

■ Fourth Consecutive Clean Audit	2	■ Dam Level Drops	8
■ 24 Hour Law Enforcement Pilot	4	■ Housing Blitz	9

George Mayor Receives National Recognition

Executive Mayor, Jackie von Brandis, received national recognition from the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for Excellence in Leadership, in celebration of Women's Month.

This prestigious award was conferred on only nine female Executive Mayors across the country. It honours exceptional women in leadership who have demonstrated sound governance and achieved clean audit outcomes within their respective municipalities.

Executive Mayor von Brandis expressed her appreciation, stating: "I would like to thank SALGA for this honour and for

acknowledging the strong governance systems we have implemented to ensure George Municipality remains financially sustainable.

A clean audit is the result of focused leadership, teamwork, and our commitment to transparency. I also extend my congratulations to my fellow recipients for their outstanding contributions to their communities."

The ceremony, held as part of national Women's Month commemorations, celebrated the achievements of outstanding women leaders in local government who continue to inspire future generations of public servants.



Proudly sharing in the Mayor's achievement are from left MMC Environmental Services, Cllr Monique Simmers; Whip of Council Theresa Jeyi; Cllr Annatjie Janse van Rensburg (Mossel Bay) who accepted the award on behalf of George and who represents the Western Cape SALGA Women's Commission; Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis and MMC Finance and Strategic Services Ald Iona Kritzing.



George Municipality was honoured to receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) for its outstanding hands-on commitment and service in humanitarian efforts, search, rescue, and recovery operations during the "Victoria Street Building Collapse" in George, May 2024.

Present at the handover were (from left): Riaan du Plessis (Chief Financial Officer), Godfrey Louw (Municipal Manager), Station Commander Santa Sternsdorff (George Fire and Rescue Services), Jannie Koegelenberg (Director: Civil Engineering Services), Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis, Fire Chief and Disaster Manager Neels Barnard (George Fire and Rescue Services), and Cllr Brendon Adams (MMC: Community Safety and Mobility).



Rosemoor Stadium - A community sports hub to transform it into a world-class venue.

World-Class Athletics Track in Rosemoor

Joy, pride, and hope filled the air during the official handover of the Rosemoor Athletics Synthetic Track, as hundreds of George residents, stakeholders, learners, educators, and government officials from national, provincial, and local spheres gathered at Rosemoor Stadium in June 2025. The National Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr Gayton McKenzie, joined by the Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Mr Ricardo McKenzie, and the Executive Mayor of George, Jackie von Brandis officially handed over the new, state-of-the-art Class 2 athletics track — a world-class facility.

Ald Jackie von Brandis welcomed attendees and underscored the success of collaboration across all spheres of government: "This project is a shining example of successful collaboration between all three spheres of government and our stakeholders. We are excited — and I believe the residents of George and the entire Garden Route are too — because they now have access to a facility built to national standards. We are especially excited for our children, who will benefit most from this investment.

It aligns perfectly with our tourism brand, Naturally George, and our positioning as a city for all reasons."

The Rosemoor Synthetic Athletics Track was funded through the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG).

The facility was completed on schedule, prioritised through George Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and informed by extensive stakeholder engagement. Athletics SWD has been involved throughout the process and is working with the Municipality to secure funding for future phases of the development.

“The upgrade is expected to elevate the quality of athletics in the region, encourage broader participation, and provide local talent with a professional platform to grow and compete.”

The new tartan track meets international standards, ensuring that athlete performances are officially recognised. The upgrade is expected to elevate the quality of athletics in the region, encourage broader participation, and provide local talent with a professional platform to grow and compete.

The facility is envisioned as a hub for schools and clubs in the area and is designed to host regional, national, and even international events, supporting George's ambition to become a prime destination for sports tourism while boosting the local economy.



At the official opening are from left Ald Jackie von Brandis (Executive Mayor of George), Mr Ricardo McKenzie (Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport), Louis Massyn from George, who has completed 50 Comrades Marathons, and Mr Gayton McKenzie (National Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture)



Front row: Ald Iona Kritzinger, MMC for Financial & Strategic Services and Ald Jackie von Brandis, Executive Mayor of George.
Back row: Chief Financial Officer, Riaan du Plessis and Municipal Manager, Godfrey Louw.

Fourth Consecutive Clean Audit

Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis received the fourth consecutive clean audit award on behalf of the Municipality, joined by the MMC for Financial & Strategic Services Ald Iona Kritzinger, Municipal Manager Godfrey Louw, and Chief Financial Officer Riaan du Plessis.

“This clean audit demonstrates our commitment to transparent, accountable governance and sound financial management,” said Executive Mayor von Brandis. “It is a reflection of strong leadership, disciplined financial management, and a culture of compliance that underpins everything we do. George is striving to be South

Africa’s best non-metro municipality — proving that good governance is truly a team effort.”

A clean audit is defined as an unqualified audit opinion with no material findings on performance reporting and no material findings on compliance matters.

MMC for Finance and Strategic Services, Ald Kritzinger commended the Finance team and all municipal departments on this achievement. “This result is a testament to the dedication and teamwork across the organisation. It showcases the spirit of collaboration that continues to drive our Municipality forward.”



Goue gees en gesonde liggame

Die plaaslike forum van die Active Ageing Games, ook bekend as die Golden Games, het vroer die jaar weer die gees van gesondheid, gemeenskap en aktiewe ouderdom gevier tydens ’n suksesvolle sportdag wat op die Pacaltsdorp sportterrein aangebied is.

Die geleentheid, wat ongeveer 320 mense gelok het, insluitend senior burgerklubs, tegniese beamptes en koördineerders is feestelik geopen deur kapt. Malcolm Richards, stasiebevelvoerder van die Pacaltsdorp-polisiekantoor, en adv. Marilyn Oliphant, voorsitter van die plaaslike Gemeenskaps-polisiëringsforum asook Johannah Joshua van die Wes-Kaapse Ouer Persone Forum.

Ejustley Boshoff, koördineerder vir die Geslag, Gestremdhede en Bejaardes subafdeling by die Gemeenskapsontwikkelingafdeling van die George Munisipaliteit, wat ook as hoofborg van die geleentheid opgetree het, het die waarde van fisieke aktiwiteit beklemtoon: “Om aktief te bly het groot voordele vir sowel die liggaam as die gees. Ons bejaardes sien elke jaar met groot opgewondenheid uit na hierdie geleentheid en neem met soveel entoesiasme deel.”

Die George Munisipaliteit werk nou saam met verskeie rolspelers om die jaarlikse byeenkoms moontlik te maak, insluitend



plaaslike dienssentrums, die Plaaslike en Wes-Kaapse Ouer Persone Forums, die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisediens, die logistieke organiseringskomitee en Avbob asook nog organisasies

Die sportaktiwiteite het ’n verskeidenheid veld- en baanitems ingesluit: van vinnige stap, rugbybal gooi en jukskei tot doelskiet, eendstap, bal aangee en aflos.

Boshoff het belangstellende bejaardes aangemoedig om by hul naaste dienssentrums aan te sluit om in aanmerking te kom vir deelname aan toekomstige geleenthede.



Councillors and officials at the official opening of the new municipal building in Market Street, next to the GO GEORGE transport hub.



