



**Business Café**  
Trust, Collaboration, Solutions.

10 June 2024

The purpose of this communique (*with all rights reserved and without prejudice*) is to support and enhance the letter to the Editor of the George Herald by Marida Graf.

## ACTIVE CITIZENRY TRIUMPHS

The importance of being an 'active citizen' and challenging the "authorities" has triumphed with the letter of Marida Graf to George Municipality published in the George Herald on 6 June 2024.

As with other ratepayers and residents, Marida has questioned the Municipality's amp levy aimed specifically at ratepayers who are financially fortunate to have installed alternative electricity solutions. By doing so, the local authority has exacerbated the electricity crisis by punishing and not compensating initiative-taking citizens, who's initiative has actually strengthen and enhanced the electricity supply to others.

The Municipality's response to Marida starts with a "victim statement" and ends with *"However from 1 July 2024, the tariff has been amended to remove the capacity charge component, and this will result in the user only being liable for the basic charge of R96,53 per month. The Amp capacity charge of R232,80 (40 x 5,82/Amp) will no longer be applicable"*.

The question is whether the appointed consulting company must recalibrate all the related meters and at what cost to ratepayers. The final approved municipal budget for 2024 /25 has not been updated accordingly. It stills reflects a 22,66% increase in electricity revenue and the tariff policy will need to be corrected.



***"The Amp capacity charge of R232,80 (40 x 5,82/Amp) will no longer be applicable".***

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# To build a better George for all, residents and ratepayers must speak up



Over the past few years, 'active citizens' and concerned organisations, such as the George Rate Payers Association (GRPA), the Garden Route Dam Action Group (GARDAG), the Landmark Foundation, the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve, SaveWild, Gwaing Action Group, George Heritage Society and various Homeowners Associations have successfully addressed issues and concerns with and to George Municipality.

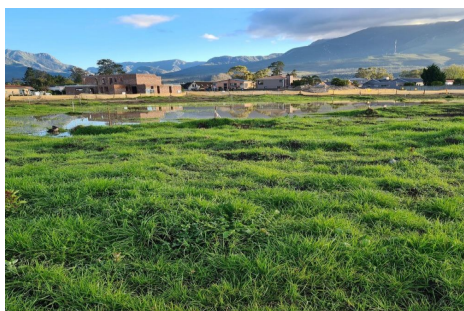


Photo: George Herald

These as I recall include the cancellation of the emergency water tariff, the temporary stalling of faulty smart waters, correction of the water billing cycle ( 56 days to 30 days) - ( ratepayers should make sure that they have been reimbursed for the incorrect calculation during these billing cycles), the postponement of the environmentally unsustainable Garden Route Dam development, and the temporary halting of the Valley Ridge development and the Heatherlands development behind Engen, both due to potential encroachment onto natural water courses.

There are currently outstanding public participation and communications concerns awaiting the Municipality's response. These include amongst other comments on the Budget (which has been concluded without response), Annual Report (as the budget concluded), financial ratio reporting, requests for copies of the building plans of the collapsed building in Victoria Street for which the Municipality has insisted on obtaining a Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) order before it will accede to the request, and a list of questions from the GRPA.



Photo: George Herald

To build a better George for all, residents and ratepayers must speak up as Marida has done.



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