



Blackheath City Improvement District (BCID) July Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of the Blackheath CID Newsletter.

July saw a vast improvement in the levels of Cape Town dams overall, although we are not out of the woods yet, the Municipality feels strongly that day zero will not be a discussion point in 2019.

Global warming is a serious factor and consideration and we will have to accept our water savings efforts as the new normal as we have become a water scarce area here in the City of Cape Town.



[City of Cape Town Dam Levels](#)

Last week the BCID Directors had their monthly Board Meeting and set the date for the BCID Annual General Meeting that will take place this year on Thursday the 04th of October.

We hope to see as many property owners there as possible as usual and look forward to celebrating the successes of the last period and to setting our targets for the 2019-2020 financial year.

A proper and formal notice of this meeting will be distributed to members and property owners directly as always and we will also advertise in the local

newspapers and via email and on our website. Please keep your eyes peeled for this notice and confirm your attendance by return?

We mourn the loss of one of our longest standing and dearest Cleansing staff members, Henry Kannemeyer, who passed away on Sunday after having been attacked near his home in Happy Valley. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this very difficult time. Henry had just turned 25 on the 29th of June and had worked for us on and off since he was 19 years old.

During the recess period we planted just over 90 trees within the Industrial Area to replace some of the damaged and dead fever trees that have been debarked. We have only ten trees left to plant now and will complete the tree planting project by the end of August 2018.

City of Cape Town Press Releases



**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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From: Media Account

Subject: STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR: No Day Zero for 2019 if appropriate water restrictions are maintained

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR, ALDERMAN IAN NEILSON

No Day Zero for 2019 if appropriate water restrictions are maintained

Summary

- At this early stage of the winter season, our dam levels are already in a much stronger position than we were at the end of winter last year
- Provided that adequate water restrictions are maintained, the City is confident that there will be no prospect of reaching Day Zero in 2019
- While we hope to reduce the current water restrictions in the near future, and the tariffs associated with them, this decision is dependent on National

Government relaxing restrictions on releases from the water supply system

The levels of the dams supplying water to Cape Town have been rising consistently and significantly over the past six weeks. As at today, total dam storage capacity is at just over 43%, and we still have more than two months of expected winter rainfall ahead of us. Over the last few months, our collective water usage has been around 520 million litres per day.

This may be compared to the situation at the end of winter last year, when dam levels were at 38% and consumption was over 600 million litres a day.

Having analysed this new data, we are now in a position to state that not only have we managed to avoid Day Zero this year, but we will also safely get through summer in 2019. This is due to the amount of water already in the dams, our intense water demand management programmes, our unrelenting communication, awareness and the behavioural change it has effected over the past two years, as well as the continued support and sacrifice of Team Cape Town.

We have shown what we can achieve if we all pull together and work towards a common goal. I would again like to thank all Capetonians for their enormous water conservation effort this past summer. It was our combined effort that ensured that we got through the summer without running out of water.

I know that it has been very difficult for both private residents and businesses to operate under the current stringent restrictions and that many sacrifices have been made by millions of residents. We hope that continued rains will enable a progressive reduction in the stress felt by all.

While we hope to reduce the current restrictions in the near future, and the tariffs associated with them, that decision is dependent on National Government relaxing restrictions on releases from the water supply system. If the National Department of Water and Sanitation agrees to relax restrictions, we expect to be in a position to proceed with a stepped reduction of water restrictions and the associated tariffs.

Until then, let us all please keep up the good work and keep saving water for a little while longer. We have to ensure that we make a permanent change to our approach to water usage.

What has changed since January 2018

At the beginning of the year, we were in the extended stages of a devastating, deepening and unprecedented drought. For three years in a row, our rainfall

had been significantly lower than in previous years. The 2017 rainfall was the lowest in recorded history at only 40% of the long-term average. This resulted in a substantial decline in the levels of the six large dams that supply water to Cape Town, the surrounding municipalities and agriculture.

In January, projections of the rate at which the dam levels were falling indicated that we could reach a level where emergency measures would have to be implemented in April 2018. This became known as Day Zero. This projection was made despite the fact that the City had already halved its summer consumption rate, from 1 200 million litres per day to 600 million litres per day.

We did, however, have three things in our favour to ensure a rapid drought response: our pre-existing water demand management programme; our highly skilled engineers and professional staff; and the residents of Cape Town.

These combined elements allowed us to reach the start of our winter rainfall season without running out of water. The reason we never reached that projection of Day Zero was due to the enormous effort and sacrifice of both urban and agricultural consumers to cut consumption levels even further throughout the summer.

