal 'n groot bate uit 'n toerisme-oogpunt wees, nie net vir Jongensfontein nie maar selfs in groter mate vir Stilbaai en die hele streek. Die teerpad tussen Jongensfontein en Stilbaai word deur groot getalle fietsryers gebruik, veral tydens hoog-

seisoen maar ook regdeur die jaar, maar het ongelukkig 'n smal skouer wat 'n lewensgevaarlike en wesenlike risiko vir fietsryers daarstel. Die bou van so 'n fietspad in die padreserwe sal verskeie werksgeleenthede skep en ook op die lang termyn die skep van werksgeleenthede in die streek bevorder, deur 'n toename in fietsry-toerisme. Die aanbou van die nuwe kraglyn tussen Jongensfontein en Stilbaai in die padreserwe kan moontlik met die bou van die fietspad gekombineer word, ten einde die koste-doeltreffendheid van beide projekte te verhoog. Geraamde koste R2-3 miljoen.

Hierdie item sal oorweeg word gedurende die volgende MTREF begroting inset periode. Nuwe begrotingsinsette word jaarliks tussen September en Oktober aangevra.

12. Die aanbring van straat-randstene in Voëkliplaai en elders, waar die afwesigheid van randstene lei tot erosie van die teerpaaie. Geraamde koste R30,000.

Hierdie is die skepping van nuwe infrastruktuur. Sal as Kapitale inset dien tydens die 2027/2028 begrotingsproses.

13. Stormwaterbeheer in Rowwekliplaai, indien dit nog nie in die bestaande begroting ingesluit is nie. Geraamde koste onbekend, moontlik R100,000. - Tegnies sal kyk wat ons kan doen met die bestaande instandhouding, maar indien ons nie die probleem kan aanspreek nie, sal ons hierdie inset as ; nuwe begroting.

Die opgradering van huidige Stormwater infrastruktuur sal as Kapitale inset dien gedurende die volgende begrotingsproses.

14. Die gefaseerde konstruksie van 'n riool-stelsel, waar geologies moontlik, in die dele van die dorp waar die rioolstigragmotor-stelsel nog diens doen. Geraamde koste onbekend, moontlik R5 miljoen.

Hierdie item sal oorweeg word gedurende die volgende MTREF begroting inset periode. Nuwe begrotingsinsette word jaarliks tussen September en Oktober aangevra.

15. Verbeterde erosie-beheer en trappe by die draaipunt van die grondpad wat parallel met die lang sandstrand loop, in die oostekant van Jongensfontein. Geraamde koste R100,000.

Hierdie sal ondersoek moet word.

Indien dit nie deur instandhouding gedoen kan word nie, sal dit as nuwe inset tydens die volgende begrotings siklus oorweeg moet word.

16. Die omheining van 'n hondsosialiseringspark, waar hondsosialiserings sonder leiband kan sosialeer en vrylik kan rondbeweeg, agter die Seesig-woonstelle. Geraamde koste R50,000.

Daar

is geen fondse begroot stel voor dat die Inwoners vereeniging hierdie dalk as gemeenskap projek hanteer.

17. Die herseel van die Betelgeuse kuswandelpad, oos van die museum, se oppervlakte, aangesien die bestaande beskermende bo-laag al erg verweer en ongelyk is. Geraamde koste R20,000.

Daar is nie tans hiervoor begroot op die kapitale item nie.

18. Baie inwoners het

al versoek dat verkeerkalmeringsmaatreëls, spoedslote, spoedwalle, hindernisse en soortgelyke vorms van spoedbeheer ingestel word, in strate wat seisoenaal swaar verkeer dra, soos Daytonastr, Hoofweg, Strandstr, Boegsprietlaan en Rowwekliplaan. Geraamde koste onbekend, moontlik R200,000. –

Die versoeke word hanteer soos per staande reëling dat versoeke gerig moet word aan die die Tegnieese afdeling wat dit in oorleg met die verkeersafdeling hanteer. Nuwe versoeke word dus aan die Portefeulje Komitee voorgehou vir goedkeuring onderhewig aan die beskikbare begroting.

Die gunstige oorweging van die bovermelde projekte vir insluiting in die konsepbegroting sal hoog op prys gestel word. Die begroting vir die bou van die nuwe kraglyn tussen Jongensfontein en Stilbaai word nie hierin vermeld nie, aangesien die JIV verstaan dat die koste grotendeels uit die elektrisiteitsbegroting gedek sal word. Vir sover nodig, versoek die JIV dat die koste vir die kraglyn in die begroting ingesluit word. Die JIV is van mening dat die voorgestelde projekte nie net ter verbetering van Jongensfontein en tot voordeel van die dorp se inwoners en belastingbetalers sal wees nie, maar ook deur die stimulering van toerisme, die lok van beleggings en die skep van werk- en besigheidsgeleenthede, tot voordeel van die hele Hessequa-streek sal wees.

