

*Jean Tresfon*



# ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING

## 8th APRIL 2023





# MEETING FORMAT AND PROTOCOLS

- **THREE COMPONENTS TO THE PRESENTATION**
- **DUE TO TIME LIMITS, PLEASE LEAVE QUESTIONS UNTIL THE END**
- **FORWARD UNASKED OR UNANSWERED QUESTIONS TO**

**[info@breede-river.org](mailto:info@breede-river.org)**

# AGENDA



- **PART 1 – Andrew Crawford**  
**INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND MISSION,**  
**WHAT WE DO FOR YOU, ANNUAL REVIEW AND**  
**BREAF UPDATE**
- **PART 2 – Andrew Crawford**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT**
- **PART 3 – Jason Oxley**  
**BY-LAW COMPLIANCE, CONSERVATION,**  
**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

**QUESTIONS AND CLOSING**



# HISTORY



- The Lower Breede River Conservancy existed since 1996
- Converted into the LBRICT in 2000
- 2003 - Swellendam Municipality appointed the LBRICT as Management Authority of the Lower Breede River (West bank)

- 2003 - MOU drawn up between Swellendam Municipality and MCM for compliance monitoring, implemented by the LBRCT
- 2009 - Hessequa Municipality appointed the LBRCT as Management Authority of the Lower Breede River (East bank)
- 2010 – Swellendam and Hessequa By-law merged, and Tripartite SLA signed





## OUR MISSION

To conserve and protect in a sustainable manner, the natural resources and living species in the biological and ecologically sensitive Breede River Estuary and the adjoining land areas while at the same time promoting safe and lawful recreational use.

# WHAT IS THE LBRCT?



- A registered Trust, NPO as well as a PBO
- Administered by seven Trustees via Letters of Authority from the Master's Office of the High Court
- SLA with the Swellendam and Hessequa Municipalities



- Field operations - Manager based in Witsand
- Trustees work closely with the staff
- Trustees - volunteers with no financial or material compensation
- Staff and Trustees qualified in a wide variety of disciplines



# HIGHLIGHTS



- Four additional Peace Officer appointments
- Constructive and positive relationship with the authorities
- Combined operations with CapeNature for MLRA compliance
- Continually updated and informative website



- Regular bi-monthly newsletters
- Assist with positive outcomes in terms of NEMA transgressions
- Boating compliance
- Stable and enthusiastic staff complement

# ACTIVITIES – WHAT WE DO

- Regular patrols
- Water sampling and bird counts
- Sell and check boat licences and compliance
- Slipway monitoring
- Building development monitoring and reporting
- Educate the public in terms of conservation



# CHALLENGES



## Issues of current concern:

- Wake control and zonation
- Property development planning approval
- Water quality and quantity – inflow of water from upriver
- Alien vegetation invasion – Water Hyacinth & Parrot Feather



- Boat licencing and enforcement thereof
- Assist with enforcement of the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA)
- Bank erosion
- Concern with spikes in E. coli levels



