



THE BATHURST RESIDENTS & *Ratepayers Association*

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY

18H00 @ PIKE'S POST, THE PLOUGHMAN PUB, BATHURST

**SHOULD BATHURST TRY TO BECOME
A SPECIAL RATING AREA?**

SPEAKER: *Chris Boyd*



We'd like you to join BR&RA. Membership gives you the right to vote. For info see our website www.brro.org.za

The Case for a Special Rating Area

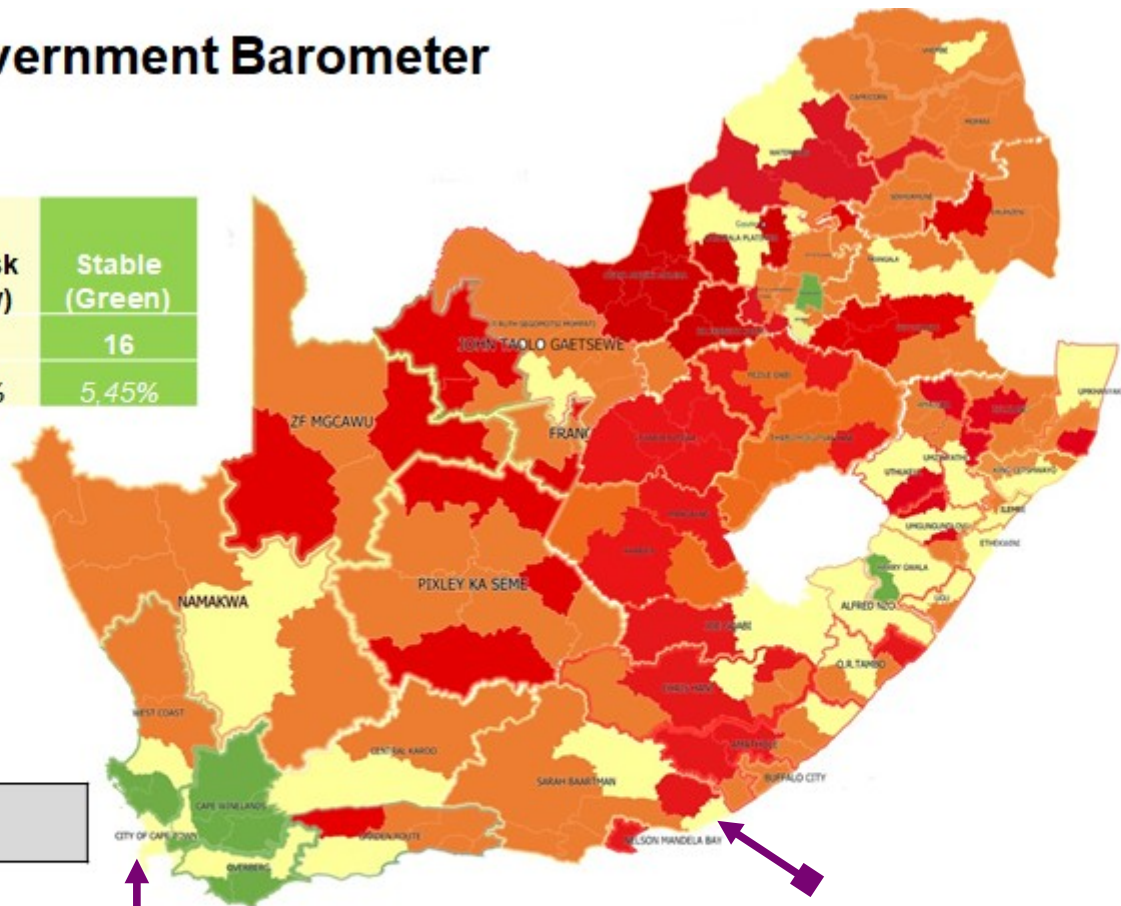
Mechanism to provide of services demanded by the
ratepayers

Background

- Other towns litigate, we apply quite diplomacy
- In 2023 BRR was requested to petition Ndlambe with a view to:
 - Reduce the rate in the Rand applicable to property in Bathurst
 - Make arrangements to establish a Special Rating Area
 - Initiate Civic Action in support of above
- Chair of BRRA asked for a further presentation to the community
 - So here goes...

State of Local Government Barometer

Dysfunctional (Red)	Medium Risk (Orange)	Low Risk (Yellow)	Stable (Green)
64	111	66	16
24,90%	43,19%	25,68%	5,45%



Municipalities under Financial Distress	163
Municipalities with unfunded budgets	108
Dysfunctional Municipalities	64
Muni under administration (sec 139)	29

The City of Cape Town and Ndlambe are both considered Low Risk on the barometer!