Godfrey Louw, George Municipal Manager; Councillor Browen Johnson, Executive Deputy Mayor of George; Councillor Theresa Jeyi, Chief Whip of George Council; and Mahlatse Phosa, Director: Planning and Development, cut the ribbon at the new municipal building at 46 Market Street.

Historic York Hostel building revitalised and opened as municipal offices

George Municipality officially opened its brand-new municipal offices at 46 Market Street, formerly known as the York Hostel in June this year. After standing vacant for more than 15 years, this once-dilapidated building has been transformed into a modern, accessible municipal facility that will serve as a vital hub for municipal services in the heart of George.

Strategically positioned just steps from the GO GEORGE public transport hub, the new building houses the Directorate of Planning and Development, including Human Settlements, as well as officials from the Financial and Strategic Services Department.

Residents can now access key municipal services at the new facility, including assistance with planning and development applications, human settlements queries such as the housing waiting list, indigent support for vulnerable households, and support for Investment Properties (land acquisition and lease applications) matters. The facility is fully accessible, including a disabled-access lift, and has been purposefully designed to ease the burden of travel for residents seeking municipal assistance.

Speaking at the official opening on 13 June 2025, Executive Deputy Mayor, Cllr Browen Johnson, described the event as a significant and historic moment for the

municipality. He noted that key services have been decentralised to make them more accessible, ensuring that vulnerable groups, the elderly, and entrepreneurs can now receive the help they need closer to home.

According to Municipal Manager, Godfrey Louw, the York Hostel had long been an eyesore in the Central Business District before Council resolved in 2024 to acquire the building from the Department of Public Works in exchange for several municipal buildings used by provincial health clinics.

He highlighted that the revitalisation of this historic building not only breathes new life into the immediate surroundings

but will also contribute to the economic revitalisation of the CBD.

The comprehensive renovation included the complete gutting of the old structure and the installation of new windows, ablution facilities, roofing, a modern customer service centre, and a disabled-access lift.

New parking areas were created, and the building was fitted with modern open-plan layouts and shared working spaces. The project was successfully delivered by a team of dedicated professionals including Ruwaccon as main contractor, SDK Architects, Urban Engineering, Leap Quantity Surveyors, and on-site project managers and safety officers.

GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLORS

 Ald Jackie von Brandis, Executive Mayor, Ward 26 (DA)	 Cllr Browen Johnson: Executive Deputy Mayor & EPWP, Ward 23 (DA)	 Cllr Sean Snyman, Speaker, Ward 28 (DA)	 Cllr Theresa Jeyi, Whip of Council, Ward 16 (DA)	 Cllr Brendon Adams, MMC Community Safety & Mobility, Ward 17 (DA)	 Cllr Johan Du Toit, MMC Corporate Services, PR (ACDP)	 Cllr Donovan Gultig, Electrical Engineering Services, Ward 18 (DA)	 Cllr Marchell Kleynhans, MMC Civil Engineering Services, Ward 27 (DA)
 Ald Iona Kritzinger, MMC Financial & Strategic Services (IDP, Performance Management, Economic Development & Tourism), Ward 19 (DA)	 VACANT Planning & Development (Planning, Building Control, Property and Agriculture)	 Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, MMC Human Resources, PR (DA)	 Cllr Melvin Roelfse, MMC Social Development (Libraries, Sport & Customer Care), Ward 14 (DA)	 Cllr Jean Safers, MMC Human Settlements, Ward 1 (DA)	 Cllr Monique Simmers, MMC Community Services (Refuse, Environment & Parks), Ward 5 (DA)	 Cllr Daniel Cronje, Ward 2 (DA)	 Cllr Erika Brown, Ward 3 (DA)
 Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Ward 4 (DA)	 Cllr Jayzee Jantjies, Ward 6 (DA)	 Cllr Vulindlela Mruqhli, Ward 7 (ANC)	 Cllr Samuel Vorster, Ward 8 (PA)	 Cllr Thembinkosi Lento, Ward 9 (ANC)	 Cllr Zukile Gom, Ward 10 (ANC)	 Cllr Sifiso Ntondini, Ward 11 (ANC)	 Cllr Eric Mdaka, Ward 12 (ANC)
 Cllr Simphiwe Toto, Ward 13 (ANC)	 Cllr Bonisile Hani, Ward 15 (ANC)	 Cllr Rita Gregory, Ward 20 (PA)	 Cllr Siphelo Manxele, Ward 21 (ANC)	 Cllr Marais Kruger, Ward 22 (DA)	 Cllr Justin Fry, Chairperson GIPTN S79, Ward 24 (DA)	 Cllr Jarques Esau, Ward 25 (ANC)	 Cllr Ebrahim America, PR (DA)
 Cllr Edmund Bussack, PR (PBI)	 Cllr Desmond Carolus, PR (PBI)	 Cllr Charlotte Clarke, PR (DA)	 Cllr Darryl Coeries, PR (PBI)	 Cllr Enrico Figland, PR (VF+)	 Cllr Raybin Figland, PR (DA)	 Cllr Jacobus Gertse, PR (PBI)	 Cllr Maria Greeff, PR (PBI)
 Cllr Marelna Gultig, PR (DA)	 Cllr Franselin Kaptein, (PA) PR	 Cllr Chantell Kyd, (GOOD) PR	 Cllr Deon Leminie, PR (EFF)	 Cllr Khayaletu Lose, PR (DA)	 Cllr Rosa Louw, Chairperson MPAC S79, PR (GOOD)	 Cllr Given Masase, PR (DA)	 Cllr Faith Mdaka, PR (ANC)
 Cllr Christiaan Neethling, PR (VF+)	 Cllr Gert Niehaus, PR (VF+)	 Cllr Pheliswa Qampi, PR (EFF)	 Cllr Thandiswa Qatana, PR (DA)	 Cllr Johan Stander, PR (DA)	 Ald Gert Van Niekerk, PR (VF+)	 Cllr Roxaan Vorster, PR (GOOD)	 Cllr Regina Windwaai, PR (DA)



The Executive Mayor of George, Jackie von Brandis was joined at the launch by the MMC for Community Safety and Mobility, Cllr Brendon Adams, Municipal Manager Godfrey Louw and officials from the Community Safety Directorate, including members of the municipal law enforcement team.

24-Hour law enforcement pilot service

The George Municipality officially launched its 24-hour law enforcement pilot service in September 2025 — a significant milestone in strengthening community safety and law enforcement efforts.

“I’m excited that the City of George, as one of South Africa’s fastest-growing cities with mounting safety concerns, has reached this milestone,” said Mayor von Brandis.

“As a municipality, we have responded decisively to these challenges by building

on our already established 24-hour CCTV monitoring network with round-the-clock boots on the ground. We also intend to roll out the 24-hour service to the traffic services.”

The 24-Hour Law Enforcement Rapid Response Unit consists of 29 dedicated officers strategically deployed across four key operational areas:

- Emergency Response – Immediate response to incidents via the municipal contact centre

- High-Visibility Patrols – Targeted patrols in identified crime hotspots
- Specialised Operations – Focused crime prevention initiatives
- Emergency Support – Assistance during disasters and emergency incidents

According to Senior Manager for Community Safety, Lee-Anne Meiring, the pilot project is designed to strengthen the municipality’s safety capacity.

“This pilot phase represents a significant investment in community safety,

complementing the city’s existing 24-hour CCTV monitoring infrastructure,” said Meiring.