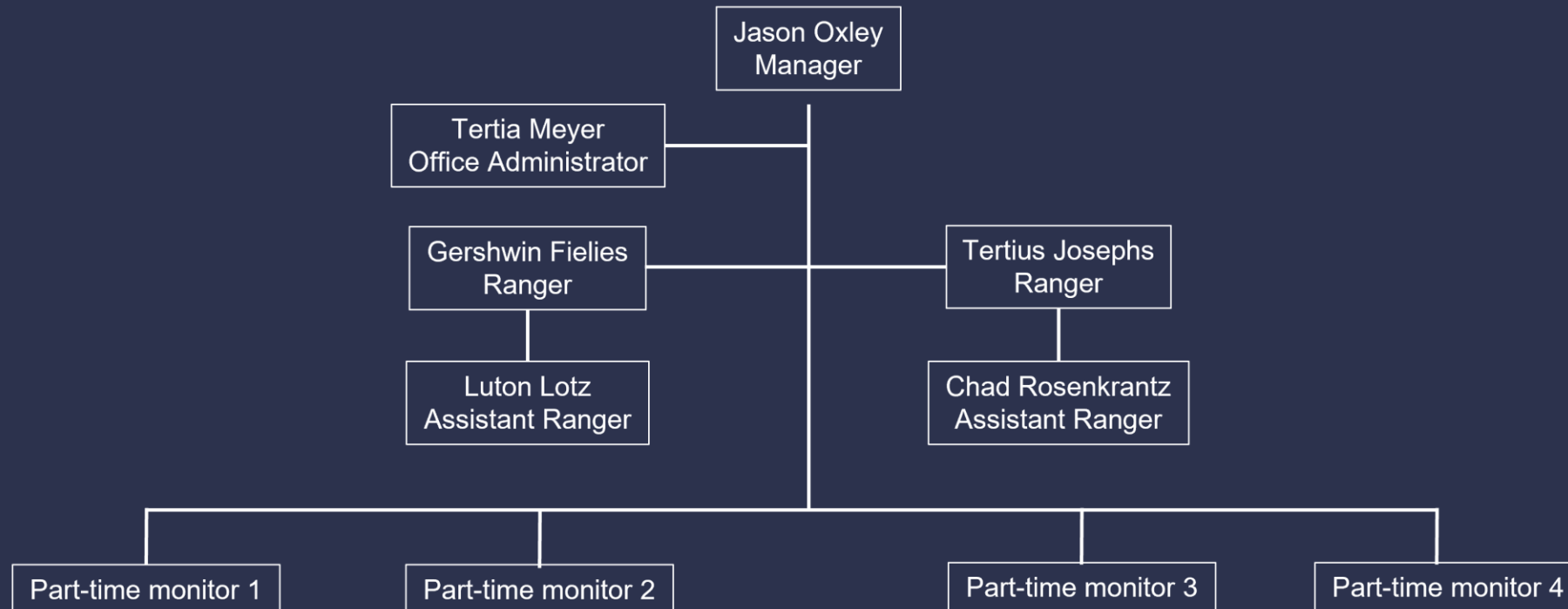
# STRUCTURE AND MANPOWER



## TRUSTEES



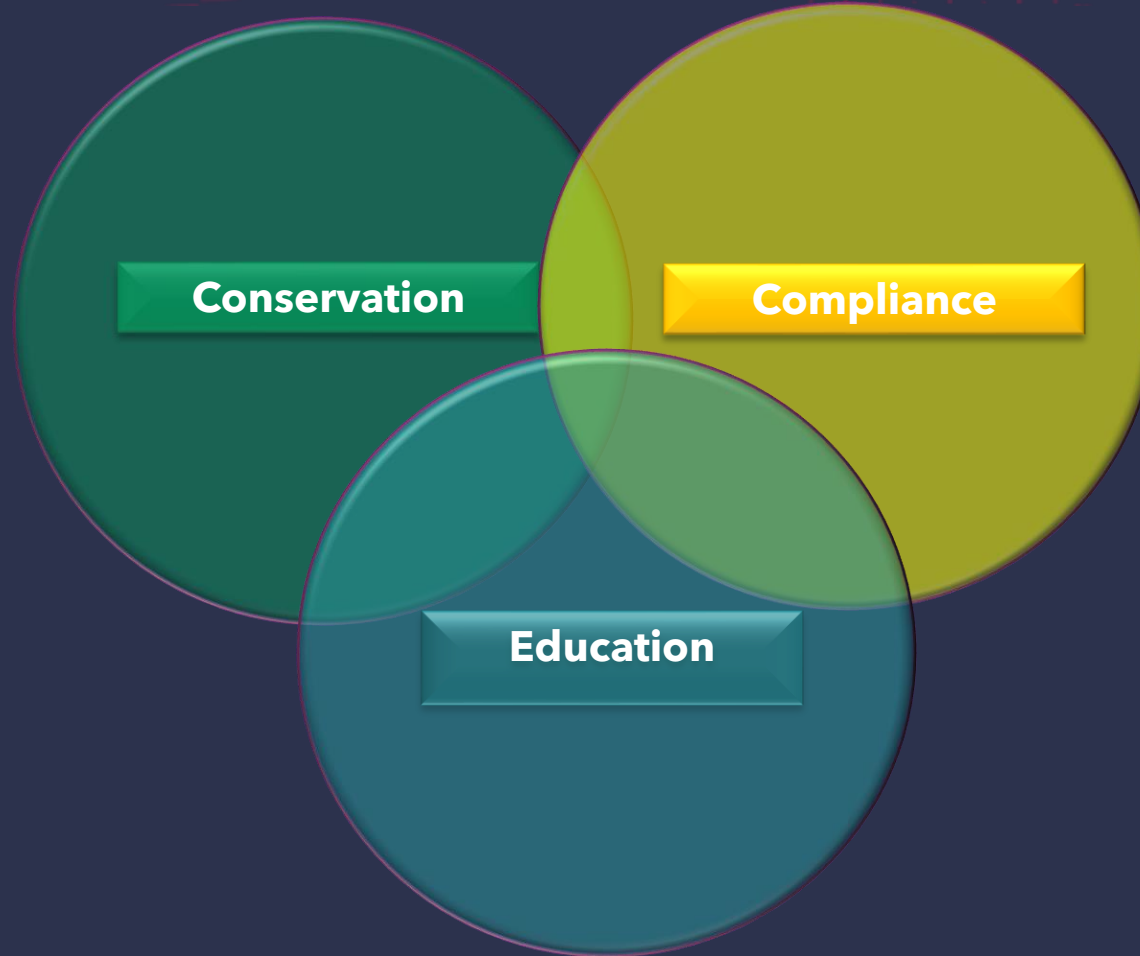
## STAFF



# LBRCT FUNCTIONS



Relies largely on  
peoples' rule  
adherence



Understanding and  
managing compliance  
is key for ensuring  
effective conservation

Allows people to explore environmental issues, problem solve,  
and take action to improve the environment

# GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION

- 1 kilometre back from the riverbanks
- Up to the furthest tidal reach  $\pm 55$  kilometres inland





# BREEDE RIVER ESTUARY ADVISORY FORUM



## Purpose of the BREAF is:

- advise the RMA
- foster co-operation, participation and co-ordination
- maintain transparency and inclusiveness
- when developing the Breede River EMP

EMPs are established for efficient and coordinated estuarine management



## FOUR WORKING GROUPS:

- Fishing and Compliance Promotion
- Education and Communication
- Priority Habitat Protection
- Zonation