A. Kennis word geneem van die addisionele versoeke.

Die beperkte fondse soos daargestel deur die riglyne van die Raad se goedgekeurde Lang Termyn Finansiële Plan laat egter nie toe dat al die projekte tegelykertyd op die begroting geplaas word nie. Die LTFP dui die bedrag aan wat per jaar spandeer moet word aan kapitaalprojekte. Die uitdaging van die Raad is dan om kapitaalprojekte te oorweeg en te prioritiseer en sover moontlik binne die bedrag van die LTFP te bly. Die LTFP het ten doel om langtermyn finansiële volhoubaarheid van die munisipaliteit, en ook bekostigbaarheid vir die inwoners van Hessequa te verseker. Projekte word geprioritiseer oor 'n gegewe MTREF tydperk, met ander projekte wat dan oor die langer termyn op die kapitaalbegroting in die buitejare geallokeer word. Sou enige addisionele projek binne 'n gegewe MTREF jaar bygevoeg word, moet daar 'n bestaande projek na die buitejare uitgeskuif word. Die bostaande projekte wat nie alreeds in die

2026/27 begroting ingesluit was nie sal weer ter tafel gelê en oorweeg word as deel van 2027/2028 se begrotingsinsette. Die bou van die nuwe kraglyn is wel ingesluit in die 2026/2027 kapitaalebegroting. Die kraglyn gaan 'n multijaarprojek wees, daar is ongeveer R2,4 miljoen op die begroting in jaar 1 om die projek te begin.

Vriendelike groete,

Lukas vd Merwe

JIV Voorsitter

Sel nr 083 228 0102

LJ van der Merwe SC

30 Noorkapper Avenue, Jongensfontein, 6675, Wes-Kaap/Western Cape, RSA

Cell/WA: 083 228 0102

14. Mr. Org Nieuwoudt

Objection to the 2026/2027 Draft Budget and Tariff System  
Submitted by: GS Nieuwoudt  
Kusweg 55, Gouritsmond, 6696  
Contact: 082 253 8033

### **Praise for Municipal Excellence**

I would first like to commend Hessequa Municipality for consistently being ranked among the top five municipalities in the country. This is a noteworthy achievement, and the municipality deserves recognition for its reliable service delivery.

#### **Appreciation for Recent Improvements**

I also wish to thank Council and administration for the improvements made over the past five years and for considering input from residents. However, there are still serious tariff concerns that need to be addressed, as set out below.

### **1.Unfair Fixed Charges on Registered French Drains**

Properties with registered French drains are currently required to pay a large fixed charge, similar to properties connected to a water-borne sewage system. I request that the legality and fairness of this arrangement be investigated.

Properties with French drains have their own infrastructure and face significant maintenance costs, as well as long-term negative impacts on the property and buildings.

A major concern is that Hessequa has not yet connected properties in Gourits to the sewage system, even though it is understood that more than 90% of properties could be linked, with only a small portion being affected by natural rock formations that make pipeline installation difficult.

It is also my understanding that property owners largely funded the existing evaporation dams themselves, and that a budget was previously allocated to connect homes to these dams, but was later removed from the budget , without consulting the affected owners.

Owners of French drain properties already carry additional maintenance and repair costs due to the effects of these systems on there properties. I therefore ask Council to reconsider the tariff structure and explain why a fixed charge should apply where the service is not used or required.

**The municipality does not support the use of French Drains as they are no longer acceptable method of sanitation. The municipality utilizes septic tanks as a preference where water-borne sewerage is not available. The request will be evaluated and the possibility of premises with French Drains applying for registration can help to implement a suitable tariff if the practice is found to be legally compliant.**

### **2.Tariff Adjustments for Seasonal Businesses**

Hessequa covers a very large municipal area, with some towns being coastal and highly seasonal, while others along the N2 have a more stable economic activity.

This creates very different trading conditions, and winter months are particularly difficult for small businesses in seasonal towns such as Witsand and Gouritsmond.

I previously received a discount on my fixed charges, but this was recently removed.

I believe that a revised tariff system is needed to allow businesses in seasonal towns to apply for fixed-charge discounts during the quieter months.

**The municipality does not have similar rebates or discounts in place as it normalized tariffs a few years ago. The municipality does not foresee the tariff adjustment for seasonal business in this current budget 3-year budget cycle. The request remain as an input at this stage.**

### **3.Tourism Accommodation Category**

The new "Tourism Accommodation" category introduced by Hessequa was a positive step, but it still needs to be adjusted so that the tariffs are in line with other tourism accommodation establishments such as hotels and guest lodges.

As Mrs. Visser mentioned during our meetings, hotels and guest lodges have a fixed tariff linked to a package structure, for example bar services, dining room, bed and breakfast, overnight accommodation, and self-catering.

Tourism accommodation should be treated on the same basis.

**The municipality only has one premises on the Tourism Accommodation category. The municipality has been advised to simplify its tariff structure as it has too many categories and tariffs. A tariff review process will be undertaken in coming years to ensure parity and a more streamlined tariff structure.**

### **4.Gouritsriver Estuary tariffs.**

There are a new Gouritsriver estuary management plan approved .

Kindly noted that the current estuary tariffs to be emended to comply to the Estuary management plan, The current tariffs structure is outdated and as you are aware I did gave an input during an appeal process in 2025 .Please make sure discrimination between boats that use the lunching site only for offshore fishing (not for fishing in the estuary) been adjusted. These boats have litarely no impact on the estuary,itself. We agree they must still pay a fee for using the slipway. The current fee structure for engine sizes and boat sizes on the estuary also to be adjusted and don't comply to the the new Gourits estuary management plan. The Speaker is aware of this problem with a meeting between myself, Mr Wessesl Marx and the Speaker.

**The municipality has not made changes to the tariff structure during this year as it believes the structure is correct. The request will remain as a budget input.**

Thank you for considering this objection.

GS Nieuwoudt

082 253 8033

**Regards**

**Org Nieuwoudt**

**0822538033**