“The phased implementation will see various law enforcement components gradually integrated into extended shift operations, ensuring comprehensive coverage as the initiative develops. Importantly, law enforcement will not replace the work of the South African Police Service (SAPS) but will collaborate closely with the police and other law enforcement agencies.”



Four new rapid response vehicles

The Executive Mayor of George, Jackie von Brandis, officially received four new rapid response vehicles at a ceremonial handover in June, accompanied by the MMC for Community Safety and Mobility, Cllr Brendon Adams, and Municipal Manager, Godfrey Louw. To bolster public safety in George, the Directorate is in the process of establishing a Rapid Response Unit where these specialised vehicles will be deployed.

From left to right: Inspector Roland Hardnick (Law Enforcement Officer), Lee-Anne Meiring (Senior Manager Community Safety), Godfrey Louw (Municipal Manager), Cllr Brendon Adams (MMC for Community Safety and Mobility), Ald Jackie von Brandis (Executive Mayor of George) and Richard von Willingh (Manager of Law Enforcement & Security Services).



Peace Officer and Traffic Warden Training

Twenty-two (22) officials from George Municipality’s Law Enforcement and Traffic Services have completed a comprehensive Peace Officer and Traffic Warden course. The six-week training programme, presented by the City of Cape Town, concluded with a small completion parade held in June at the Rosemore Community Hall, where officials were congratulated on their achievements. This vital training empowers the officials to be appointed in terms of the latest Government Gazette, granting them significant additional powers of enforcement. Of the 22 officials, four were recently appointed as traffic wardens, with the remainder coming from the Law Enforcement department. This initiative underscores George Municipality’s commitment to enhancing public safety and effective law enforcement within the community.

Cllr. Brendon Adams, Mayoral Committee Member (MMC) for Community Safety and Mobility (fifth from left in the front row) congratulated 22 officials from George Municipality’s Law Enforcement and Traffic Services who have completed a comprehensive Peace Officer and Traffic Warden course.

New High-Tech Street Sweeper Truck to Boost Clean City Drive

George Municipality officially launched its brand-new mechanical street sweeper truck, a powerful addition to the city’s road maintenance arsenal. The high-tech vehicle was unveiled at the Civil Engineering Services Depot recently and has begun with regular cleaning operations across George.

“During June 2025 a rented machine was used for a trial run and approximately 137km of road was cleaned, which equates to an approximated 275km of roadside. This R4.5 million investment marks a major milestone in the city’s commitment to cleaner, safer streets and improved stormwater management.” said Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis.

“With this acquisition, George becomes the only municipality in the Garden Route to operate

mechanical street sweepers,” said Lionel Daniels, Deputy Director for Streets and Storm Water. “This innovative vehicle enhances our ability to keep our urban areas clean, reduce flood risk, and protect our natural watercourses from pollution.”

The sweeper truck is equipped with brooms on either side, a central sweeper under the chassis, a front-mounted sprayer to reduce dust, and internal suction that collects debris like leaves, gravel, and dirt into a large internal bin. Fine dust is then filtered and released through a rooftop vent. The vehicle can also spray herbicide along road edges to manage weed growth.

A dedicated team is deployed on foot ahead of the truck to manually loosen compacted dirt, remove larger debris like rocks and



The new mechanical street sweeper truck launched at the Civil Engineering Depot. In the photograph from left to right are Cllr Jean Safers, Cllr Monique Simmers, Cllr Teresa Jeyi, Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis, MMC Civil Engineering Services Marchell Kleynhans, Deputy Director Streets and Stormwater Lionel Daniels. Sharing in the excitement are far right the supplier of the vehicle, Dealer Principal for Shorts Nissan, Grant Flattery and Managing Director for Transtech who manufactured the specialised vehicle, Chris-Henri Munro.

tree branches, ensuring maximum cleaning effectiveness. The goal is to establish a regular cleaning schedule across George, rotating through several wards at a time for city-wide coverage.

Four drivers from Civil Engineering Services have already begun specialised training to operate the vehicle. Plans are also underway to rent a second street

sweeper in the near future, with the long-term goal of owning two municipal sweepers working simultaneously to improve coverage and efficiency. Recent cleaning projects where manual labour was used, indicated that cleaning can cost approximately R1 million per Ward, making this mechanised solution both cost-effective and impactful.

“This street sweeper is more than just a vehicle—it’s a long-term investment in public health, environmental sustainability, and civic pride,” Daniels added. George Municipality thanks the public for its continued support and cooperation as we roll out this exciting new initiative to help keep George clean, green, and growing.

Phased handover of new Buffalo Tank flush toilets



Mayor Jackie von Brandis with left Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Ward Councillor for Ward 4 and behind Cllr Jean Safers, MMC for Human Settlements, with various stakeholders. To the right are Mahlatse Phosa, Director: Planning and Development and Simnikiwe Mbekushe, Deputy Director: Integrated Human Settlements.

The George Municipality has handed over a total of 18 new Buffalo Tank flush toilets to residents in the informal settlements of Syferfontein and Wilderness Heights.

The initiative forms part of a phased rollout, with Syferfontein piloting 55 toilets (20 completed in the 2024–2025 financial year and 35 scheduled for completion in the current budget year) and Wilderness Heights piloting 32 toilets (27 completed in 2024–2025 and the remaining 5 completed this budget year).

Last week, 13 toilets were handed over in Syferfontein and 5 in Wilderness Heights. The Bhékela Informal Settlement in Thembaletu, Ward 21, received 19 new toilets during the previous financial year.

According to Simnikiwe Mbekushe, Deputy Director: Integrated Human Settlements, residents have expressed their satisfaction with the new sanitation facilities, noting that the flush toilets offer a more hygienic solution compared to the chemical toilets previously in use.

The new Buffalo Tank flush toilets reduce human contact with waste, minimise odours and flies, and promote proper hygiene through accessible handwashing taps.

These improvements are especially beneficial for women, children, the elderly, and disabled community members, who now have safer and easier access to sanitation.

Special units with handrails

were provided for disabled beneficiaries, while elderly households were consulted on the best placement of shared toilets.

By introducing these units, the Municipality has been able to reduce the use of chemical toilets in the wards by 65%, creating a cleaner and safer environment for residents.

Cllr Jean Safers, MMC for Human Settlements, said: “We as George Municipality are accelerating the rollout of toilets in informal settlements to give our people dignity with services.”

Community members are urged to protect and maintain the new toilets, which are shared among five households per unit, with each household provided with a key.

Parliamentary Committee Lauds Human Settlements Projects

George Municipality’s Human Settlements projects came under the national spotlight recently when the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements in the National Assembly conducted an oversight visit to the Garden Route.

The Portfolio Committee conducted site visits to three human settlements projects in the George municipal area:

■ **Moeggehuur Informal Settlement in Pacaltsdorp** – An area currently occupied by backyard dwellers where land ownership challenges have delayed formal housing development.

■ **The Military Veterans Housing Project** – A dedicated housing initiative

aimed at providing quality homes for qualifying military veterans.

■ **The Breaking New Ground (BNG) development at Metro Grounds near Blanco** – A large-scale integrated housing project delivering over 600 units, including amenities and inclusive community allocation.

Committee members expressed overall satisfaction with George Municipality’s progress in delivering housing opportunities.