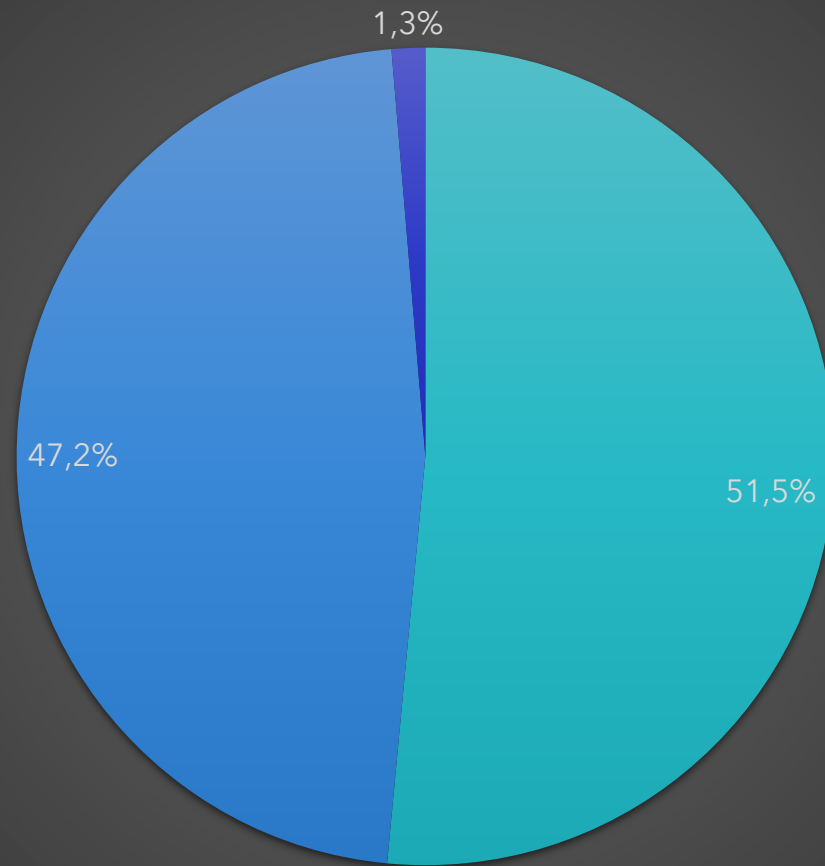
Original EMP was published in 2011 - slow to implement



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

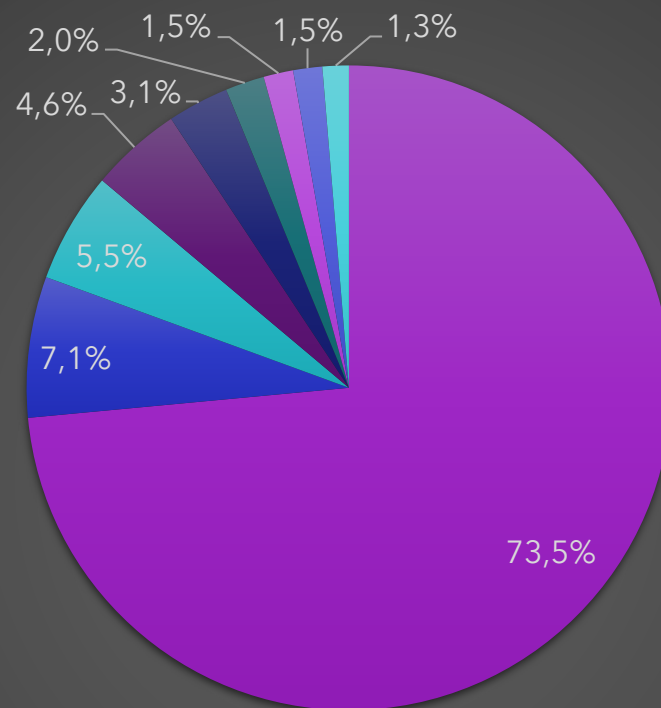


## INCOME



■ Boat Licences (51.5%)   ■ Municipalities (47.2%)   ■ Interest (1.3%)

## EXPENDITURE



- Personnel Costs (73.5%)
- Fuel - Boats and Vehicles (7.1%)
- Maintenance - Boats & Vehicles (5.5%)
- Premises - Rent and Maintenance (4.6%)
- Accounting & Administrative Expenses (3.1%)
- Printing & Stationery (2.0%)
- Audit Fees (1.5%)
- Communication (1.5%)
- Insurance (1.3%)



**Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust**  
**Receipts and Expenditure Account**  
**For the 8 months ended 28 February 2023**

Details	Feb '23	June '22
<b>Receipts</b>		
Boat Licence Fees	961 492	1 081 682
Commissions Paid in respect of Licence Fees	(69 467)	(77 125)
Subsidies - Hessequa & Swellendam Municipalities	538 275	714 100
Interest - Net	32 229	23 630
Donations	0	7 331
	<u>1 462 528</u>	<u>1 749 619</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting and Administration	28 535	53 342
Audit fee	17 400	21 300
Communication	11 362	14 893
Fuel - Boats and Vehicles	65 324	90 081
Insurance	16 252	20 372
Maintenance - Boats and Vehicles	37 924	99 079
Personnel	764 466	1 102 476
Premises	49 499	71 923
Printing and Stationery	18 967	28 656
	<u>1 009 729</u>	<u>1 502 122</u>
Capital Expenditure - Costs less Disposals	57 750	23 213
	<u>1 067 479</u>	<u>1 525 334</u>
<b>Surplus for period/year</b>	<b><u>R395 049</u></b>	<b><u>R224 284</u></b>



**Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 28 February 2023**

Details	Feb '23	June '22
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	2	2
<b>Current Assets</b>	457 834	457 744
Cash at Bank and on Hand	826 922	822 575
Less: Funds held In Trust - Friends of the LBRCT	(402 839)	(393 493)
	424 083	429 082
Accounts Receivable	33 751	28 663
	<u>457 836</u>	<u>457 746</u>
Less - Current Liabilities	(98 854)	(79 120)
	<u>358 982</u>	<u>378 626</u>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Accumulated Funds	<u>R358 982</u>	<u>R378 626</u>



Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust Boat Licence Tariff History Budget - Year ended 30 June 2024							
Group	Tariff Details	Tariff 23/24	Tariff 2023	Tariff 2022	Percentage Increase		
					2024	2023	2022
	<b>Recreational</b>						
	Basic ≤15 hp	45	45	45	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Basic >15 hp	220	210	200	4.76	5.00	5.26
1	2 - 15 hp	2.60	2.50	2.40	4.00	4.17	4.35
2	16 - 39 hp	3.85	3.65	3.50	5.48	4.29	4.48
3	40 - 69 hp	4.95	4.70	4.45	5.32	5.62	4.64
4	70 - 99 hp	5.85	5.60	5.25	4.46	6.67	5.00
5	100 - 129 hp	6.35	6.00	5.70	5.83	5.26	4.59
6	130 - 169 hp	6.85	6.50	6.15	5.38	5.69	5.13
	170 - 199 hp	7.70	7.30	6.85	5.48	6.57	5.38
7	200 - 385 hp	8.15	7.70	7.30	5.84	5.48	5.04
	<b>Commercial</b>						
	0 - 3 m	445	420	400	5.95	5.00	5.26
	3.1 - 5 m	625	590	560	5.93	5.36	4.67
	5.1 - 7 m	1 750	1 655	1 575	5.74	5.08	5.00
	>7 m	5 700	5 400	5 145	5.56	4.96	5.00
	Houseboat	5 700	5 400	5 145	5.56	4.96	5.00
	<b>Permits</b>						
	Daily	160	155	150	3.23	3.33	7.14
	Transit	220	610	580	-63.93	5.17	5.45
	<b>Replacement Fees</b>						
	Registration Decals	135	130	125	3.85	4.00	4.17
	Licence Discs	79	75	75	5.33	0.00	7.14
	Passenger Decals	47	45	45	4.44	0.00	12.50





Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust  
Horsepower and Tariff Analysis - West Bank  
Budget - Year ended 30 June 2024

HP Size	Licences Issued	Fees			HP Size	Licences Issued	Fees		
		LBRCT	BRSA	Increase R			LBRCT	BRSA	(Decrease R)
2	3	50	300	250	85	8	904	870	(34)
3	4	53	300	247	115	54	950	870	(80)
5	13	58	300	242	125	16	1 014	870	(144)
6	4	61	300	239	130	28	1 111	870	(241)
8	3	66	300	234	135	2	1 145	870	(275)
10	10	71	300	229	140	7	1 179	870	(309)
15	62	84	300	216	150	32	1 280	870	(410)
					165	1	1 350	870	(480)
20	4	316	870	554	175	6	1 568	870	(698)
25	3	380	870	490	200	56	1 908	870	(1 038)
30	27	383	870	487	210	1	1 932	870	(1 062)
40	39	489	870	381	220	3	2 013	870	(1 143)
45	1	443	870	427	225	6	2 054	870	(1 184)
50	24	501	870	279	240	1	2 176	870	(1 306)
55	3	492	870	378	250	20	2 258	870	(1 388)
60	59	628	870	242	280	7	2 339	870	(1 469)
65	3	542	870	328	275	1	2 461	870	(1 591)
70	21	747	870	124	280	1	2 502	870	(1 632)
75	6	659	870	211	300	7	2 665	870	(1 795)
80	4	805	870	65	310	1	2 747	870	(1 877)
90	43	808	870	62	340	1	2 991	870	(2 121)
100	11	855	870	15	350	1	3 073	870	(2 203)
					380	1	3 317	870	(2 447)
		347					261		

57.1% Percentage of Licence Fees Increased of Total Licences Issued of 608

16.3% of engines of ≤15 hp in respect of total licences issued

83.7% of engines of >15 hp in respect of total licences issued



Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust  
Horsepower and Tariff Analysis - East Bank  
Budget - Year ended 30 June 2024

HP Size	Licences Issued	Fees			HP Size	Licences Issued	Fees		
		LBRCT	BRSA	Increase R			LBRCT	BRSA	(Decrease R)
2	3	50	300	250	100	24	1 093	870	(223)
3	1	53	300	247	110	1	919	870	(49)
4	4	55	300	245	115	50	1 096	870	(226)
5	16	58	300	242	125	9	1 102	870	(232)
6	2	61	300	239	130	7	1 111	870	(241)
8	1	66	300	234	135	2	1 145	870	(275)
10	10	71	300	229	140	8	1 659	870	(789)
15	70	88	300	214	150	6	1 590	870	(720)
					175	2	1 419	870	(549)
20	6	310	870	560	180	1	1 606	870	(736)
25	16	340	870	530	200	8	1 953	870	(1 083)
30	54	372	870	498	250	1	2 258	870	(1 388)
35	1	355	870	515	260	1	2 339	870	(1 469)
40	106	517	870	353	300	3	2 665	870	(1 795)
45	1	443	870	427					
50	64	572	870	298					
55	6	538	870	332					
60	120	648	870	222					
65	2	542	870	328					
70	48	888	870	2					
75	26	693	870	178					
80	13	832	870	38					
85	28	753	870	117					
90	75	817	870	53					
		673					123		

84.5% Percentage of Licence Fees Increased of Total Licences Issued of 796

13.5% of engines of ≤15 hp in respect of total licences issued

86.6% of engines of >15 hp in respect of total licences issued





# COMPLIANCE AND CONSERVATION



# Our mandate in terms of the Municipal Service Level Agreement

## Boating and Fishing

To ensure safe and lawful recreational boating and fishing as prescribed by the By-Law.

