



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1082 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:

9/9/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS BP SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

2009/09/15

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1082

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 SEPTEMBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 14)

1082. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether any plans are in place to ensure an adequate and sustainable supply of water for (a) irrigation and (b) domestic use to the Pearston area within the Blue Crane Route Municipality; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what plans and (b) when will it be implemented?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) There is no plan to develop any commercial irrigation at Pearston. However, in a report finalised by the Department in October 2005 looking into possible domestic water resources for the town, My Department looked at the possibility of including about 10 hectares of market gardens at the town, under irrigation.
- (1)(b) A number of possible resources for domestic use were identified in the October 2005 report. Further investigations are now necessary to take the identified possibilities to the feasibility level. Much of this will entail groundwater drilling and testing.
- (2)(a) My Department is presently busy with a study called the "All Towns Reconciliation Strategy Study", which will take a first-level look at which resources should be developed for each of the 134 identified towns and 2600 rural villages in the Eastern Cape. The results of this study will be a definite way forward regarding which resources the WSA must study or develop next for each town. A stand-alone report will be produced for each town, including Pearston, and the recommendations at the end of the report, which will set out the way forward, will be signed off by the Water Service Authority and the Department. This report actually covers the entire country, and is due for completion towards at the end of 2011
- (2)(b) Once the reconciliation studies have been completed, the Water Services Authority will develop the implementation plan accordingly.