



## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

26 September 2022

Load-shedding severely affects our businesses and households and similarly affects our municipal services.

In particular, the higher the stage of load-shedding, the more severe the impact. Stages 5 and above may, in particular, affect our drinking water, and stages 3 and above affect our sewerage systems.

With the recent stage 5 and stage 6 load-shedding, the municipality was able to mitigate the possible impact on our community.

***Our drinking water is currently chlorinated and SAFE TO DRINK.***

However, the community must note that the more frequent and continuous higher stages of load-shedding may compromise our water delivery, and we may have more frequent sewerage spills.

Thus, we already now inform the community of additional measures as set out below that must be taken when successive higher stages of load-shedding occur.

### **Drinking water**

In the event of stage 6 load-shedding continuing for more than 48 hours, the municipality may not be able to treat, disinfect and pump drinking water effectively and efficiently at the required standards. Reservoir levels may be low, and we will possibly implement water restrictions. The municipality will issue a 'BOIL WATER NOTICE' after 36 hours of stage 6 load-shedding to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption. Boil water for drinking in advance whilst the electricity is still on, and use water wisely.

**This notice is only for information purposes during a National Energy Crisis.**

***Remember, our drinking water is currently chlorinated and safe to drink.***

### **Sewage collection and treatment**

Loadshedding above level 3 results in sewage pump stations being unable to function and sewage spills with overflowing manholes and pump stations (PS). If a pump station is non-operational due to load-shedding, it only affects areas below Leipoldt Street towards the Worcester Wastewater Treatment Works and Zwelethemba. All other areas have gravity sewer pipelines directly to the treatment works. Affected pump stations are Avian Park PS, Santa Weida PS, Noble Park PS, Johnson Park PS, and Zwelethemba PS. Residents closest to these pump stations may experience what seems to be a sewage blockage when the sewage pushes back into houses or spillage occurs in the streets. This could also be an actual blockage; therefore, all sewer-related problems must be reported to our Service Support Centre. The municipality apologises for the inconvenience and is in the process of procuring additional generator sets for critical pump stations and safeguarding these generator sets.

We remain committed under challenging national circumstances to ensure continuous service delivery.

END

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR PRESS RELEASES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN ISIXHOSA AND AFRIKAANS**

### **Media Queries**

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