“Our oversight visit ensures that the funds allocated to provinces and accredited municipalities are used effectively for housing delivery. We are generally impressed with George Municipality’s



From left: Ms Thokozile Magagula (Member of Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements), Mr Mammoga Seabi (Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements), Mr Mahlatse Phosa (Director of Planning and Development), Ms Motebele Kegakilwe (Member of Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements), Cllr Jean Safers (MMC for Human Settlements), Ald Jackie von Brandis, Elandre Lamini (Moeggehuur Residents Chairperson), Cameron Dugmore (Member of National Assembly), Cllr Theresa Jeyi (Whip of Council), Mr Nathan Adriaanse (Director: Stakeholder and Public Information Western Cape Department of Infrastructure), Cllr Monique Simmers (MMC for Community Services), Mr Conrad James Poole (Member of Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements) and Cllr Melvin Roelfse (MMC for Social Development).

progress, especially the quality of the Military Veterans Housing Project,” said Mr Mammoga Seabi, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements.

Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Jackie von Brandis, thanked the Portfolio Committee for its visit and positive engagement. She was accompanied

by the Mayoral Committee Member for Human Settlements, Councillor Jean Saffers, who also thanked the delegation for their visit.

R1,115 Billion Infrastructure Grant spent in record time

George Municipality has achieved a significant milestone by spending 100% of the R1,115 billion Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) grant in just three and a half years, ahead of the projected four-year period.

To complete these major bulk water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, the Municipality is also investing R300 million of its own funding. Several projects have already been completed, and the remaining projects are on track for completion between now and mid-2026.

Improving the security of George's future water and sanitation needs, the R1,415 billion investment is being channelled into 12 major components of bulk water and sewer infrastructure, many implemented in phases to ensure long-term sustainability. These upgrades will strengthen potable water security, reduce pollution risks, and support continued social and economic growth in George.

Key progress includes:

■ New Water Treatment Works:

The Civil works valued at R284 million has been completed; mechanical, electrical and instrumentation works valued at R228 million are 97% completed with final completion due at the end of October 2025. Purified water from the new 20MI module has been supplying residents with potable water since May 2025, while maintenance and upgrades are being carried out on the existing modules. The Residuals Treatment Works is being commissioned. The 20 Mℓ/day (20 million litres per day) extension to the New Water Treatment Works (New WTW) and the new WTW Residuals Treatment facility will significantly enhance the purified water treatment capacity of the Municipality to a total daily production capacity of 60 Mℓ/d.

■ Sewer Pumpstation Upgrades:

The upgrade of three major sewer pumpstations—Eden, Meul, and Schaapkop—will improve the long-term capacity and reliability of these aged pump stations and curtail spillages that cause environmental and health risks. First-phase works at Eden and Meul had previously been completed and these pumpstations are due for full completion in 2025; Schaapkop pump station will be completed in 2026.

■ Garden Route Dam Outlet and Supply Upgrade:

Completed in June 2025. This included replacing the existing 600 mm diameter raw water pipeline with an 800 mm diameter stainless steel pipeline and a 900 mm diameter HDPE pipe, ensuring a higher flow rate for future raw water needs. It also included upgrading a section of the pump pipeline to improve flow and reduce the risk of failures. Minor works continued beyond June 2025 and have been completed.

■ Raw Water Balancing Dam (40 Mℓ):

An additional 40 million litre (40 Mℓ) raw water storage and balancing dam is under construction, together with a 340m-long 800mm diameter raw water outlet pipeline and a 1000mm diameter raw water pump main extension. Construction is 75% complete and expected to be fully completed in December 2025.

■ Pacaltsdorp Reservoirs:

West Reservoir (14.5 Mℓ) and East Reservoir (3 Mℓ plus 300 kl tower) are 75% and 80% complete respectively, both due for full completion in early 2026.



Inside Thembalethu East Reservoir.



New Water Treatment Works, Denneoord delivering 20 million litres per day of clean drinking water since May 2025.

■ Thembalethu Reservoirs:

The Thembalethu West Reservoir upgrade consists of three contracts that vary between 80%–100% complete. Full completion is due December 2025; Thembalethu East Reservoir (8 Mℓ plus 1000 kl tower) is 85% complete, with full completion due in 2025.

■ Completed Projects:

The Garden Route Dam generators, 9th Avenue Old Water Treatment Works refurbishment, and Kaaimans River Pumpstation refurbishment.

Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis said the achievement demonstrates the Municipality's ability to deliver on its

promises: "Achieving 100% expenditure on such a significant grant shows George can manage major projects responsibly while securing water and sanitation services for generations to come."

What this means for George residents

These infrastructure upgrades are not just numbers — they directly improve the quality of life across the city:

■ Stronger potable water security:

A new Water Treatment Works has already been delivering clean drinking water since May 2025, with full commissioning expected later this year.

■ Improved sanitation:

Upgrades to major sewer pump stations will reduce pollution risks and keep communities healthier.

■ Bigger storage capacity:

New reservoirs in Pacaltsdorp and Thembalethu will increase direct on-site water storage for improved water security during bulk water outages.

■ Future-proof infrastructure:

The new raw water dam and pipelines provides security of raw water supply to the extended water treatment works to ensure the availability of raw water feed to meet potable water demand.



ABOVE AND BELOW: Schaapkop Sewer Pumpstation and pipe bridge.



New 15,000-Litre “Super Sucker” Strengthens Sanitation

The George Municipality’s Civil Engineering Services Department has expanded its Waste Services fleet with a new 15,000-litre Jetting and Vacuum Unit – better known as the “Super Sucker”.

The vehicle was officially launched in August, at the Civil Engineering Services plant in the George Industrial area.

During a live demonstration, the sanitation team showcased the Super Sucker’s high-pressure jetting and vacuum functions, highlighting its ability to clear blockages and clean pipelines efficiently.

Mayor von Brandis said the new unit represents the Municipality’s commitment to improving service delivery and community well-being. “Effective sanitation services are essential for health and dignity. This investment is about improving lives,” she said.

Deputy Director for Wastewater Services, Ernest Claassen, explained that the Super Sucker’s 10,000-litre sewer tank and 5,000-litre jetting capacity allow crews to handle major

blockages more efficiently than standard 6,000-litre units, saving time and reducing operational costs. The vehicle will be deployed across George to support wastewater management and maintain key pump stations.

MMC for Civil Engineering Services, Cllr Kleynhans reaffirmed the Municipality’s commitment to efficiency and environmental responsibility. “Investments like this strengthen our ability to deliver quality sanitation services to the residents of George,” he said.



Bertie Stewart (Manager Wastewater Network), Jannie Koegelenberg (Director of Civil Engineering Services), Ald Jackie von Brandis (Executive Mayor of George), Cllr Marchell Kleynhans (MMC for Civil Engineering Services), Ernest Claassen (Deputy Director of Wastewater Services).

LEFT: Silvino Jacobs, Senior Supervisor in the Civil Engineering Services Department, operates the control panel of the new 15,000-litre Jetting & Vacuum Unit during a live demonstration.



George Municipality, in partnership with SANParks Working for the Coast and interns from the Garden Route District Municipality, recently joined forces to mark National River and International Coastal Clean-Up Days. Together, teams removed approximately 40 kg of waste from the Gwaing River Mouth, Kleinkrantz, and Leentjiesklip beaches — helping to protect local ecosystems and raise awareness about the impact of pollution on our waterways and oceans. The initiative, supported by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, formed part of Clean-Up & Recycle Week and reflected the Municipality’s ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and community collaboration.

