



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1432 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 25/5/10

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 25/05/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1432

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 MAY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)

1432. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has plans in place to improve drought management; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

My Department has drought management systems and operating rules in place in the majority of the large water supply systems serving the large metropolitan areas. Stochastic models are used to determine the risk of water shortage and to enable decision-making on appropriate water management actions. During droughts, operating rules guide the curtailment of less critical uses so as to keep water in storage for more crucial uses such as basic human needs and high value economic use. The severity of restrictions, when they can be relaxed or when further restrictions could be imposed are considered. The application of this technique is being extended to more systems including smaller dams owned by municipalities.

Annual operational assessments also serve to keep the operating rules updated and improved in response to increasing demands, infrastructural developments, climatic changes, improved data and understanding of the water resource systems. This, to a large extent, enables sustainable use of the water resource.

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