

📢 Communication Reminder

We've heard a few concerns about a lack of communication from LBRA. The WhatsApp group is used for **official LBRA notices** and is only available to paid up members of LBRA. If you would like to reach out to the LBRA committee directly, you can do so in the following ways:

1️⃣ Message us via the WhatsApp number **063 603 5254**

2️⃣ Email us at info@lbra.co.za

3️⃣ Visit the LBRA Website: www.lbra.co.za, where you'll find where you'll find:

- Committee contact details
- Minutes of meetings
- Other useful community info

👁️ Camera Network Update

Lake Brenton now has **55 surveillance cameras** helping keep our neighbourhood secure:

- 24 cameras owned by LBRA, with 4 more coming soon
- 11 cameras on the Lake Brenton Estate
- 16 privately installed by residents

Thank you to all contributors who donated funds to the camera project. Some LBRA members were incredibly generous in their donations.

🚨 Portion 152, Farm Uitzigt 216 – Development Alert

Earthworks have begun on this property (**Application 3300**) despite no tribunal date or official notification to objectors. We've raised the issue with the Town Planning department and building inspectors at the municipality and this is the latest response (15 July):

The matter has been referred to our colleagues in the Environmental Services unit for further investigation.With regard to your request for clarification:

1. *The amended application is currently being circulated to the relevant departments for input. No approvals have been granted at this stage.*
2. *The application remains under internal circulation. An assessment report will only be finalised once all departmental inputs have been received. Please note that all objections submitted will remain valid and will still be considered as part of the assessment process, despite the amendments to the application. All objectors will be notified via email at least two weeks prior to the matter being tabled at the Municipal Planning Tribunal. In addition, the planner's recommendation report will be circulated to all objectors one week before the meeting. Furthermore, it is worth noting that Objectors and interested and affected parties have the right to attend the tribunal meeting.*
3. *The activity referred to as "development work" will be further investigated by our Environmental Services unit, as the concerns appear to relate to potential environmental impacts. Should there be unauthorised Building works, the complaint would need to be referred to the Building Control section for further investigation.*

🚨 The Development on Featherbed Portion 104, Farm 216

We submitted an objection on 17 June to the Eco Route Environmental Consultancy. The objection is attached at the end of this newsletter. LBRA is now registered as an I & AP (Interested and Affected Party) which means we have the right to inter alia:

- Comment on reports
- Raise objections
- Attend public meetings

🛢️ Update on sewage tank in Capt. Duthie

We wrote to the Director of Infrastructure in June and copied in various members of the Municipality:

URGENT INTERVENTION REQUIRED – THE WOODS AND RIDGEWOOD SEWAGE INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURE

The Lake Brenton Residents Association (LBRA) hereby formally brings to your urgent attention the ongoing and deteriorating sewage crisis affecting the residents of The Woods and Ridgewood, Brenton on Lake.

*As detailed below, the failure of the existing sewage infrastructure poses an immediate risk to **public health**, **environmental safety**, and **liveability** for affected residents. While this issue has been the subject of repeated IDP submissions, meetings, and previous budget allocations, the situation on the ground*

*has worsened due to continued **service delivery breakdowns**, **lack of long-term progress**, and **fund reallocation**.*

Problem Overview:

- *All homes in The Woods and Ridgewood discharge into a **single conservancy tank** on Captain Duthie Drive.*
- *This tank, originally designed to service **20 homes**, now serves **64 homes** and cannot cope with the current load.*
- *The tank must be **emptied regularly** by vacuum tankers. However, the **Knysna Municipality is routinely unable to provide this service**, either due to equipment breakdown or failure to contract private services.*
- *When not emptied, the tank **overflows onto public roads**, **into the Knysna estuary**, and **backs sewage into private homes** through toilets and drains.*
- *This constitutes a **severe environmental hazard** and an **intolerable health risk** to our community.*

Historical Context and Budget Issues:

*The sewer reticulation system discharging into the conservancy tank, serves all the properties in The Woods and Ridgewood. A plan of this system and details of the conservancy tank are attached in the **Annexure.***

The Woods was developed in 2005 and based on information supplied from discussions with municipal officials, the conservancy tanks capacity is 80 Kl and it was designed to cope with sewage from 20 homes. The intention was that when the development exceeded this, a more permanent solution would be implemented. Years of engagement by email and telephone has not resulted in any permanent solution being presented.

