



Councillor A T Lovemore
DA Spokesperson: Corporate Services
Member: Public Health Committee
Nelson Mandela Bay
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30 March 2026

The Acting City Manager
Nelson Mandela Bay

Dear Sir

URGENT CONVENING OF THE RIVER MONITORING COMMITTEE: INVESTIGATION INTO FISH KILL AND ONGOING POLLUTION, SWARTKOPS RIVER, 27 March 2026

You are aware that thousands of fish died of suffocation on Friday morning, 27 March 2026. This occurred in the Redhouse area of the Swartkops area.

It appears that, although a sewage spill into the Motherwell canal was reported by the Swartkops Conservancy on 9 March, action to repair the problem only commenced this weekend, AFTER the fish kill had occurred. This is clearly unacceptable. Pollution of the Swartkops River by sewage and partially treated effluent (particularly from the Kelvin Jones Wastewater Treatment Works) is an ongoing problem, and has been so for years. It is only a matter of time before another fish kill occurs.

A RIVER MONITORING COMMITTEE exists within the municipality. Its membership comprises officials and councillors of both the Public Health and Infrastructure and Engineering directorates. The committee is largely inactive, but can play a pivotal role in investigating the fish kill, and in identifying and monitoring remedial measures to ameliorate and ultimately prevent pollution of the Swartkops River, specifically through addressing the failure to maintain and promptly repair our own infrastructure.

I call on you to direct that an URGENT meeting of the River Monitoring Committee be called, and that the minutes of the meeting be made public through their inclusion in the agendas of the next meetings of both the Public Health and the Infrastructure and Engineering portfolio committees. The River Monitoring Committee should be instructed to meet at its earliest convenience, and to continue meeting at regular and frequent intervals to pursue and effect appropriate solutions to a serious problem.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Lovemore".

COUNCILLOR ANNETTE LOVEMORE