



## water affairs

Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

Enquiries: HH Pienaar  
Telephone: 012-336-7197  
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1527 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

16.10.09

✓  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
M S B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

25/10/2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1527

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 OCTOBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 20)

1527. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What are the risks of climate change to the water sector identified by her department;
- (2) whether her department is taking any measures to promote adaptation to climate change in the water sector; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether a study has been conducted to determine the costs the water sector will incur in adapting to climate change; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether any measures are being examined to finance adaptation to climate change in the water sector; if not, why not; if so, what measures? NW1932E

---00000---

**REPLY:**

- (1) In terms of South Africa's Water Resources, scenarios suggest that climate change will affect the Water Sector in two ways – water availability and water quality.
- (2) Yes. To date, a number of measures and initiatives have been undertaken by My Department, notably the following:
  - The development of a framework on Water for Growth and Development which comprise of a number of strategic measures, such as promoting water conservation and water demand management, diversifying the water mix, strengthening institutional capacity, improve water quality, nurturing attitudinal and behavioral changes towards the value of water and ensuring that water is placed at the centre of all planning decisions.
  - Reconciliation strategies for water management areas which explore the supply and demand in each water management area;
  - Monitoring of water resources at a national scale.
- (3) No. Instead My Department is continuously developing Water Augmentation Schemes which are at a separate cost, depending on the specific water requirements and local circumstances. Such Water Augmentation Schemes are linked to reconciliation strategies which are conducted on a continuous basis – in order to address quantified water needs.
- (4) No. Only when water augmentation schemes and water conservation programmes have been planned, will the Department allocate funding. In some cases Water Management Institutions (WMI) and Metros will fund such initiatives.

--00000--