To inspect Municipal Boat Licences, Skippers Licences, Fishing Permits.

## Environment

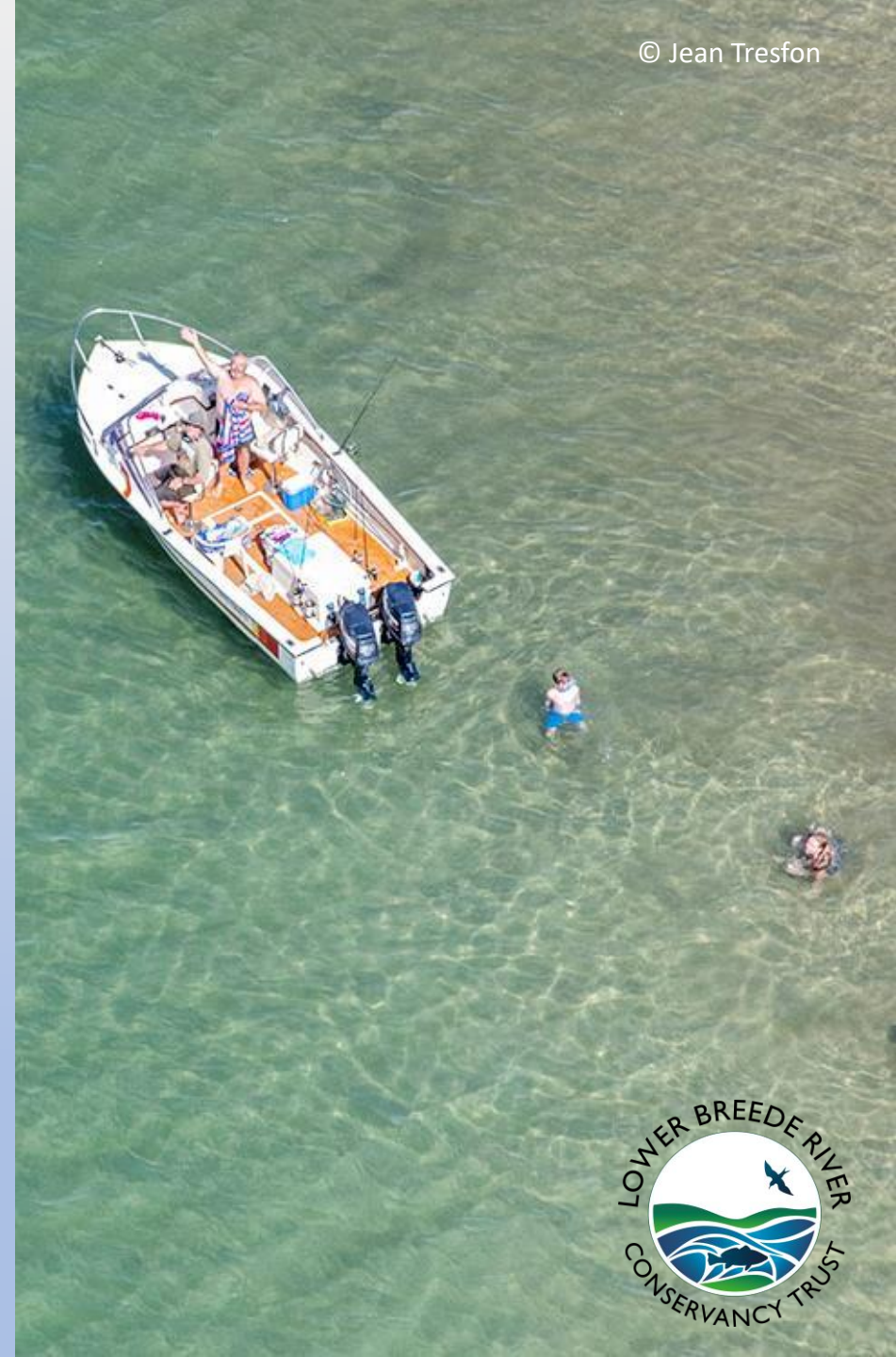
Protect the environment through water quality monitoring and reporting, as well as recreational enforcement.

## Land use and Developments

To ensure all building and/or plot clearing are authorised and to report illegal developments.

## Slipway Monitoring

To monitor Swellendam Municipality's Public Launch Sites (PLS) during busy periods.



# BY-LAW COMPLIANCE

The LBRCT enforces the Municipal River Management By-Law pertaining to the Safe and Lawful Recreational Use of the Breede River Estuary

Type of Transgression	LAST YEAR (1 July 2021 – 31 March 2022)		THIS YEAR (1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023)	
	Warnings	Fines	Warnings	Fines
Without valid skippers licence	7	1	6	0
Without a municipal boat licence	40	1	51	11
While exceeding the load limitations	1	0	0	0
Trolling	1	2	0	0
Fishing without a permit	0	1	0	1
Skiing without an observer	0	1	1	2