Van Kervel skool se voornemende werktuigkundiges besoek megalink

’n Groep finalejaar-leerders in meganiese studies van Van Kervel Skool het onlangs die geleentheid gehad om die nuwe Megalink-werkswinkel te besoek — die kern van meganiese instandhouding en herstelwerk vir die GO GEORGE-busvloot. Die nuwe fasiliteit, wat sedert 1 September 2024 ten volle funksioneer, beskik oor ’n moderne instandhoudingswerks-winkel vir voertuie.

Onder leiding van werkswinkelbestuurder Riaan “Botter” Lodewyks, het die studiebesoek ’n blywende indruk gemaak. Die silwerskoon gereedskapskabinette, blink enjins sonder oliekolle en die noukeurige instandhoudingskedule — waar elke GO GEORGE-bus elke vier weke gediens word — was

van die hoogtepunte. Benewens roetine-meganiese werk, sluit die instandhoudingsproses deeglike bakwerkkontroles, meganiese nakoming-inspeksies en verifikasie van veiligheidsprotokol in. Daar word elke dag gemiddeld ses busse gediens: twee minibusse, twee midibusse, en twee standaardbusse.

Megalink het tans 14 plaaslike personeellede in diens. Dit behels ’n werkswinkelbestuurder, administratiewe personeel, ses gekwalifiseerde werktuigkundiges, ’n elektrisiën, ’n paneelklopper en sewe vakleerlinge. Die vakleerlinge, almal gekoppel aan ’n register van families of individue wat histories deur die uitrol van die busdiens geraak is, hoop om hul Rooi Seël-sertifisering in Julie te ontvang.



Werkswinkelbestuurder Botter Lodewyks verduidelik hoe die busenjins elke vier weke gediens word.

George Municipality strengthens water-saving efforts

The Garden Route Dam storage level stood at 61.88% on 14 October, reflecting a continued decline due to limited rainfall in recent months. Only 4mm of rain was recorded between 7 and 13 October, underscoring the need for all residents and businesses in George to conserve water and strictly adhere to existing water restrictions.

In response, the George Municipality has established a Water Management Task Team to strengthen the city’s Water-Saving Programme, with a focus on drought response, infrastructure planning, and public awareness. The team includes representatives from Civil Engineering Services, Community Safety and Mobility, Planning and Development, Communication, Community Services, Technical Engineering Services, Finance, and Corporate Services.

At a recent meeting, the Task Team reviewed the current water situation and key actions, including the continued enforcement of water restrictions, promoting responsible water use, and ensuring municipal facilities lead by example. The team also discussed private sector compliance, leak management, infrastructure upgrades, and collaboration on catchment management to secure a sustainable water supply for all residents.

Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis said the Municipality remains proactive in managing the situation.

“We are entering a period of increasing water stress, and every drop counts,” she said. “This is a collective responsibility — the Municipality, residents, and businesses must all play their part to protect our most precious resource. Our focus is on sustainability, not only for today but for future generations.”

Director of Civil Engineering Services, Mr. Jannie Koegelenberg, who leads the Water Management Task Team, highlighted coordinated efforts across departments.

“We are monitoring the top 100 high consumers, checking for leaks, enforcing water restrictions, and intensifying awareness efforts,” he said. “We urge all residents, businesses, schools, and sports facilities to review their water use and reduce wastage wherever possible.”

Water Restrictions Reminder: Level 2B in Effect

Residents are reminded that Level 2B Water Restrictions remain in effect. Key measures include:

- No mechanical or automatic irrigation or sprinkler systems.
- Handheld buckets may be used at any time for watering gardens.

- Handheld garden hoses may only be used within designated time frames:
 - September–April: 18:00–20:00
 - May–August: 17:00–19:00
 - Retirement facilities: 16:00–18:00 (year-round)
- Even-numbered households: Mondays and Thursdays
- Uneven-numbered households: Tuesdays and Fridays
- No washing of vehicles with hosepipes, except at formal car washes
- No filling of swimming pools or cleaning outside surfaces using potable water

Exemption Applications

Residents or businesses seeking exemption from specific restrictions may apply in writing. Forms are available from the Civil Engineering Services Directorate, Old Town Hall, corner of Market and York Streets, or by contacting Ms. G. van Niekerk at 044 801 9354 or gvanniekerk@george.gov.za.

Reporting Water Restriction Violations and Penalties

Contraventions can be reported to gmun@george.gov.za, 044 801 6350 (07:45–16:30), or 044 801 6300 (after hours, standby for bylaw emergencies). Investigations are conducted by George



Municipal Law Enforcement.

Any person who contravenes the restrictions is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, may face a fine as published in the annual tariffs list or up to six months’ imprisonment. Repeat offenders will incur double fines.

Reporting Water Leaks

All water leaks should be reported to the Civil Engineering Directorate at 044 801 9262/66 (office hours) or 044 801 6300 (after hours).

Passasiers gee GO GEORGE 'n 91% tevredenheidsgradering

Die uitslae is in: GO GEORGE het 'n uitstekende passasierstevredenheidsgradering van 91% behaal. Dit herbevestig die busdiens se rol as 'n noodsaaklike openbare vervoerdiens wat veiligheid, toeganklikheid, mobiliteit en bekostigbaarheid prioritiseer. Inwoners van George beskou GO GEORGE as meer as net 'n vervoerstelsel. Hulle sien dit as 'n drywer van ekonomiese groei, omgewingsvolhoubaarheid en sosiale opheffing in die streek.

Hierdie indrukwekkende gradering spruit uit die 2024 makro-, vervoer- en sosio-ekonomiese studie (MTSES), 'n jaarlikse passasierstevredenheidsonopname wat onder GO GEORGE-gebruikers, spesiale belangegroepes en ander belanghebbendes wat indirek deur die diens geraak word, gedoen is.



As deel van 'n besoek aan George tydens hul jaarlikse Premiersfietsstoer, het die Wes-Kaapse Minister van Mobiliteit, Isaac Sileko (heel regs) die terugvoerverslag van die 2024-opname aan die premier, Alan Winde (middel), oorhandig. Die twee ywerige fietsryers het gou 'n bus na Thembaletu gehaal - in hul fietsrydrag, pas van die langpad af - en met talle passasiers by bushaltes en op die bus gesels. George se uitvoerende burgemeester, raadsheer Jackie von Brandis (links), het die rit en oorhandiging saam met die Kaapse afvaardiging meegemaak.

'n Openbare vervoerstelsel wat ekonomiese groei dryf

Die Wes-Kaapse minister van mobiliteit, Isaac Sileko, beklemtoon die verreikte impak van openbare vervoer: "'n Inklusiewe en goed funksionerende vervoerdiens speel 'n belangrike rol in ekonomiese ontwikkeling, armoedeverligting, maatskaplike integrasie en werkskepping in gemeenskappe. Ons moet weet of GO GEORGE die kol tref en as 'n provinsiale vennoot vind ons hierdie opname die optimale hulpmiddel om terugvoer oor passasierservaring rakende stelselbedryf te kry. Die totale-waarde-assesseringsbenadering wat gevolg is om hierdie opname saam te stel, erken die nie-monetêre sowel as monetêre waarde van 'n openbare vervoerstelsel, wat noodsaaklike inligting verskaf vir die beplanning en aanpassing van die diens om aan ons passasiers se behoeftes te voldoen."

