



Knysna Rapid Budget Response

We are worried that Knysna appears to neglect the town's informal settlements in its draft 2024/25 budget.

Repairs and maintenance

We are concerned that the Municipality's budget to maintain taps and toilets in informal settlements is insufficient. Its total repairs and maintenance budget has been cut from R52,8 million in its adjusted 2023/24 budget to R51,5 million in its draft 2024/25 budget. This after the adjusted budget was almost R20 million less than the original allocation for 2023/24. This suggests that the reason for the decrease is that the municipality, somehow, is unable to spend this budget. We are also worried that the Municipality has not set aside any dedicated funds for fixing informal settlement infrastructure. Broken taps, toilets and pipes remain major challenges in these settlements.

Water

The draft 2024/25 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan shows that R250,000 has been set aside for the installation of standpipes, which we assume will benefit informal settlements. However, this amount is very low and likely insufficient. This allocation also does not appear in the main capital budget. Please can the municipality clarify how much, if any, money has been set aside for the provision of standpipes?

Refuse Removal

We are pleased with the 40% budget increase for **waste management**, from R47 million in 2023/24 to R65 million in 2024/25. We would, however, like to know how much has been ringfenced specifically for refuse removal in informal settlements.