



## water affairs

Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 791 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 16/9/09

✓  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED

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

DATE: 2009. 10. 09

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 791

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 AUGUST 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 9)

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

Whether her department has agreed to an allocation of water to be piped from the Glen Melville Dam, sourced from the Gariep Dam, to alleviate an anticipated shortage of water in the Ndlambe municipality; if not, what plans are in place to ensure a sustainable supply of water to the Ndlambe municipality; if so, (a) when will this allocation of water be available to the Ndlambe municipality, (b) what will the cost of this water scheme be and (c) who will be responsible for funding the scheme?

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**REPLY:**

No, My Department has not agreed to give a Water Allocation Sourced from the Gariep Dam to the Ndlambe Local Municipality (LM). The municipality has however been informed that a licence will be considered, and if approved will be subject to a number of conditions, such as being granted for a period of between 15 and 20 years; that the existing water resources are still utilised, and that further research be conducted to search for more local supplies.

Should a licence for water sourced from the Gariep Dam be approved, the entitlement will have to be bought out from a willing seller who already has an allocation at present since the yield of the dam has already been fully allocated.

One of the considerations to be taken into account in assessing the license is the "efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest". To do this, My Department must be sure that the proposed project to take the water from the Orange River System is the best available option.

From the Feasibility Study report for the project made available to My Department, it was ascertained that only the Glen Melville option was studied in detail to supply the total water needs of the area for the next 10 to 15 years. No other alternatives as recommended in the recent Departmental study titled "Albany Coast Situation Assessment" were studied in any comparable detail. The fact that the recommended alternatives from the Albany Coast Situation Assessment were ignored is of particular concern. A proper comparison taking into account all possible alternatives must now be done to enable a decision based on the optimum long-term environmentally sustainable, socially and economically beneficial use of water for the greater society.

As mentioned above, the recently completed Albany Coast Situation Assessment sets out the way forward for the future of Ndlambe LM's Water Supply. The search and development of local and especially groundwater resources was recommended as the next development option, as well as other options such as desalination and partial desalination of dune water or saline groundwater. In support of the recommendations of the study, My Department has already spent more than R2, 5 million on groundwater searches, and very promising results have come to light. My Department is convinced that the development of local resources will be far cheaper, and equally sustainable a source as water from the Gariep Dam.

(a) Falls away

(b) Falls away

(c) Falls away