Passasiersterugvoer en belangrike insigte

Die jaarlikse opname, wat in opdrag van GO GEORGE gedoen is en deur sosio-ekonomiese navorsings spesialiste gedoen is, het ten doel om die makro- en vervoer-ekonomiese impak op die busdiens te bepaal. Benewens passasiersonderhoude is perspektiewe ingesamel van spesiale belangegroepes, insluitend die George Vereniging vir Persone met Gestremdhede, personeel van George Link (GO GEORGE se voertuigbedryfsmaatskappy), en passasiers wat in Thembaletu woon waar die eerste roete na hierdie gebied

laat in 2023 uitgerol is.

GO GEORGE-bestuurder, Morné Lakay, het die belangrikheid van die opname se gebruikersgerigte metodologie beklemtoon, wat akkurate insigte verseker. "Die MTSES 2024 was uitsluitlik toegewy aan die bestudering van gebruikerstevredenheid. Geen nie-gebruikers is ingesluit in die opname nie, wat gedoen is met 'n steekproef van 28% van GO GEORGE-passasiers. Ons kry 'n aanduiding van passasierspersepsies in terme van waarde vir geld, koste en bekostigbaarheid. Deur data wat van die nuwe Thembaletu-passasiers verkry is in te sluit, maar ook af te baken, het ons waardevolle inligting verkry terwyl ons voortgaan om meer roetes na hierdie gebied uit te rol."

Hoë tellings weerspieël groeiende tevredenheid

Opnameresultate toon sterk verbetering vanaf 2023, wat GO GEORGE se verbintenis tot die lewering van betroubare openbare vervoer van hoë gehalte versterk.

Passasiers het groot tevredenheid uitgespreek op sleutelgebiede, insluitend:

- Toeganklikheid aan boord (96%)
- Veiligheid en sekuriteit aan boord (92%)
- Busbestuurders wat veilig, verantwoordelik en professioneel bestuur (97%)
- Betroubaarheid van diens (97%)
- Bushaltes se nabyheid aan bestemmings (94%)

- Geen kriminele gedrag op busse nie (93%)
- Passasiers wat sê dat hulle minder betaal deur GO GEORGE te gebruik (89%)

Bekostigbaarheid en ekonomiese impak

George se uitvoerende burgemeester, raadsheer Jackie von Brandis, het die bevindinge van die opname verwelkom. "Die terugvoer wat van ons belangrikste belanghebbendes, ons passasiers, ontvang is, is uiters waardevol en 'n ware bewys van die uitstekende werk wat deur ons GO GEORGE-busdiens gedoen word. Die prioritisering van belegging in ons openbare vervoerstelsel is 'n absolute noodsaaklikheid, soos blyk uit die resultate van hierdie opname. Ons passasiers identifiseer bekostigbaarheid as die belangrikste voordeel van die GO GEORGE-diens, wat een van die kernbeginsels van gesubsidieerde vervoerdienste is - GO GEORGE-ritte ingesluit.

"Ons lewer hierdie diens sodat niemand gedwing word om 'n werksgeleentheid weg te wys omdat hulle nie kan bekostig om na 'n onderhoud of werkplek te reis nie. Trouens, die beleid van gratis oorklimgeleenthede binne een uur het, baie konserwatief geskat, sedert die aanvang van die diens minstens R43,3 miljoen in die sakke van ons passasiers gelaat."

Die burgemeester het ook kennis geneem van die breër sosio-ekonomiese impak van GO GEORGE, insluitend werkskepping

en vaardigheidsontwikkeling: "Die ekonomiese impak van ons busdiens op die hele gemeenskap is enorm en verbeter hul lewensgehalte en werkspotensiaal. Saam met die werksgeleentheid is daar 'n deurlopende program van opleiding en vaardigheidsontwikkeling wat met die projek geassosieer word, wat lei tot oordraagbare formele vaardighede in die arbeidsmag. Die George-munisipaliteit is baie trots om 'n vennoot in hierdie opbouende en bemagtigende projek te wees," het sy gesê.

Oorhandiging van terugvoerverslag

As deel van 'n besoek aan George tydens hul jaarlikse Premiersfietsstoer het die Wes-Kaapse Minister van Mobiliteit die terugvoerverslag van die 2024-opname aan die Wes-Kaapse premier, Alan Winde, oorhandig. Die premier het gereageer deur te sê die bevindings weerspieël die groeiende belangrikheid van GO GEORGE.

"GO GEORGE is soveel meer as net 'n nie-metro-busdiens; dit is ook 'n noodsaaklike ekonomiese bemagtiger wat ons inwoners met geleentheid verbind. Dit het die plaaslike en streekse ekonomie positief getransformeer, wat die lewenskwaliteit van duisende mense, insluitend passasiers, werknemers, besighede en diensverskaffers, direk beïnvloed. Ons is trots op die voortdurende groei en toewyding tot uitmuntende diens van die GO GEORGE-busdiens oor die afgelope tien jaar," het hy gesê.



George Councillors and Mayor Jackie von Brandis congratulating beneficiaries receiving their new home at Metro Grounds.

George Housing Blitz Sees 112 Families Receive Keys and Title Deeds

George Municipality, in partnership with the Western Cape Government and the National Department of Human Settlements, celebrated a historic milestone in early September with the handover of 112 houses across various projects in George — including the first-ever dedicated housing for military veterans.

On day one, at the Metro Grounds Housing Project, 15 houses with title deeds were handed over, while a further 31

families received their houses, with title deeds to follow later. On day two, 37 more houses were handed over at Metro Grounds, of which 33 included title deeds.

That same day in Pacaltsdorp, at Erf 325 East Syferfontein, 30 military veterans received the keys to their new homes, with six of them receiving title deeds immediately.

In total, 112 houses were handed over during the blitz, along with 54 title deeds.

For many families who have waited decades, this moment represented far more than receiving four walls and a roof — it marked the fulfilment of long-held dreams, the restoration of dignity, and the foundation for a safer and brighter future.

The Metro Grounds Housing Project is planned for 632 Breaking New Ground (BNG) units, of which 213 have now been handed over to date. A further 419 top structures are still outstanding.

At the Military Veterans Project in Syferfontein, Pacaltsdorp, a total of 38 units are planned, with 30 already handed over. This marked the very first handover of houses specifically dedicated to veterans in George, leaving only eight units still outstanding.

Beneficiaries at Metro Grounds include residents from informal settlements, backyard dwellers, and individuals on the Western Cape Housing Demand Database. For the military veterans, recipients were selected from

the official Military Veterans Database and the same provincial housing database.

George Municipality further reminded beneficiaries that they are not only receiving houses but also becoming part of building stronger and more stable communities.

Families were guided on the responsibilities of homeownership — protecting their properties and contributing to the wellbeing of their neighbourhoods.



MEC for Infrastructure in the Western Cape, Minister Tertuis Simmers and Deputy Minister of Human Settlements in National Government, Minister Tandi Mahambehala planted a tree to beautify the area at Syferfontein Housing Project in Pacaltsdorp, when handing over houses to beneficiaries. Executive Mayor of George, Jackie von Brandis and Cllr Jean Safers, MMC for Human Settlements look on.