Due to the incredible water conservation efforts of our residents, and the ground-breaking interventions instituted by the City to reduce consumption, our dam levels bottomed out at 20% by the end of the summer. This was just 7% above the level at which we would have had to start restricting consumption to 25 litres per person per day. We still had capacity to spare at that time should the winter rainfall come late and be inadequate.

Fortunately, the rains started early in our winter (May) and fell at rates closer to the average than in the previous years. It was only then that we could see that circumstances had changed. After some six weeks of good rain, we are now in a more favourable position that enables us to recalibrate our future projections and to make a much more accurate forecast for 2019.

In short, almost half-way through our winter, we are already in a much stronger position than we were at the end of winter last year.

Based on this information, and provided that adequate water restrictions are maintained, we are now confident that there will be no prospect of reaching Day Zero in 2019.

How Cape Town did it

We are now in a much better position, not only due to the encouraging rainfall

we have seen so far, but also because of the incredible cooperation of our residents and due to the various technological and human interventions initiated by this municipality to drive down consumption.

These included:

- the success of an extensive and dedicated communication, awareness and behavioural change campaign to encourage a behavioural shift among residents
- the continuing roll-out of pressure management across the City, which is currently achieving savings of more than 62 million litres of water a day and climbing, as more pressure zones are created across the metro
- the installation of water demand management devices for those who contravene water restrictions
- a leak repair programme to minimise water losses, especially among indigent residents
- steep tariff hikes
- the City also took a holistic approach to managing the crisis and attempted to maximise all alternative water resources in a very short period of time. Thus, for instance, we looked at temporary desalination and increased extraction from springs, among others

Looking ahead

While we hope at some point in the next few months to be in a position to relax the current restrictions, and the tariffs associated with them, this decision will have to wait until National Government relaxes restrictions on releases from the water supply system.

I have requested a meeting with the National Minister of Water and Sanitation, Gugile Nkwinti, to discuss this and other matters pertaining to our future water resilience as a matter of urgency.

Urban water resilience implies the capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt, respond to and learn from shocks and stresses, to protect public health and well-being and the natural environment, and to minimise economic disruption.

The experience of the past three years and the reality of greater rainfall variability than in the past has meant that we have had to adjust our approach towards what needs to be done to ensure our future resilience.

Now that we have navigated our way through the immediate drought crisis, it is necessary that we review our water supply strategy and augmentation plans to ensure that what was devised in a period of crisis is appropriate for longer-term

sustainability and resilience. We are in the process of reassessing our New Water Programme; in particular, our future water mix and the role of permanent desalination in the supply mix.

In this recalibration, we are working closely with a number of local and international partners like the World Bank, the Stockholm International Water Institute, and the 100 Resilient Cities, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, to ensure that our revised programme provides the best possible response to our reality.

We need to think very carefully about our long-term capital programme, particularly regarding permanent desalination, groundwater and water reuse and how this will impact on our budget and our water tariffs.

In partnership with the custodian of water resources, the National Department of Water and Sanitation, we also need to address critical issues such as resource allocation and inter-basin transfers to ensure the sustainability of our water resources. Many operational challenges and deficiencies came to light during this drought.

The City and National Government will need to sit down and work through these issues thoroughly to ensure that future drought management is effective and has minimal impact on economic activity and public well-being.

At the same time, we need to ensure that our focus on behavioural change and attitudes towards water and demand management does not let up. As demand for water grows, it is not only diversification of supply that is required to address future risk, but also a sustained campaign to entrench the behaviour changes we have seen over the past months.

Until such time as we are able to reassess our situation, let us all therefore continue to implement these changes and keep saving water.

Please visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater for all water-related information.

End

Note to broadcasters: audio clips are available for download

For English:

For Afrikaans:

Issued by: Media Office, City of Cape Town

Media enquiries: Alderman Ian Neilson, Executive Deputy Mayor, City of Cape



**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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There are new changes to your municipal account

Dear account holders

From 1 July 2018, your municipal account from the City will show a new fixed basic charge for water and a home-user charge for electricity.

These charges have been created to help make the tariff structure more resilient while at the same time enabling the City to cover the cost of providing water and electricity services. Even if you use little or no water or electricity from the City, the fixed costs of providing electricity and water services remains largely the same.

A fixed charge for water is already in place at other municipalities such as eThekweni and Drakenstein. Eskom, City Power and the City of Mangaung have also implemented similar models for electricity.

This new tariff structure aims to create a higher level of revenue stability and ensure that resources are available for necessary operations and maintenance, including times of reduced water and electricity usage.

The [Electricity Home-user Charge](#) is:

- a monthly service delivery charge of R150
- payable by all residential properties valued above R1 million (on the home-user tariff)
- payable by all properties that are supplied via a credit meter, regardless of value
- going to remain the same, regardless of how much electricity you use

Where to find it on your invoice?

