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**water affairs**  
Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPT. VAN WATERKUNDE & BOSBOU  
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 13 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Hon C J de Beer (ANC-Northern Cape), is attached for your consideration, please.

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 22/9/09

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED →

*[Signature]*

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

DATE: 2009. 09. 30

Scanned to CPT  
Email on 02/10/09

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 13**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 10 JULY 2009**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 5)**

**13 Hon C J de Beer (ANC-Northern Cape) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

1. Is the building of a dam in the lower Orange River at Vioolsdrif part of the planning in terms of bulk water supply for the Northern Cape for the future?
2. If yes, what are the time frames.
3. If no, what is Department of Water Affairs strategic plan for bulk water supply to the western part of the Northern Cape? CW15E

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**REPLY:**

- (1) The construction of a dam in the lower Orange River near Vioolsdrif has been identified in planning studies as being a viable alternative to increase the available water yield from the Orange River. The site lies on the common border between South Africa and Namibia and is envisaged as a joint development that would serve the projected needs of both countries, including Northern Cape in South Africa.
- (2) Given the time normally required to approve and undertake international water projects, it is unlikely that the dam could be completed before about 2018. Further joint planning studies with Namibia are required to confirm water demands, the environmental flow requirements, optimize the size of storage required, the engineering design and cost of development. Agreements will have to be concluded with Namibia on sharing costs of the study, the development costs and sharing the water resources
- (3) Falls away.

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