*The LBRA has consistently submitted this matter as the **top infrastructure priority** for Lake Brenton through the IDP process, since inception. Despite this:*

- *Funds allocated in **2022–2023** and **2023–2024** were either **redirected** or **not fully utilised**.*
- *In **2024–2025**, the project was **effectively cancelled**, despite previous progress on environmental and engineering approvals for a sewer link to Belvidere.*
- *The **2025–2026** IDP provides only **R500,000** for planning a pipeline to the Brenton on Sea treatment facility — insufficient to implement a solution.*

- *These inconsistencies have delayed resolution of this basic service failure and have significantly **eroded community trust**.*

LBRA Requests – Immediate and Medium-Term

Short-Term Actions (Immediate):

1. *Regular allocation of municipal or contracted **vacuum tankers** to prevent overflow.*
2. *Appointment of a **dedicated municipal official** responsible for sewage services in Lake Brenton, with 24/7 availability.*
3. *A **temporary halt to all new building plan approvals** in The Woods and Ridgewood until sewage capacity is resolved.*

Medium-Term Actions (Infrastructure Planning):

1. *A **feasible design and implementation plan** for a pump station to the Brenton on Sea sewage treatment plant.*
2. *A **comprehensive project detail** to support the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 budgets as indicated below:*

Ward 5: Budget 2025/2026 – 2027/2028					
	Original Budget	Budget	Amended Budget	2026-27	2027-28
Halls	500000	500000	-	-	-
Surfacing of Gravel Roads in Ward 5	0	0	24 588 478	-	-
Ward 5-Cap. Infr. Ren. Sewer. WWTW-Capital Revenue-Costing Default	0	0	400 000	-	-
Brenton on Lake to Belvedere Sewer Link	0	0	500 000	3 000 000	10 000 000

3. *A **commitment** that the funds allocated for this project in the approved IDP, for the next 3 years, are not diverted to any other project.*
4. *Appointment of a **municipal Project Manager**, responsible for regular updates and timelines.*
5. ***Western Cape Government oversight**, to ensure accountability and progress tracking.*

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The LBRA has initiated a phased stakeholder engagement plan, including:

- *Meetings with the Municipal Manager and Infrastructure Directorate (requested via Ward Councillor Stroebel)*

- *Engagements with the Knysna Infrastructure Group, SANParks, DA representatives, MEC for Infrastructure, and environmental organisations*
- *Broader civil society and media escalation should the matter remain unresolved*

Conclusion and Request for Response

*We request the Municipality's **written response** to this letter by **30 June 2025**, including:*

- *Confirmation of **immediate short-term service commitments***
- *Details of the **responsible municipal contact person***
- *A timeline for progressing toward a permanent infrastructure solution*
- *Agreement on a **follow-up engagement** to review progress*

*The LBRA remains committed to constructive engagement but must stress the **urgency and severity** of the situation. We look forward to your formal response and to working together to resolve this long-standing issue in a transparent, accountable, and timely manner*.

2 follow up emails since the 30 June deadline has not yielded any further engagement from the municipality and the LBRA committee is now looking at next possible steps.

In the interim, we have been informed unofficially that:

(a) Money has been miraculously found to start work on the sewage link between Lake Brenton and Brenton On Sea

(b) Engineers have been in Lake Brenton on 17 July marking roads and operating drones

⚠️ Signage on Dolly Raats Road

Be aware that the Road Design Department of Infrastructure of the Western Cape Government is manufacturing new signs for Dolly Raats and will be removing signs that are not legal or in accordance with design standards. LBRA will be taking down signs paid for and erected by LBRA before Eden removes them.

Full report from the Garden Route District Municipality is attached at the end of this bulletin

🗄️ Can You Donate a Filing Cabinet?

