



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 5094

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05
SEPTEMBER 2025 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 36)**

5094. Mr S J Moore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What (a) are the full details of the five largest capital projects being undertaken by the Water Research Commission in the current financial year, (b)(i) was the initial estimated budget and/or cost of each project and (ii) is the most recent projected cost of each project, (c) is the date on which each project commenced and (d)(i) was the original completion date of each project and (ii) is the current projected completion date of each project?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The WRC was established in terms of the Water Research Act to generate new knowledge and to promote the country's water research purposefully, owing to the view held that water would be one of South Africa's most limiting factors in the 21st century. Water research and development (R&D) had been historically limited to a few institutions and the funding level inadequate prior to establishment of the WRC. The WRC is tasked with providing strategic direction or leadership for the identification of priority areas or appropriate technology transfer in the sector. It is also tasked with research co-ordination and leads key research fields as an entity of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Currently, South Africa is still under threat of a lack of sufficient water, while water quality and availability issues are becoming more acute. However, the country is much better prepared to deal with this problem owing to the WRC's meaningful contribution to the development of the capacity of the water sector, the broadening of the country's water-centred R&D base, and the WRC's continued commitment to direct and fund research on critical issues. As such, WRC does not undertake large capital projects as their primary function is managing the research agenda for the water sector.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ ~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~/ AMENDED

SPhillips

DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 12 September 2025

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



MISS PENNY C.P. MAJODINA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

16/09/2025

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