



water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AFFAIRS  
AND FORESTRY  
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 113 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

27.10.09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

*please see amendment  
or correction*

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

29.10.2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 113

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 21)

■113. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:  
[Written Question No 654]

- (1) Whether any new bulk water infrastructure is planned to accommodate the water consumption requirements of the eThekweni Municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, in view of the predicted climatic changes in KwaZulu-Natal, the eThekweni Municipality is likely to suffer any shortages in water supply by 2020; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) what (a) was the estimated total consumption of water in the eThekweni Municipality in 2008 and (b) is the estimated total consumption of water in the eThekweni Municipality predicted to be in 2020?

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REPLY:

- (1) A new dam will soon be constructed at Spring Grove on the Mooli River to augment water transfer to the Umngeni River for supply to the eThekweni/Umsunduzi economic hub of KwaZulu-Natal. It is anticipated that this dam will be completed by 2012. Further augmentation from the Nkomazi River to the Umngeni River is being investigated at feasibility level for subsequent implementation.
- (2) Since supply from the Umngeni River is already stressed by the rapid economic growth in the eThekweni/ Umsunduzi hub and adjacent areas, supply is at risk until completion of the Spring Grove Dam. Therefore, should a drought be experienced over the Umngeni River catchment in the next two years, shortages may occur. This will be managed through a process of progressive water supply restrictions to minimise economic impact and consumer discomfort. Water Conservation and Demand Management and reuse of treated effluent will be implemented by the metro and <sup>Other</sup> relevant ~~other~~ municipalities to alleviate the situation. Thereafter, augmentation from the Nkomazi River, compared to the possible desalination of sea water, will determine the next development option to keep pace with economic development and the concomitant increasing water demand in the area well beyond 2020.

- (3)(a) The total water consumption for the eThekweni/ Umsunduzi area, as supplied in bulk by Umngeni Water, was about 390 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2008.
- (3)(b) The total 2020 Water Demand for the eThekweni/ Umsunduzi area, is estimated at about 435 million m<sup>3</sup> if improved water conservation and demand management is successful.

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