Mayor Jackie von Brandis hands over the title deed to Cedricka Gorden at Metro Grounds. With them are from left, Chief Whip of George Council, Cllr Theresa Jeyi, Cllr Jean Safers, MMC for Human Settlements and Cllr Thandiswa Qatana.



Denzil Saayman from Uniondale Fire and Rescue Services captivates young learners at Uniondale Speelpark with an interactive demonstration on fire safety and awareness. The session formed part of the Child Protection Programme hosted in Wards 24 and 25, where partners including SAPS Uniondale, the Department of Social Development, and George Municipality worked together to educate children about safety, abuse prevention, and their rights. Through activities like these, the initiative empowers even the youngest community members to recognise danger, seek help, and stay safe.

Independent power producers for future energy security

George Municipality is pressing ahead with plans to purchase electricity from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as part of its strategy to secure more cost-effective power for the city. While the arrangement will not shield residents from load shedding it does open the door to competitive pricing that could help keep municipal finances more sustainable in the long run. Thus, electricity will be sourced from alternative producers rather than solely from Eskom. This decision comes as Eskom continues with tariff increases that have risen faster than inflation.

By diversifying electricity supply and working with multiple producers – particularly those using renewable sources – the Municipality aims to reduce the risks of depending on a single supplier and to improve long-term cost stability.

“Partnering with IPPs will support renewable energy targets and limit the operational and maintenance burden on the Municipality, as the private sector will manage its own electricity generation plants,” said Michael Rhode, Director of Electrical Engineering Services. “This is a key step in ensuring George has a resilient energy future.”

Two tracks: short-term and long-term agreements

The Municipality is pursuing two types of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

at the same time:

■ Short-term PPA (three years) – Expected to deliver in the order of 10 megawatts (MW) of capacity, likely from a solar PV facility. A typical 10 MW plant could produce over 10 million kilowatt-hours each year. These agreements have fewer legislative requirements and can be implemented in a shorter timeframe as longer term PPA’s.

■ Long-term PPA (20 years) – Larger scale PPA in the order of 20 MW as a first phase. Additional contracts may follow in future. This process involves more legislative steps and is expected to take about two years from procurement to signing of the PPA.

George Municipality is assisted by a Transactional advisory team, which was appointed by the Western Cape Government to achieve its goals. All environmental approvals, construction and ongoing plant management, which include all operations and maintenance will be the responsibility of the IPP. The Municipality will pay only for the electricity supplied, with risks such as financing, construction and performance carried by the IPP.

Benefits for George

Although final pricing will only be confirmed after the tender process, the Municipality expects competitive and



Reducing Electricity Demand Through Renewable Energy Initiatives.

more predictable tariffs compared with current Eskom rates.

Any major IPP agreement will be followed by a cost-of-supply study, which may lead to a review of George Municipality’s electricity tariffs.

“This approach is not just about today’s costs,” Rhode said. “It’s about creating

a cost-effective electricity supply that benefits residents and businesses for decades to come.”

In addition to potential cost-effective electricity, the move supports national climate and renewable energy goals whilst also creating a more sustainable environment for economic growth.

New Weighbridge installed at Transfer Station

George Municipality is pleased to announce the successful installation of a new weighbridge at the municipal transfer station. The Executive Mayor of George, Jackie von Brandis, accompanied by Cllr Monique Simmers, MMC for Community Services (Refuse, Environment & Parks), and officials from the Community Services Department, officially launched the operation of the new weighbridge last week.

Ald Von Brandis said the project represents a significant step forward in strengthening the municipality’s waste management systems. “The weighbridge will give us accurate, real-time information on the amount of waste generated and managed in George. With this data, the municipality can make smarter decisions, improve efficiency, and ensure that waste management keeps up with the needs of our growing city.”

Von Brandis added that the new system will not only benefit the municipality but also the public.

“Residents and service providers can look forward to quicker turnaround times, improved recordkeeping, and greater accountability. This is about building a



From left: Elvis Nondala (Acting: Weighbridge Clerk), Annie Johnson (Heavy Plant Operator), Nombuyiselo Majola (Manager of Projects, Solid Waste & Shared Services), Cllr Monique Simmers (MMC for Community Services: Refuse, Environment & Parks), Ald Jackie von Brandis (Executive Mayor of George), Yolanda Mali (Chief Clerk: Cleansing Department), Sivuyile Mtila (Senior Manager: Environmental Services).

cleaner, more sustainable George while making sure that services are reliable and effective.”

According to Nombuyiselo Majola, Manager of Projects, Solid Waste & Shared

Services in the Community Services Directorate, staff underwent induction and operational training in August 2025 to ensure they are fully equipped to operate the system efficiently and deliver quality service to all users of the facility.

“The introduction of the weighbridge marks a significant improvement in how waste volumes are measured and managed at both the transfer station and the landfill site,” said Majola.

Explaining the benefits of the new weighbridge, Majola highlighted that the system will enable the Solid Waste Section to:

- Accurately record the weight of all in coming and outgoing waste
- Improve monitoring and reporting
- Identify opportunities for waste diversion and measure the impact of such efforts
- Provide greater transparency and accountability through reliable data

- Streamline service delivery for both municipal and commercial users by reducing waiting times, minimising paperwork, and improving operational flow.

“Members of the public and service providers using the transfer station and landfill will soon benefit from quicker, more efficient service and better recordkeeping. This will ultimately contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment,” Majola added.

“The new system will significantly improve our ability to plan and manage waste more effectively, while enhancing the overall user experience for all clients.” MMC Simmers extended appreciation to all stakeholders involved in the project. “We thank the community for its continued support and cooperation as we transition to this improved system.”

For any enquiries, please contact Ms Nombuyiselo Majola, based at the Waste Transfer Station, on 044 803 9287/9297 or nmajola@george.gov.za



On the right-hand side, Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis and MMC for Community Services, Cllr Monique Simmers, observe a live demonstration of the new weighbridge monitoring system at the Gwaing Landfill. The session is guided by Acting Weighbridge Clerk, Elvis Nondala (left), with Nombuyiselo Majola, Manager of Projects: Solid Waste & Shared Services, looking on.



Progress on Thembaletu’s Ilisoletu Precinct – Recreation Route Takes Shape



The George Municipality is pleased with steady progress on Project 7: The Recreation Route under the Ilisoletu Precinct in Thembaletu. The project enhances safety, connectivity, and recreation along Nelson Mandela Boulevard and within the Thembaletu CBD.

Project 7 is one of eleven investment packages identified to drive social and economic development through the Ilisoletu Precinct. It includes the Park Run and Trim Park Recreation Route. During the 2024/2025 financial year, sidewalks were upgraded along Ntaka, Schaap, and Bomvana Streets, as well as the N2.

The Municipality has invested R3.08 million in sidewalk upgrades, with an additional R450 000 allocated for the final section and R350 000 for street furniture and lighting. Funding comes from the National Treasury’s Neighbourhood Development Partnerships Programme (NDPP), which leverages public investment to attract private and community partnerships for township redevelopment.

“The NDPP demonstrates how creative public investment can unlock social and economic potential in underserved areas,” said Delia Power, Deputy Director

for Development and Environmental Planning.

According to Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis, the upgrades form part of a long-term vision:

“We plan to formalise a park run route along this corridor, open to all community members and visitors, linking current and future recreational spaces and making Thembaletu a healthier, safer, and more connected community.”

