



#GEORGEMEANSBUSINESS

Alderman Leon van Wyk, Executive Mayor

AN ENABLING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ Growth Potential Study shows George is **fastest growing intermediary city** in the country
- ❖ **Improved data management & analysis** allows response to emerging trends
- ❖ Revised targets in all Directorates to meet impact
- ❖ Excellent planning & integration between:
 - Master plans
 - Spatial planning &
 - GIS interface
- ❖ Good Governance
 - Clean audit 20/21
 - Stable Political environment & Administration

DOING BUSINESS IN GEORGE

- ❖ Recognize ease of doing business directly translates to cost of doing business
- ❖ Weekly pre-application meetings with all relevant officials to facilitate smooth processing of applications
- ❖ **Development Facilitation**: **< 2-day response times**
- ❖ **Building plan approval** (From 7 mths: '20, to **15 days**);
- ❖ **Land Use Management applications**: Have **increased capacity 5-fold in Dept in past year from 2 officials to 10**, so turnaround time is dramatically reduced;
- ❖ **S28 transfers**: **10 days**;
- ❖ **Environmental permitting**: From 6-8mths: '20, to **< 30 days**

DOING BUSINESS IN GEORGE (CONTD)

- ❖ Proactive property release strategy to leverage City's property portfolio to draw investment: Ave. time from application to tabling to Council: 3 mths
- ❖ Engaging with micro-developers in townships – emphasis on safety
- ❖ Understanding of residential market needs: According to Housing Market Study, Biggest gaps are social housing & affordable housing

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

- ❖ **Big focus: renewable energy over next 3 years**
- ❖ 1 MWp **Solar PV Plant** with **battery storage**: **Aug 23 & 8 MWp by Mar 24**
- ❖ **3 MWp Solar PV Plants: own infrastructure over 23/24**
- ❖ Investigating **Hydroelectric scheme** using old dam
- ❖ **Wheeling** commenced in **May 2022**
- ❖ **Loadshedding curtailment** - application submitted to Eskom. Need 10% load reduction for both stages 1 & 2
- ❖ **UPS Backup for all Traffic Lights**: 40 intersections completed by **Jun 22** & rest by **Sep 22**
- ❖ Evaluating renewable energy project proposals from IPPs

WATER & SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION & UPGRADES

- ❖ Increasing capacity by 50%:
- ❖ **10 MI Waste Water Treatment Works**: completed **May 23**
- ❖ **20 MI Water Treatment Works** (40-60MI/day): by **Jun24**
- ❖ Upgrading 3 major **sewer pump stations** by **'24**
- ❖ **Additional reservoirs, balancing dams & sludge treatment facility** to be completed by **24/25**
- ❖ Active **water & sewer pipe replacement programmes** implemented

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

- ❖ Upgrades:
- ❖ Roads: R148m (22/23) & R350m over next 3 fin years
- ❖ Stormwater: R100m over 3 years
- ❖ Electricity reticulation network & substations
- ❖ R2,5bn Capex over 22/23 to 24/25
- ❖ Building composting facility for all green waste; completed by Jun 23.
- ❖ Improved safety: Expanding CCTV network & implementing 24 h CCTV control room by Dec 22; Appointing rapid response team

KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

- ❖ Agriculture & agri-processing
- ❖ Tourism & events
- ❖ Finance, trade & business services
- ❖ Knowledge institutions
- ❖ Contact centres & BPO
- ❖ Administrative, financial, technology & data services
- ❖ Light industry & advanced manufacturing

REASONS TO DO BUSINESS IN GEORGE

- ❖ Excellent schooling, tertiary education & medical facilities
- ❖ Flagship residential & hospitality estates
- ❖ Moving to smart city: implementing innovative concepts
- ❖ Urban management: CBD interventions; to establish CID (Central Improvement District)
- ❖ Efficient integrated public transport network (Go George)
- ❖ Airport expansion in planning
- ❖ Good collaborative relationship between stakeholders
- ❖ George is well located with relaxed lifestyle; outdoor activities
- ❖ Sporting facilities: 4 (of 6) golf courses in Top 20; MTB

#GEORGEMEANSBUSINESS: POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Ease of doing business
- ❖ Major infrastructure upgrades underway
- ❖ Renewable energy; loadshedding curtailment
- ❖ Moving towards a smart city
- ❖ Extensive fibre network
- ❖ Emphasis on data management & analysis
- ❖ Mobility-Go George & George airport
- ❖ Education-good schools & tertiary institutions
- ❖ Safety prioritized

Thank you
#Georgemeansbusiness

**Alderman Leon Wyk
Executive Mayor
GEORGE MUNICIPALITY**