



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1877 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr E Marais (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 28/6/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 20 10/07/04

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1877

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)

**1877. Mr E Marais (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether there is any maintenance plan for the water canal project running from Clanwilliam Dam; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the details of the plan, (b) what is the budget for the plan, (c) for what period is the budget and (d) how will the enlargement of the Clanwilliam Dam impact on this water canal project?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, there is a maintenance plan for the water canal project running from Clanwilliam Dam.
- (1)(a) The Water User association has set budget priorities in their Business Plans after transfer of the full operation and maintenance functions, and accepts full responsibility for maintenance and rehabilitation of the canal system for the benefit of all the users. The canals are generally in a state where major rehabilitation is needed. Canal breakages occur regularly and the last major break in March 2010, had to be repaired at a cost of approximately R3,0 million. Legal claims for damages resulting from canal breaks are regularly received by LORWUA.
- (1)(b) The average operation and maintenance budget of LORWUA is in the order of R4,0 million per financial year. The Water User Association keeps a Reserve Fund to deal with major breakages/rehabilitation. The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently in the order of R16.0 million.
- The DWA has, per written agreement with LORWUA, replaced the Kransbrug siphon last year to a cost of R20 million rand and has put R12m on the Budget for this year for the replacement of the Hoekklip siphon over the next two (2) years. The two (2) siphons were identified as a risk in the system.
- (1)(c) LORWUA's budget planning is done for a medium term three (3) year period. The budget is adjusted on a yearly basis. Charges are imposed on the water users to recover the expenditure.
- (1)(d) The enlargement of the dam will specifically give the current users a higher assurance of supply and not necessarily an increase in supply. It will however make additional raw water available for new irrigation users.

The infrastructure below Clanwilliam dam is operating at its maximum capacity and will not cope with an increase of supply. Depending on where the new users will be established, either the distribution infrastructure will have to be upgraded or the operation procedures of the scheme will be adjusted to cope with the extra volume of water.

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