Residents are already using sections of the route, reinforcing the demand for accessible recreational facilities. CCTV cameras have also been installed at the Thembaletu Sports Field to enhance safety.

Upcoming plans include a formal walkway linking Nelson Mandela Boulevard to Ngcakani Road, with landscaping, street furniture, and urban design elements to improve accessibility and usability.

“These combined interventions will encourage healthy lifestyles and create safer, more attractive public spaces,” added Mayor von Brandis.

For more information, visit www.george.gov.za/planning-development/ilisoletu-precinct or contact Henko Lourens at hlourens@george.gov.za.

George Traffic Service strengthens capacity



Trifosa Manewil, George Municipality’s first female Grade A Examiner for Driver’s Licences, began her career as a Law Enforcement Officer in 2006 and now serves in a leadership role in the Traffic Department. Her journey was featured in the “George Municipality Celebrates Her” Women’s Month articles, highlighting women excelling in their fields.

George Municipality has appointed two new Driver’s Licence Examiners to strengthen capacity at the George Driving Licence Testing Centre (DLTC) and the Uniondale facility.

The appointments address service delays caused by a growing population and high demand for learner’s and driver’s licences.

Until recently, the George DLTC operated with only one Grade A Examiner and two Grade L Examiners, with vacancies placing additional strain on operations. The Uniondale centre also required both an examiner and a management representative with examiner qualifications.

The shortage had led to a backlog of driving test appointments extending until December 2025. To ease pressure, traffic officers with examiner diplomas were temporarily redeployed.

Funding has now been secured to fill key vacancies. The two new appointees, both holding Grade A Examiner diplomas and Codes A and EC licences, bring five to eight years of experience. One examiner started on 1 August, and a third joined on 1 September 2025.

“These appointments bring much-needed stability to the Driver’s Licence section,” said George Traffic Chief, Janine Wells. “It will reduce reliance on traffic officers juggling examiner duties and



Computerised learner’s licence testing centre in Pacaltsdorp.

other responsibilities. While it’s too early to predict shorter waiting times for driving tests, the Computerised Learner’s Licence Test is already improving availability.”

Service hours remain as prescribed by the Road Traffic Management Corporation, but the added capacity allows more tests to be conducted. Future plans include advertising two more examiner posts and upskilling traffic officers and cashiers for learner’s licence and eye testing duties.

Wells concluded: “We urge residents to book early, ensure documents are in order, and make use of the increased capacity to help us deliver smoother, more efficient service.”

This initiative supports the Municipality’s goal of keeping George safe, clean, and green by promoting safer roads and reducing fatalities.

National Clean-Up and Recycle Week 2025

George Municipality, in partnership with community organisations and key stakeholders, successfully hosted a series of impactful activities as part of National Clean-Up and Recycle Week 2025. The events, held from 15 to 19 September, aimed to raise awareness about responsible waste management, recycling, and environmental protection across George and the surrounding areas.

According to Ms Nombuyiselo Majola, George Municipality’s Manager for Projects, Solid Waste & Shared Services, the campaign kicked off with a door-to-door awareness drive in Golden Valley, Blanco, where households were engaged on the importance of recycling, waste minimisation, and proper waste disposal practices.

The week’s programme continued with clean-up campaigns in Thembaletu focusing on reducing litter in public spaces and encouraging recycling habits within local communities.

To conclude the week’s activities, a Youth Engagement Workshop was held in Nyondale in collaboration with PETCO, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and Henque Waste.

- PETCO and NYDA shared insights into how they support and fund youth-led waste management initiatives.
- Young participants learned about business development opportunities within the waste sector.
- The session emphasised that “not all waste is waste”—with innovation, it can create value, jobs, and sustainable enterprises.



From left to right: Khanyisa Shoto (Manager: Street Cleansing and Pollution Control), Karin Stoffels (Project coordinator), Gavin Esau (Project coordinator), Harries Aries (EPWP Peer Educator Coordinator), Siphokazi Poti (Peer Educator), Jayton Abrahams (Intern), Brendon Mouwers, and Tanja Botha (Environmental Health Practitioner).

The workshop provided valuable knowledge and inspiration for youth to explore opportunities in recycling and environmental entrepreneurship.

George Municipality extends sincere appreciation to all partners, volunteers, schools, and residents who participated in the campaign.

Your collective effort has contributed to cleaner neighbourhoods, healthier rivers, and a more sustainable George.

Residents are encouraged to continue recycling, reporting illegal dumping, and supporting future environmental programmes.

For more information, please contact the George Municipality Environmental Services Office at 044 802 2904.



Municipal officials and community members during a door-to-door awareness campaign in Golden Valley, Blanco, where households were educated on proper waste disposal and recycling practices.

George Municipality officially unveils Ilisoletu Logo



George Municipality has officially unveiled the brand identity for the Ilisoletu Precinct, marking an exciting milestone in the Thembaletu Node Development Project. “Ilisoletu” – meaning “Our Eye” in isiXhosa – symbolises vision, vigilance, and a collective outlook toward a brighter future. The logo, developed in consultation with Ward 13 Councillor Simphiwe Toto, his Ward Committee, and community stakeholders, captures the precinct’s role as a focal point for growth and opportunity in Thembaletu. The precinct, situated along Nelson Mandela Boulevard and anchored around the Thembaletu CBD, has been identified as a priority investment area in the George Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF). Backed by the National Treasury’s Neighbourhood Development Partnership Programme, the initiative is supported by a five-year Development Plan that includes 11 catalytic projects – from a business process outsourcing (BPO) village to new trading hubs, open spaces, transport clusters, and youth development facilities. The logo launch is the first step in introducing Ilisoletu to investors, residents, and visitors. It will be rolled out across signage, marketing material, and community engagement platforms to reinforce the identity of the precinct and its vision of renewal. Ilisoletu is set to become a landmark project – turning Thembaletu into a hub of opportunity, resilience, and shared pride.

LGBTQIA+ Summit hosted to advance inclusion and equality



Mayor Jackie von Brandis at the summit.

George Municipality hosted its second annual LGBTQIA+ Summit, bringing together civil society, government departments, and community members to discuss progress and ongoing challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community.

The programme included keynote addresses, breakout sessions on gender-affirming healthcare, legal recognition, and safety, and a plenary session to develop a joint feedback statement, “How Far Are We?”, later presented at the George Pride Imbizo.

Dr Juliana van Jaarsveld from the Department of Health reported on improved inclusivity training and gender-affirming care initiatives. Executive Mayor Ald Jackie von Brandis noted that the summit evolved from the Municipality’s LGBTQIA+ Help Desk, emphasizing that, “Beyond parades, we must work together to address real issues affecting people’s daily lives.”

Coordinator Kanyisile Fortuin said the summit united key partners — including Health, Home Affairs, Education, SAPS, and civil society — to tackle long delays in gender-affirming surgeries and legal name or gender changes. “This work is about breaking down systemic barriers and ensuring dignity for all,” she said.

Cllr Melvin Roelofse, MMC for Community Development, closed the event by encouraging continued collaboration toward equality and inclusion.



At the LGBTQIA+ summit in George are from left, Social Workers, Megan Wolhuter and Siyanda Mtshotana from the Department of Social Development and Khanyisile Fortuin from George Municipality Community Development LGBTQIA+ helpdesk.