We're looking for a donated filing cabinet (metal or wood) for use in the LBRA shed, to help organise and store documents.
If you have one to spare, please contact us at info@lbra.co.za or via WhatsApp. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

🍔Community Braai Days

Sean is the community braai organiser. The community braai on 5 July was well supported and enjoyed by those who braved the sunny but chilly day. Thanks go to Leonie who arranged for The Shed toilets to be cleaned, to Colin for clearing braai stands and to Johlene and the helpers on the day. Dates for the next braais are:
1 November
7 March
27 June
24 October
Kind regards

Glen Stephen
Communications Officer
LBRA Committee

THE LOVEMORE FAMILY - PORTION 104 OF FARM 216, UITZICHT

Submitted by the Lake Brenton Residents Association (LBRA) with respect to the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report (BAR) on the Proposed Development of Assisted Camping Facilities – Portion 104 of Farm 216, Uitzicht, Knysna, Western Cape

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The **Lake Brenton Residents Association (LBRA)** is a voluntary, non-profit civic body representing the interests of homeowners and residents of **Lake Brenton**, Knysna. With reference to land developments bordering Lake Brenton, the association is committed to:

- Ensuring that residents are informed, engaged, and included in matters of public participation, planning, and development
- Maintaining the unique biodiversity and natural beauty of the Brenton area
- Advocating for safe, well-planned infrastructure that respects both the ecological sensitivity and rural character of the area
- Actively participating in environmental review processes to help ensure that planning decisions are made transparently, lawfully, and in the public interest.

1. Environmental Concerns

Critically Endangered Vegetation Unit
The proposed development site falls entirely within the Critically Endangered Knysna Sand Fynbos vegetation type (as per VEGMAP). While portions of the site are currently degraded — largely due to invasive alien plant infestations and the 2017 Knysna fires — these areas retain substantial ecological restoration potential.

Species of Conservation Concern
The site hosts two plant species listed as of conservation concern:

- *Lebeckia gracilis* (Endangered)
- *Selago villicaulis* (Vulnerable)

Protected Tree Species
Two nationally protected tree species were identified on the site:

- *Afrocarpus falcatus* (Outeniqua Yellowwood)
- *Sideroxylon inerme* (White Milkwood)

Under the **National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998)**, these species may not be damaged, removed, or relocated without appropriate authorisation.

Restoration Imperative
LBRA strongly asserts that any development within this area must be paired with a credible, enforceable restoration plan, which should include:

- Alien invasive species removal
- Replanting with indigenous fynbos species
- Erosion and stormwater management
- Long-term ecological monitoring

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2. Access and Road Safety Concerns : Use of Servitude Road

The proposed access appears to rely on an existing agricultural servitude, which was not designed or legally established for high-volume commercial use. This raises:

- Legal questions regarding permitted land use
- Concerns over degradation, and environmental impact from increased traffic
- Potential safety risks for wildlife such as bushbuck and caracal

Blind Corner onto Dolly Raats Road

We also note that the BAR gives scant attention to the connection into JC Langenhoven Drive, which would serve as the feeder route to and from Dolly Raats Road. The compounded traffic impact on this route has not been addressed.

The proposed entrance to the development intersects Dolly Raats Road at a blind corner, where visibility is dangerously limited in both directions. The anticipated increase in traffic — including caravans, service vehicles and guest vehicles — will significantly elevate the risk of accidents at this point.

Additionally, this intersection lies within a well-known wildlife crossing zone, particularly for bushbuck, increasing the risk to local fauna and the potential for animal-vehicle collisions. Three bushbuck have died in motor car collisions at this point in recent times.

The Lake Brenton Residents Association (LBRA) calls for a formal, independent Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and a professional road safety engineering review of the proposed access point. Without this, public safety cannot be assured.







3. Broader Environmental and Social Concerns

The cumulative impact of increasing development in the Farm 216 Uitzicht and Lake Brenton area is a growing concern. The area is already under pressure from:

- Habitat loss and ecological fragmentation
- Increased fire risk in a high-risk wildland-urban interface
- Strained infrastructure, particularly:

- Water supply, which is already limited
- Sewage treatment capacity, which is not designed to accommodate unzoned tourism developments

There is no detailed servicing plan provided in the current BAR to demonstrate how potable water, greywater, sewage, or solid waste will be sustainably managed on-site.

