



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 511 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: 10/3/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 2010. 03. 12

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 511

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05 MARCH 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6)

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

Whether her department controls over the abstraction of groundwater; if not, why not, if so, what are the details of the control?

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**REPLY:**

Yes, My Department does exercise control over all Water Uses as defined in the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA), including the abstraction of groundwater.

- My Department exercises control over Water Use entitlements as general authorisations and licenses. The authorisations contain the volumes of water that may be abstracted and other conditions that the Water Users must adhere to.
- My Department keeps a register of Water Use entitlements. Water Users are required in terms of regulations and notices in the Government Gazette to register all significant Water Uses.
- My Department then monitors and enforces compliance of Water Users to the Act and to the conditions attached to their Water Use Authorisations.

It is important to note that, unlike most surface water, groundwater was previously defined as private water over which the State did not exercise control, except in a few subterranean water control areas. Landowners were entitled to abstract as much of it for use on their properties as they wanted to. The NWA, in contrast, considers all water resources to be part of the same hydrological cycle and places all Water Resources and control over Water Use under My control.

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