**As of March 2023, the LBRCT appointed an additional four certified Peace Officers**

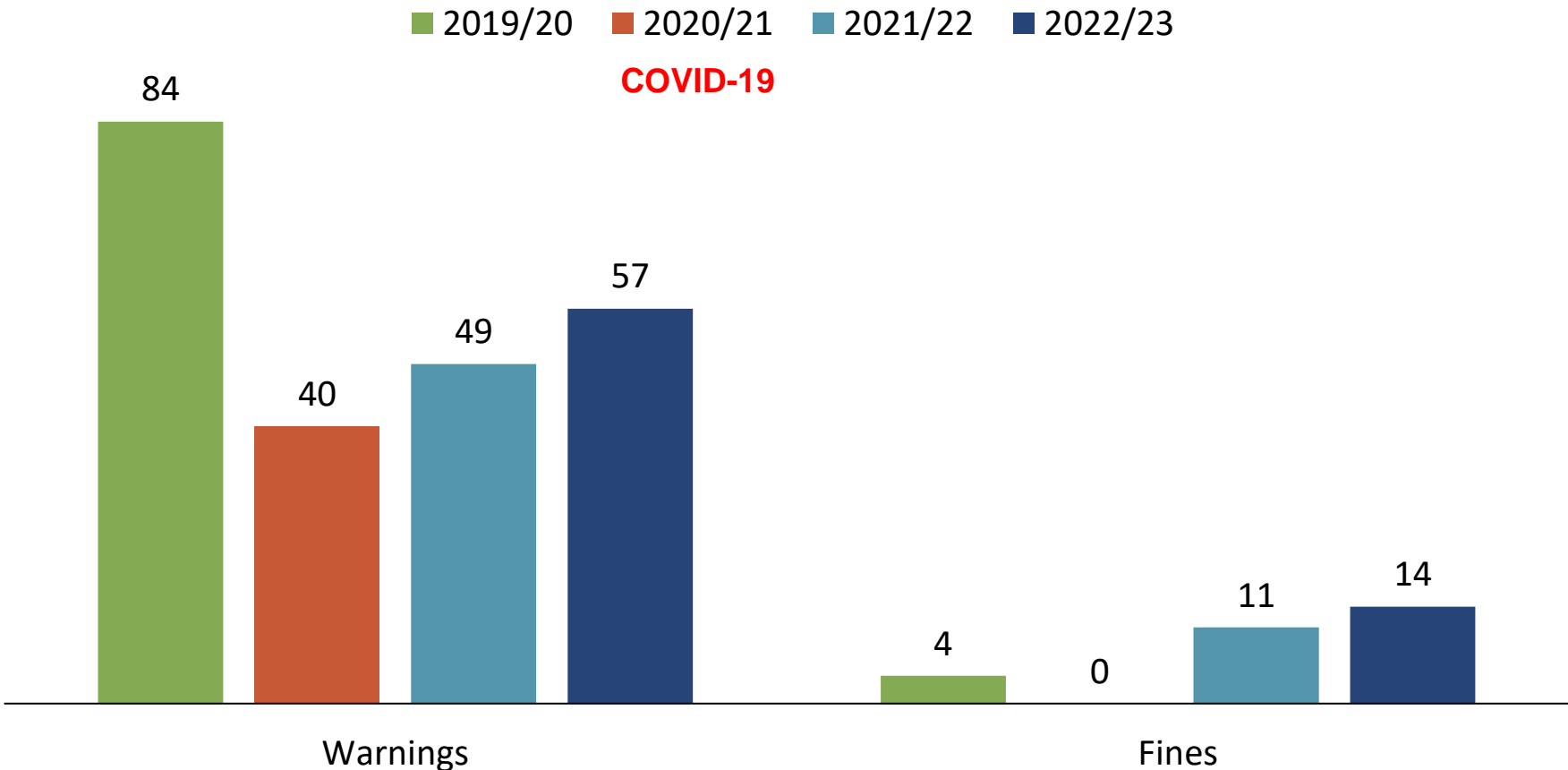


# BY-LAW

## Non-compliance



### Fines and Warnings 2019-2023



\* 2022/23 figures are cumulative up until 31 March 2023

# Day Permits are available at the Slipways via SnapScan

- Kraaltjie
- Government Slipway
- Moddergat
- <https://breede-river.org/day-permits/>



Snap here to pay



# Land Use and Developments - NEMA

Compliance Notices issued to:

## Erf 58 – Malgas

- Clearing more than 3000 square metres of endangered indigenous vegetation (Renosterveld)

## Erf 516 portion 47 - Malgas

- The development of a dam within a watercourse (Ziekenhuis river)
- Infilling and depositing into the Breede River
- Clearing more than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation





# Slipway Monitoring

- The LBRCT has an agreement with Swellendam Municipality to monitor its Public Launch Sites (PLS) during busy periods
- We currently have a team monitoring the Moddergat and Infanta slipways over school holidays and the Easter Weekend





# Our affiliations and services:



Rescues and Rehabilitation



Assist with Ecological Sampling



Conduct monthly water quality monitoring



Record and Report Marine Mammal Strandings



Assist with Water Sampling



- CWAC Bird Counts
- Compliance Operations
- Snake Removals



Snake Removals in Witsand





# Education and Awareness

## Signage and Pamphlets



LOWER BREEDE RIVER  
CONSERVANCY TRUST

### BIRDS OF THE BREEDE ESTUARY

*In loving memory of John Tinkler*



SWELLENDAM  
MUNICIPALITY



**African Black Oystercatcher**  
*Haematopus moresbyi*

The African Black Oystercatcher has been down-listed from Near Threatened to Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2021).



**White-fronted Plover**  
*Charadrius marginatus*

White-fronted Plovers are common inhabitants of sandy shores, dunes and mudflats. These birds can live up to 11 years.



**Common Greenshank**  
*Tringa nebularia*

Often confused with the Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshanks are stockier birds and have a slightly up-turned bill.