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LAKE BRENTON
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
www.lbra.co.za | Non Profit Organisation | Reg: 2020/818326/08
LAKE BRENTON WATCH

PROPOSED ROAD SIGNAGE FOR IMPLEMENTATION ON DIVISIONAL ROAD 1772 (DOLLEY RAATS STREET)

The following recommendations should be read in conjunction with Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, the road signs schedule and Appendix A below:

1. Remove the existing illegal outdoor advertising sign located at ±Km 0.005 RHS eastbound on DR1772.
2. Remove the existing warning for *Wild Animals Ahead* (W313) sign located at ±Km 0.040 LHS eastbound on DR1772.
3. Remove the existing *Speed Limit* (R201-60) sign located at ±Km 0.060 LHS eastbound on DR1772. The sign face is 600 mm in diameter, which is less than the Western Cape Government (WCG) recommended size of 900 mm for 60 km/h speed limit zones.
4. Install a new *Speed Limit* (R201-60) sign at ±Km 0.060 LHS eastbound on DR1772. The new sign face shall be 900 mm in diameter.
5. Install a new high visibility warning for *Wild Animals Ahead* and *Steep Decent* (W313+W322-WD) sign with supplementary plate (IN11.2 – For 1,3km) at ±Km 0.200 LHS eastbound on DR1772.
6. Install a new warning for *Traffic Control "Stop" Ahead* (W302) sign with supplementary plate (IN11.3 – 250 m) at ±Km 0.250 RHS westbound on DR1772, 250 m in advance of the T-Junction with DR1600.
7. Install a new warning for T-Junction (W104) sign with supplementary plate (IN11.3 – 350m) at ±Km 0.350 RHS westbound on DR1772, 350 m in advance of the T-Junction with DR1600.
8. Remove the existing *Speed Limit* (R201-40) sign located at ±Km 0.420 LHS eastbound on DR1772. This sign has not been approved and installed by WCG.
9. Remove the existing illegal outdoor advertising sign located at ±Km 0.650 LHS eastbound on DR1772.
10. Install a new high visibility warning for *Wild Animals Ahead* and *Steep Ascent* (W313+W323-WD) sign at ±Km 1.000 RHS westbound on DR1772.
11. Remove the existing illegal outdoor advertising sign located at ±Km 1.090 RHS eastbound on DR1772.
12. Install a new warning for *T-Junction* (W104) sign with supplementary plate (IN11.3 – 170m) at ±Km 1.285 LHS northbound on DR1772, 170 m in advance of the T-Junction with OP7202.
13. Install a new warning for *Traffic Control "Stop" Ahead* (W302) sign at ±Km 1.335 LHS northbound on DR1772, 120 m in advance of the T-Junction with OP7202.
14. Remove the existing warning for *T-Junction* (W104) sign located at ±Km 1.350 LHS northbound on DR1772.
15. Install a new warning for *Gentle Curve* (W202) sign at ±Km 1.370 RHS southbound on DR1772, 120 m in advance of the start of the horizontal curve at ±Km 1.250.
16. Remove the existing *Speed Limit* (R201-40) sign located at ±Km 1.380 RHS southbound on DR1772. This sign has not been approved and installed by WCG

17. Install a new *Speed Limit* (R201-60) sign at ±Km 1.420 RHS southbound on DR1772, 50 m in advance of the new W202 sign at ±Km 1.370 RHS.
18. Remove the existing illegal tourism sign located at ±Km 1.420 LHS northbound on DR1772.
19. Remove the existing *General Warning* (W339) sign and supplementary plate (IN11.4 – Potholes) located at ±Km 1.430 LHS northbound on DR1772.
20. Remove the existing illegal tourism sign located at ±Km 1.435 LHS northbound on DR1772.
21. Remove the existing illegal left-turn yield sign fixed below the *Stop* (R1) sign located at ±Km 1.450 LHS northbound on DR1772.
22. Remove the existing illegal outdoor advertising sign located at ±Km 0.010 LHS on OP7202, visible to road users on DR1772.