



13 April 2026

FOR ATTENTION: DR DV FARRELL

Interim Executive Member

Garden Route First

By email: admin@grfirst.org.za

Dear Dr Farrell

OUTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY RESPONSE: WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE & GOVERNANCE TRANSPARENCY

The Oudtshoorn Municipality acknowledges the concerns raised regarding water quality, infrastructure investment, and long-term planning. These matters are not new and have been consistently identified within our strategic planning documents, including the Water Services Development Plan (WSDP), Master Planning processes, and the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

It is important, however, to provide context and clarity on several key aspects:

1. Water Quality Compliance

The Municipality continues to monitor water quality on a routine basis in accordance with SANS 241 standards. Recent results have confirmed that there is no presence of faecal contamination or E. coli, and that microbiological compliance is being maintained. The current boil-water advisory is a precautionary measure linked to elevated turbidity following recent rainfall events, which can temporarily reduce the effectiveness of disinfection.

2. Treatment Infrastructure (WTW)

The need for a Water Treatment Works at the Raubenheimer Dam has long been recognised and has been included at planning level for several years.

Implementation of such infrastructure is, however, dependent on securing significant external funding, given the scale of investment required. The Municipality continues to engage with relevant funding institutions in this regard.

3. Role of the Blossoms Wellfield

The Blossoms Wellfield project was implemented as an emergency and strategic intervention to augment supply and improve system resilience. While it does not replace the need for filtration of surface water, it plays a critical role in stabilising the system and reducing reliance on a single source.



4. Maintenance and Financial Considerations

The Municipality acknowledges the National Treasury benchmark for repairs and maintenance. However, it must be noted that funding constraints, competing service delivery priorities, and reliance on grant funding significantly influence the ability to meet ideal benchmarks in the short term. Despite these challenges, efforts are ongoing to improve asset management and maintenance planning.

5. IDP and Strategic Priorities

The IDP reflects a balance between immediate service delivery needs (including water security/quantity) and long-term infrastructure requirements such as treatment works. These are not mutually exclusive priorities but rather form part of an integrated approach to water services provision.

6. Proposal for a Water Advisory Committee

The Municipality supports meaningful community engagement and participation as provided for in the Municipal Systems Act. The proposal for a Water Advisory Committee will be considered within the existing governance and oversight frameworks to ensure alignment with legislative and administrative processes.

The Municipality remains committed to transparency, collaboration, and continuous improvement in the delivery of water services. We welcome further constructive engagement and will continue to provide updates as additional water quality results and infrastructure developments progress.

Yours faithfully



MR. M. YEKANI

MUNICIPAL MANAGER