**Common Whimbrel**  
*Numenius phaeopus*

Whimbrels are migratory birds that breed in the Northern Hemisphere. During August to April these birds can be found along our coastline as well as in estuaries like the Breede with sand and rocky intertidal habitats, including salt-marshes.



**African Fish Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*

African Fish Eagles form a conspicuous part of the Breede Estuary. Their call is so well known that it is often referred to as 'the voice of Africa'.



**African Spoonbill**  
*Plegadis falcinellus*

African Spoonbills use their spoon-shaped bills to catch food by swinging it from side-to-side in the water.



**Grey Heron**  
*Ardea cinerea*

Standing one metre tall, Grey Herons are known for their ability to stand motionless for long periods of time whilst hunting fish and other small estuarine creatures.



**African Darter**  
*Aethya nyctea*

A waterbird that often swims with its body submerged and only its S-shaped neck protruding from the water. Darters open their wings on land to dry their feathers and warm up faster.



**Giant Kingfisher**  
*Alcedo maximus*

The Giant Kingfisher is Africa's largest species of kingfisher. When hunting, Giant Kingfishers dive into the water, often submerging themselves to gather their catch.



**Pied Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle rudis*

A boldly marked black-and-white kingfisher that is often seen in pairs or groups. The Pied Kingfisher is the only kingfisher that hovers before it dives into the water.




**Caspian Tern**  
*Hydroprogne caspia*

The largest of all terns, the Caspian Tern is cross-billed. Its bill is coral red with a dusky tip. Caspian Terns tend to fly slowly over the water, and then dive swiftly to catch prey.



**Sandwich Tern**  
*Phaethon rubricauda*


Rarely found inland, or out to sea, Sandwich Terns inhabit coastlines and estuaries where they congregate in large numbers and hunt small schooling fish.




LOWER BREEDE RIVER  
CONSERVANCY TRUST

### FISH OF THE BREEDE ESTUARY

*In loving memory of Anthony Dos Santos*




SWELLENDAM  
MUNICIPALITY




**Spotted Grunter**  
29 cm adult

A fine game fish that is often seen in the shallows with its tail waving above the water as it blows small creatures out of holes in mud and sand. These fish get their name from their appearance and the grunting noise they produce when grinding their strong jaws together.




**White Steenbras**  
85 cm adult

Also known as pignose grunters, these fish can survive for long periods of time in near-fresh water. They are popular amongst anglers, but are listed as Red (no sell) on SASSI's Consumer Seafood List as they are endangered. You may only catch one per day, and the fish is required to be at least 60 cm in length.




**Cape Stumpnose**  
40 cm adult

Juveniles like to forage in the seagrass beds (*Zostera capensis*) of the estuary. Adults feed on urchins, molluscs, barnacles and polychaete worms. This species matures at 20 cm in length and puts up a good fight on light tackle.




**Dusky Kob**  
54 cm juvenile

This species is visually similar to the Silver Kob and only matures after 5 to 6 years (90-100 cm). Juveniles are dependent on estuaries until sexually mature, after which adults often migrate towards Kwa-Zulu Natal to spawn during Winter and Spring.




**Garrick/Leervis**  
14 cm adult

Juveniles commonly reside in estuaries, while adults eschew clear waters near the shore. This species is exclusively piscivorous, meaning it feeds only on other fish, especially mullet in the Breede and off at sea. Garrick is popular sport fish which prefers live bait but will also take a lure.




**Elf/Shad**  
31 cm adult

Elf are feisty predators that have the tendency to leap out of the water when fighting an angler. They can be caught by lure or moving bait. This species has a habit of cutting fishing lines with their sharp teeth, and for this reason braided line is often used. To protect breeding stocks, no fishing of elf is allowed from 1st September to 30th November in South Africa.



**Mullet**  
25 cm adult

In estuaries, these fish feed on detritus, algae, seagrass, and more. This species is able to tolerate a wide range of salinities. Juveniles fall prey to many predatory fish found in the estuary, including kobs, garminck and elf. African Fish Eagles often target large shoals of mullet for easy pickings.



**Zebra**  
29 cm adult

Zebra fish often inhabit estuaries and are strong fighters on light tackle. When caught, they have a strong and nauseating odour. Adults like to rook in the intertidal zone at high tides, usually around rocky outcrops.

Fish Artwork ©NRF-SAAB



**African Fish Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*

African Fish Eagles form a conspicuous part of the Breede Estuary. Their call is so well known that it is often referred to as 'the voice of Africa'.



**Black Harrier**  
*Circus melanoleucos*

Black Harriers are Southern Africa's rarest endemic bird of prey. There are thought to be less than 1000 breeding birds left. This species is highly dependent on Renosterveld which is rapidly diminishing.



**Cape Vulture**  
*Caprimulgus*

The Cape Vulture is the only vulture to inhabit the Western Cape. These birds are considered vulnerable, however the De Hoop population is one of the few that are increasing in numbers.



**Pied Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle rudis*

A boldly marked black-and-white kingfisher that is often seen in pairs or groups. The Pied Kingfisher is the only kingfisher that hovers before it dives into the water.



**Brown-hooded Kingfisher**  
*Alcedo capensis*

This kingfisher has a specially adapted bill which helps it hunt fish, crabs and other aquatic invertebrates. Insects such as butterflies, bees, wasps, lizards are also hawked aerially out the air.



**Giant Kingfisher**  
*Alcedo maximus*

The Giant Kingfisher is Africa's largest species of kingfisher. When hunting, Giant Kingfishers dive into the water, often submerging themselves to gather their catch.




