



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

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PRETORIA 0001 *ArV*

Enquiries: N Mnu kwa  
Telephone: 043 604 5402  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 140 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 17/2/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED

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

DATE: 22. 02. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 140

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 FEBRUARY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1)

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

- (1) Whether the operation of water carts is outsourced in Adelaide and Bedford; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what is the name of the contractor being used, (b) who is responsible for arranging water carts in the event of a water supply interruption, (c) from where is the water used to fill the carts sourced and (d) what are the details of the plans to achieve a long-term sustainable supply of water to the Nxuba Municipality;
- (2) Whether this complementary supply of water is sustainable; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether the building of the Foxwood or other dam on the Koonap River is being considered by her department; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the Amathole District Municipality can deal with the water scarcity problem; if not, (a) why not, (b) why has she and/or her department not intervened and (c) when will she and/or her department intervene; if so, on what basis has this conclusion been reached?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, carting of water is conducted both in-house by Amathole District Municipality (DM) and outsourced.
- (1)(a) The contractors being used are Getaway Trailers and Manufacture Hiring, Eagle Ukhozi Transport and MW Equipment.
- (1)(b) Mr Stephen Nash, Amathole DM's Deputy Director: Operations and Maintenance is responsible for all water services operations and maintenance within the area, including the carting of water
- (1)(c) Water used to fill the carts is currently being sourced from one of the schools in Adelaide as well as from the Fort Beaufort Water Treatment Works.
- (1)(d) A total of twenty six (26) boreholes have been sited to-date (13 for Adelaide and Bedford respectively). Amathole DM now has to look into equipping them and also undertake Water Conservation and Demand Management initiatives including public education and awareness strategies to achieve the long-term sustainability of supply.
- (2) Although the current Fish River Supply Scheme is expensive to operate, it provides a sustainable complementary supply. The scheme was however completed with certain technical shortcomings due to the pressure exerted by drought conditions at that time. As a result, the scheme still needs to be refined and a team of engineers is currently working on identifying the key problem areas. This scheme is not intended and designed to be the sole supply to both towns and is currently operating at maximum capacity. The current ground water explorations are also envisaged to provide an alternative source of supply for the area.

- (3) My Department is currently consolidating the results of previous studies with the intention of assessing both the technical and financial implications of building a dam. A decision on the best option to be pursued will be guided by the outcome of the consolidation process.
- (4) While the Amathole DM is doing its best to handle the water scarcity problem and ensuring the provision of water to Adelaide and Bedford, the municipality cannot deal with the problem on its own.
  - (4)(a) The challenge is province-wide as the major contributing factor to the current water scarcity problem is drought which is linked to changing climatic conditions. The municipality also does not have sufficient financial resources to address the challenge on its own.
  - (4)(b) My Department has intervened in the Adelaide and Bedford water crisis by availing an amount of R2, 2 million to Amathole DM for the provision of Jojo tanks, as well as through the exploration of groundwater as an alternative water source. Technical support was also provided to Amathole DM in the identification and compilation of drought needs and an action plan which included cash flows for the immediate, medium and long term periods. These needs were submitted to National Treasury through the Eastern Cape Department of Local Government and the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
  - (4)(c) In addition to the interventions outlined above (i.e. (4)(b)), My Department and Amathole DM will establish a Joint Technical Team to look into water intervention issues and develop a project plan.

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