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### **GKBC on crucial importance of healthy estuary for healthy economy**

The Greater Knysna Business Chamber supports the Garden Route District Municipality's health authorities on the early closing of the Chukka Festival in Knysna, due to safety concerns over possible sewerage spill in the Knysna Estuary.

The Garden Route District Municipality's Health Department is tasked to monitor and ensure public health standards are being upheld. As part of this mandate, they sample estuary water quality in conjunction with SANParks on a monthly basis and before major events.

Due to sewage spills in Nelson Street (in close proximity to the estuary) flowing into the stormwater system which drains into the estuary, as a precaution the health department decided that it is in the interests of public health to stop the waterpolo matches scheduled for the day. The Knysna Municipality also investigated and addressed the problem with a sewage sucker vehicle. An investigation is allegedly currently underway on what caused the blockages (that came into the system that week and day) which led to overflowing sewage. It is not clear how long the investigations will take.

It is vital that the Knysna community assist SANParks and the Municipality to protect the health of the most biodiverse estuary in the country. It is the lifeblood of our town - for tourism, business in general as well as property values and personal health. GKBC supports this by facilitating donations which fund deepwater channel sampling by SANParks as well as by engaging with the Knysna Municipality on pollution issues on a regular basis.

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### **For more info on how to support the Greater Knysna Business Chamber and its initiatives:**

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