State of Local Government : Indicators



Political



Governance



Administrative



Financial Management



Service Delivery

<p>HIGH RISK DYSFUNCTIONAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-fighting in councils Intra-political party divisions in council Divisions in caucuses External political interference in councils Persistent & frequent section 139 interventions (esp. on dissolution of councils) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council not meeting as regulated Committees of council not meeting Council taking wrongful decisions No oversight by council on administration Poor and weak decision-making by council Councilors unduly interfering in administration No consequence management on corruption, maladministration, nepotism & poor performance Frequent Labour disputes and disruptions Poor public participation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacancies in key positions Bloated structures Poor performance management and lack of consequence management Non-compliance: legislation, regulations and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfunded budget Incapacitated and incompetent Budget & Treasury Offices (BTO) Excessive salary bills Non submission or late submission of annual financial statements Disclaimer & adverse audit outcomes High debt to utilities and statutory obligations Flouted SCM processes Poor collection of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High basic services backlogs High number of informal settlements No maintenance of infrastructure resulting in water and electricity supply interruptions and poor water quality No technical capacity Glaring service delivery issues Perennial poor infrastructure grant expenditure Persistent service delivery protests Poor response: service delivery complaints Court actions by interest groups on poor service delivery
<p>MED RISK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal in-fighting in council Elements of factionalism Regular Section 139 interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council meeting as scheduled with some external interruptions Reports on maladministration identified but not acted on by council Oversight conducted not fully effective Public participation not fully effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacancies in some key positions Structure not fully respondent to municipal needs Compliance to applicable legislation, regulations and policies not fully met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTO not fully capacitated – vacancies in some positions Financial management policies in place, not fully implemented Weak revenue collection Debt owed to utilities & statutory obligations not fully services Annual financial statements late Qualified audit outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic services backlogs not fully met Repairs and maintenance not fully executed due to capacity and budget Infrastructure grants not fully spent Frequent service delivery protests Inadequate response to service delivery complaints
<p>LOW RISK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust and functional Council No intra-party political divisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council meeting as scheduled with no undue external influence Reports on maladministration identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacancies in key positions Structure not respondent to municipal needs Compliance to applicable legislation, regulations and policies not fully met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak revenue collection Debt owed to utilities & statutory obligations not fully services Reliance on consultants for Annual financial statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs and maintenance not fully executed due to capacity and budget Incapacity to response to service delivery complaints
<p>STABLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohesion in council Functional caucus No intra-party political divisions No section 139 interventions over 5 year period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council meeting regularly, as regulated Council adopts IDP, budget, policies, annual financial statements on an informed and efficient basis Council provides effective oversight over administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure fully respondent to municipal needs No vacancies in key and senior positions (positions occupied by competent individuals) Full compliance with legislation, regulations and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded budget Functional BTO Effective application of credit control and debt collection policies No or minimal outstanding debt to utilities & statutory obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation on service delivery priorities Well capacitated and efficient infrastructure services department Uninterrupted delivery of services due to well maintained infrastructure Quick response and turnaround time to service delivery complaints Infrequent service delivery protests

State of LG: Indicators

	Political	Governance	Administration	Financial	Service delivery
Medium Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust and functional Council • No intra-part political divisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council meets as scheduled without undue external influences • Reports on maladministration identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancies in key positions • Structure not respondent to needs • Compliance to legislation and regulations not fully met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak revenue collection • In debt to statutory & regulatory bodies • Reliant on consultants for Annual Financial Statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs and Maint. not fully implemented due to budget or resource constraints • Incapacity to respond to service delivery complaints
Stable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesion in Council • Functional Caucus • No intra-part political divisions • No section 139 interventions in 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council meets as scheduled without undue external influences • Council provides effective oversight and guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure fully respondent to needs • No vacancies in key/senior positions, filled by competent individuals • Fully compliant with legislation, regulations and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded budget • Fully functional Budget & Treasury Office • No or minimal debt to statutory & regulatory bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation on service delivery priorities • Well capacitated and efficient service delivery • Uninterrupted service delivery • Quick response • Infrequent service deliver protests

Poor Services & Disparity

- 20 years worth of poor service delivery
- Bathurst is zoned residential but agricultural standards
- Rates on a par with PA, Kenton and Bushman's etc.
- Water availability, sewage, road maintenance and refuse removal are poor/non existent
- Negative impact: crime, suppressed property value, decay
- Incumbent on the ratepayers and residents to take action

