

## **Guidelines for Improving Infrastructure Development in the Rural Communities of Bushbuckridge**

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**ABSTRACT** The primary aim of this study was to explore the role of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality in promoting service delivery to rural communities. The areas surrounding Bushbuckridge Local Municipality formed part of the focus area. Service delivery challenges in these areas include an inadequate water supply, gravel roads, a lack of health facilities, a lack of electricity in some communities, and inadequate sanitation. The study focused on four main stakeholders, namely, councillors, traditional leaders, officials working for the municipality, and local citizens. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyse the data. It is recommended that the role that traditional leaders play as watchdogs of service delivery be recognised, as this would help to address service delivery imbalances and inequality in the rural, disadvantaged communities of Bushbuckridge. Furthermore, traditional leaders noted the communication gap between councillors and officials, as well as ordinary citizens. It is, therefore, recommended that the municipality improve the way in which it communicates with all stakeholders.