- Pre-paid meters - found on your rates invoice from the City, under 'Sundries'
- Credit meters - found on your rates invoice from the City, under 'Electricity'
- [How to read your invoice](#)

The [Water and Sanitation fixed basic charge](#) is:

- a monthly amount payable by non-domestic customers and non-indigent residential households
- based on the size of the meter connection to your property (you will find details of your meter size on your invoice under the water section)
- to remain the same for the financial year regardless of how much water you use

Where to find it on your invoice?

- On your municipal account from the City, under the water section.
- [How to read your invoice](#)

Although the structure of the City's tariffs has changed, one thing remains the same: [the less you use, the less you pay](#).

[Households registered as indigent and residents who qualify for pensioners' and disabled persons' rates, may be charged at lower rates.](#)

More information:

- [City Tariffs 2018-2019](#)
- [Understanding residential electricity tariffs](#)
- [Electricity Tariff FAQs](#)
- [Water and Sanitation FAQs](#)

City of Cape Town

FORUM TO ADDRESS FUTURE-PROOFING WATER AND ENERGY IN YOUR BUSINESS – 7 September 2018

The next Energy, Water and Waste Forum will start with an update on the drought, amended Water Bylaw and Star rating certification for water management.

The City of Cape Town will introduce its commitments aimed at promoting high performance buildings and greening of the electricity grid. Sustainable Energy Africa will speak about how South Africa's metros (i.e. Cape Town, eThekweni, Johannesburg and Tshwane) are collaboratively working towards zero carbon new buildings.

Virgin Active, Woolworths and Growthpoint will share their strategies on transitioning towards carbon neutral operations. Other updates, tools and

resources to improve your business's environmental performance and generate operational savings will be provided by the City and GreenCape, and the GBCSA will present their Net Zero/Net Positive certification. A site tour of the solar PV installation and water treatment facility at Mutualpark will follow after lunch. There is no charge for attendance, but seats are limited.

For more info contact Pholela at 021 400-1092 or Pholela.Mcata@capetown.gov.za

ENERGY, WATER & WASTE (EWW) FORUM

The City of Cape Town and EWW Forum partners invite you to attend the next Forum meeting which will include topics related to how to future-proof water and energy in your business - see below.

DATE : Friday 7 September 2018

TIME : 08h30 for 09h00 - 12h00, followed by light lunch

VENUE : West Campus Presentation Room, Mutualpark, Pinelands.

Click here for directions

RSVP : Click here to RSVP

QUERIES : Pholela.Mcata@capetown.gov.za or call Pholela 021 400-1092.

No attendance fee. Light finger lunch will be served.

There is a prayer room available at Old Mutual, for those doing Friday prayers.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DROUGHT UPDATE AND WATER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The City will give an update on the drought situation and the Star Rating certification for water management. GreenCape will highlight support resources and new case studies on their website.

HIGH ASPIRATIONS, LOW ENERGY, ZERO CARBON

The City will introduce new ambitious commitments to promote high performance buildings and the greening of the electricity grid. Come and learn what this means for you, and how through innovation you can save money and future-proof energy in your business.

The Green Building Council South Africa will give an overview of the Net Zero/Net Positive certification. Representatives from Virgin Active, Woolworths and Growthpoint will share their business strategies on transitioning towards carbon neutral operations and 100% renewable energy solutions.

Good Contacts to Have

City of Cape Town:

- Accounts and General Enquiries: 0866 103 089
- Copperheads Cable Theft: 0800 222 771 (24 Hours)
- Electricity Faults/ Street lights & Enquiries: 0800 220 440
- Water/ Sewage Emergencies: 0860 103 054 (24 Hours)
- Metro Police: 0860 765 423 (24 Hours) or 107
- Fraud Hotline: 0800 32 31 30
- Public Transport timetables: 0800 600 895
- Roads, Potholes and Stormwater: 0860 103 054 (24 Hours)
- Traffic Signal Faults: 0860 001 948 (24 Hours)
- Dumping/ Solid Waste Law Enforcement: 0860 10 30 89
- Wastewise: (Disposals only): 021 487 2489

SAPS:

- SAPS Sector vehicle direct: 0824112602, 0824112548, 0824112549
- SAPS Sector Supervisor: Insp Smith: 0721187910
- SAPS Manager: Capt Jacobs: 0798941580
- SAPS Head of Vispol: Colonel Jacobs: 0823348157
- SAPS Mfuleni Station Commander: Brig Pieter Galant 0827787009
- SAPS Charge Office: 021 909 9300/ 10111

Kind regards,
Brendan van der Merwe

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