LOWER BREEDE RIVER  
CONSERVANCY TRUST

### BIRDS OF THE BREEDE ESTUARY


Beginner's Observation Guide

info@breede-river.org  
028 537 1926 / 064 774 3862



LOWER BREEDE RIVER  
CONSERVANCY TRUST


### FISH OF THE BREEDE ESTUARY



**Spotted Grunter**  
29 cm adult

A fine game fish that is often seen in the shallows with its tail waving above the water as it blows small creatures out of holes in mud and sand. These fish get their name from their appearance and the grunting noise they produce when grinding their strong jaws together. **No sale species - do not buy!**


Caught:  Tagged:   
Location:  Date:   
Bait:  Length:



**White Steenbras**  
85 cm adult

Also known as pignose grunters, these fish can survive for long periods of time in near-fresh water. They are popular amongst anglers, but are listed as Red (no sell) on SASSI's Consumer Seafood List as they are endangered. You may only catch one per day, and the fish is required to be at least 60 cm in length. **No sale species - do not buy!**


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40 cm adult

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Caught:  Tagged:   
Location:  Date:   
Bait:  Length:



**Dusky Kob**  
54 cm juvenile

This species is visually similar to the Silver Kob and only matures after 5 to 6 years (90-100 cm). Juveniles are dependent on estuaries until sexually mature, after which adults have very limited coastal movement and regularly return to the same estuary. **Their population is under extreme pressure.**

Caught:  Tagged:   
Location:  Date:   
Bait:  Length:

Fish Artwork ©NRF-SAAB



# Education and Awareness

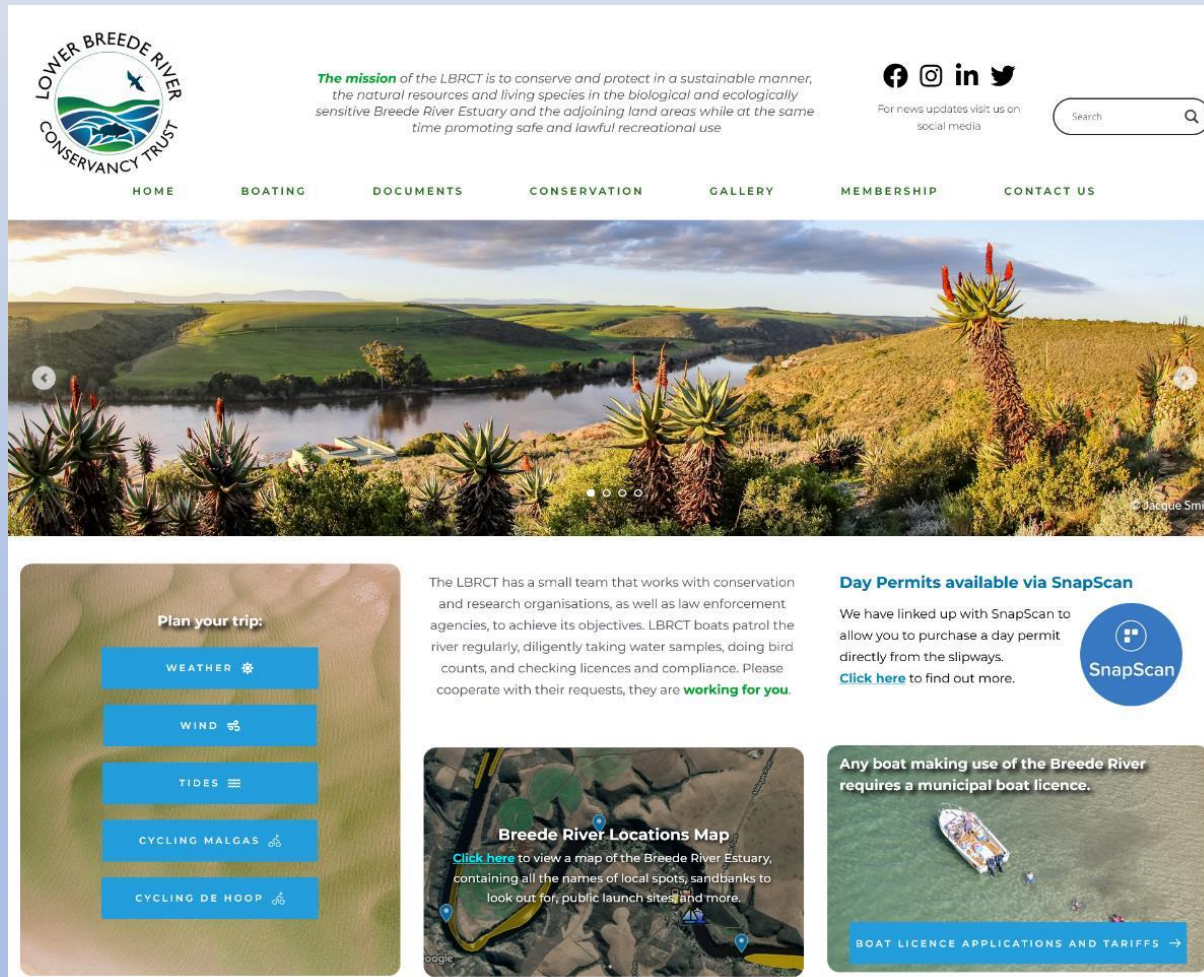
- School Talks
  - Ouplaas Primary
  - Vondeling Primary





# Education and Awareness

- Newsletters, Website and Social Media





# Beach and Estuary Clean-ups







**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING  
OUR MEETING**