

Knysna Energy Summit

21 June 2023

Welcome & Introduction

Good morning & dare I say a warm or better hearty welcome on behalf of The Greater Knysna Business Chamber

What a pleasure to see so many **delegates** at this summit

I would like to welcome & thank all our **presenters**. It is always difficult deciding where best to spend ones time, and some of them have come a considerable distance. The number of delegates certainly supports that decision.

In particular we extend our warmest thanks to our Knysna mayor Councilor Aubrey Tswengwa for making so many of his staff available to both present and share the vision with us. We really appreciate our Executive Deputy Mayor Councilor Alberto Marbi being with us this morning.

And to our sponsors, your support is much appreciated and I am sure you will be able to exploit fully the networking opportunities to expand your contacts.

To our media colleagues present a special welcome & I am sure there will be much content of interest to report

The **ENERGY** that has been put in to organizing this key event for Knysna must be appreciated and our thanks go to Jan van der Westhuizen , Alan Bell & Martin Hatchuel.

Certainly Villa Castollini is another summit in terms of its offerings and its position looking down on the Knysna lagoon.

Summit

Whenever I think of SUMMIT I am drawn to my youth & the exploits of Edmund Hillary & Sherpa Tenzing in 1953 as they were the first to summit Everest. And then reminded of the enormity of the risks reaching for the summit in the book by John Krakauer which describes one of the worst Everest seasons in 1996

With ENERGY as our central theme it is important to understand what ENERGY really means

ENERGY is a conserved quantity – the law of conservation of energy states that energy can be converted in form, but not created or destroyed. Put that in your pipes & smoke it. Another explanation is that ENERGY is the ability to do work. There are 10 forms of Energy & generally for electricity generation the majors are Fossil, Nuclear & for us in Knysna Renewables

Without raising expectations, we expect to get much from the summit to help address what is a real Energy crisis in Knysna

This meeting brings together those in the broad Governmental sector, to sketch a picture for us of the “playing field” to facilitate some form of Public/Private sector Partnerships to urgently address our Energy needs. This facilitating role fits perfectly in to the domain of The Greater Knysna Business Chamber. To fulfill a role in bringing together and building understanding of how Municipalities & Business can work better together

Our municipality is like many others loosing out financially on load shedding first & then the further reduction in sales from those who install independent power. It is essential to find solutions, which should include peak shaving with access to feed the grid to lower municipal costs while providing the investors in solar etc power with an additional revenue stream.

This conference is designed to foster ideas of how best to urgently minimize the Energy crisis in Knysna

Our neighbors in George have already announced plans to install solar power system

What can we do in Knysna.

By the time we get to “wrap up” we should have some options to consider including Renewables in the form of Waste & Harnessing tidal power, with both of these renewable options proving attractive to the financial sector
Recent press reports highlight that Renewables are now lowest cost producer v nuclear, so this is no longer an obstacle

Some Housekeeping items

Cell Phones off PLEASE or at least on SILENT

Facilities are to the rear of the hall on my left

In the event of an Emergency the exit points are at the front of the hall & where you entered. The Assembly area is

We expect the presentations to finish timeously to allow for 2 to 3 Question & Answer session.

If required you may submit questions in writing to info@gnbc.co.za & we will facilitate you getting an answer

The presentations will be available on our Greater Knysna Business Chamber website

Rubicon Power Station draw