Roads



Off lower Trappes



Birds street

Man-holes & Culverts



York street



York street: Storm water runs off to residential properties



Bird street: Storm water run off eroding water reticulation system

Tree Trimming & Verge Clearing



Donkin Terrace trees
interfering with Eskom



Landfill



Illegal burning at landfill site



Landfill site legal but non-compliant with licence conditions

Street lights



Trappes street poorly orientated lamp



Trappes street damaged light pole

Derelict Buildings & Squatting



Alleged squatting on private land



Poor/non existent management of Council's assets

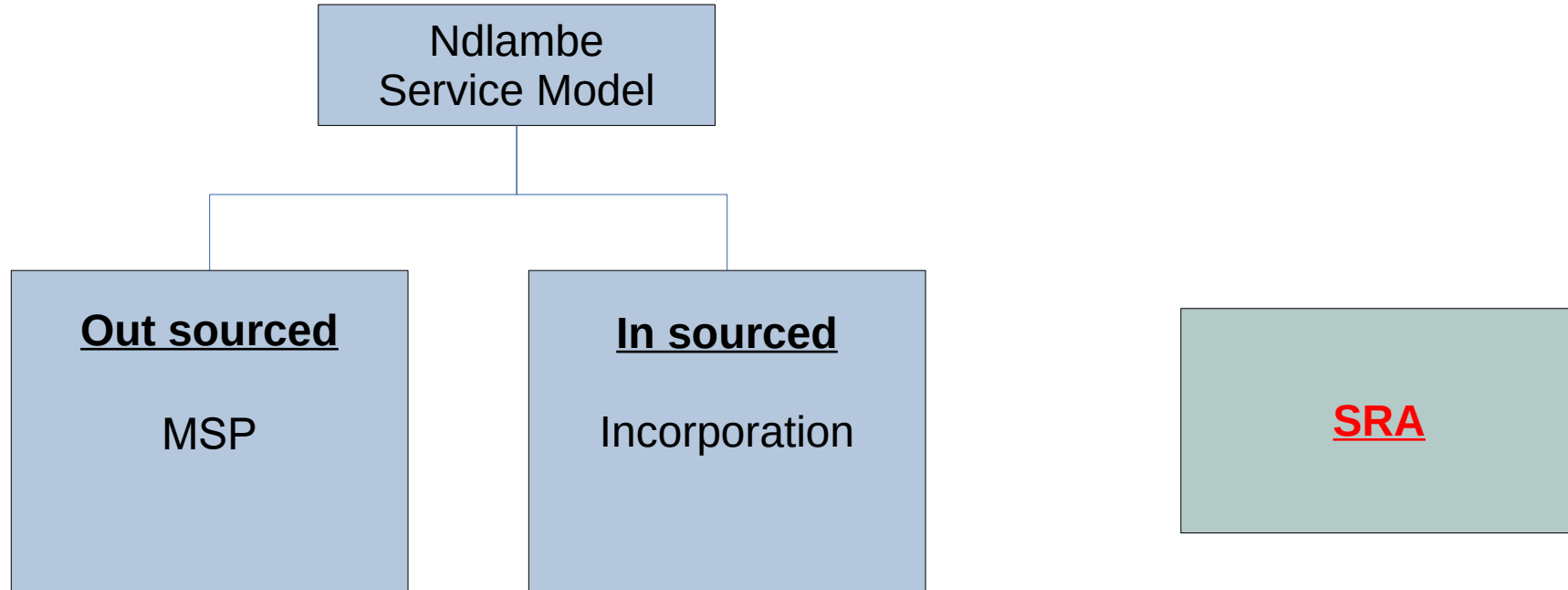
By-law and Crime prevention



Blatant illegal activities



Municipal Service Delivery Models



Constitution of South Africa

Air pollution

Building regulations

Child care facilities

Electricity and gas reticulation

Fire fighting services

Local tourism

Municipal airports Municipal planning

Municipal health services

Municipal public transport

Municipal public works

Pontoons, ferries, jetties, piers and harbours

Storm water management systems in built-up areas

Trading regulations

Water and sanitation services limited to potable water supply systems and domestic waste-water and sewage disposal systems

Street lighting

Traffic and parking

SRA: Municipal Property Rates Act

- Section 22:
 - Legal basis, purpose of SRA & design criteria
 - Process for establishing an SRA
 - Powers and functions of the SRA
 - SRA's business plan
 - Approval of the business plan by the municipality

Next steps

- Mandate BRRA to initiate establishment of SRA
- Establishing an SRA Steering Committee
- Obtain support from ratepayers & Ndlambe
- Press for rates reduction to fund SRA
- Ratepayers approve business plan & project plan
- Ndlambe approves business plan
- Implementation phase