

Water and Sanitation in the News

Knysna Municipality removes redundant standpipes

Knysna municipality is in the process of removing redundant standpipes in the formalised sections of the Northern Areas in Knysna.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said Knysna has experienced low water levels in recent months and the municipality needs to do all it can in order to save water. "The removal of the redundant standpipes will reduce the water wastage that occurs in standpipes. It is very difficult to control the wastage and this is the only measure we have to reduce the waste. In addition, the removal will decrease the maintenance requirements in terms of human resources and financial resources."



These standpipes were provided in the past to supply water to communities in informal areas as an interim measure before those areas were formalised. A standpipe supplies water within a 200m radius in terms of minimum water service levels.

Most of the sections in the Northern Areas have been formalised and are now fully serviced, making the standpipes which are still operating in those sections unnecessary. Waring said the affected communities would be informed of these actions.

"The standpipes in the areas that are currently being developed will not be removed until the development has been completed and all services are operational. The standpipes in informal areas will remain until these areas are also formalised", Waring concluded.

Source: *Infratsructurene.ws*

Importance of Efficient Operation and Maintenance Practices and Training

The implementation of proper operations and maintenance (O&M) strategies is a key component to minimising the cost of asset ownership. A systematic approach to O&M practices can maximise the use and value of existing assets. Providing formal training programs, tools and technology are also needed to ensure staff members are equipped to effectively manage current water and waste water utilities' complex asset base.

All utilities practice some level of **systematic maintenance** and provide for repairs when needed (*as indicated in the media article above*). Depending on the complexity of a utility's infrastructure, maintenance programs can range from relatively simple manual systems to sophisticated computerised maintenance management systems such as the **Municipal Assistant™**. A well-planned maintenance programme has several benefits:

- Assets performed at optimal levels, reducing service disruptions due to asset failure
- The cost of asset maintenance can be quantified
- Maintenance practices can be correlated to a level of service
- A balanced program can be developed that optimizes maintenance vs. renewal and replacement

One of the important initial steps in implementing asset management is to **assess*** current O&M practices within the utility. This will help the utility objectively understand its strengths and weaknesses and provide a basis for developing priorities for improvement (NEWEA, 2014).

Read the full reports at: <http://www.infrastructure.ne.ws/2014/11/25/knysna-municipality-removes-redundant-standpipes/> and <http://www.newea.org/about-us/committees/asset-management-committee/asset-management-committee-page/operation-and-maintenance-practices-and-training/>

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