



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -08- -6

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1903 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: 4/8/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 08/08/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1903

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 JULY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17)

1903. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department regularly monitors the quality of the water in the Baakens River in the Eastern Cape; if so, what are (a) the details of the monitoring regime and (b) the results of analyses of samples taken since 1 January 2010; if not, (i) why not and (ii) who is responsible for such monitoring;
- (2) whether her department has issued a directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, in respect of the pollution of the Baakens River; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the details of the directive and (b) what action has been taken in response to the directive;
- (3) whether her department intends prosecuting the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in terms of section 151 of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, my Department regularly monitors the quality of the water in the Baakens River.
- (1)(a) My Department conducts monthly samples at the following identified points:
 - Tramway Building;
 - Downstream of Brickmakerskloof Bridge
 - Downstream Chelmsford Avenue Bridge (Targetkloof); and
 - Downstream of third Avenue Bridge (Newton Park).
- (1)(b) Refer to **Annexure A** indicating the results of the samples taken since 1 January 2010.
- (1)(b)(i) Falls away.
- (1)(b)(ii) Falls away.
- (2) No, my Department has not issued a directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) in respect of the pollution of the Baakens River. To this end, the following should be noted:
 - Only two (2) pollution related complaints involving the Baakens River have been received by my Department's Regional Office: Eastern Cape in 2010, which were subsequently attended to.
 - There are no registered end-of-pipe waste dischargers (water services authority or industry) discharging at any point into the Baakens River.
 - The Baakens River is a Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) 'Green Belt' managed water resource running through Port Elizabeth City and has little to no industrial activity adjacent to it, rather mainly commercial and residential properties.

- (2)(a) Falls away.
- (2)(b) Falls away.
- (3) No, my Department does not intend prosecuting the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in terms of section 151 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998). It should be noted that in terms of the Enforcement Protocol, currently in progress with NMBM, my Department will only consider prosecution once all possible corrective measures and procedures have been exhausted

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ANNEXURE A

BAAKENS RIVER SAMPLE RESULTS: FEBRUARY TO MAY 2010

BAAKENS RIVER @ TRAMWAY BUILDING

DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	Turbidity	TDS	F.COL	E.coli
2010/02/11	7.7	165	10		21	<0.08	0.033	2.44			900	800
2010/03/10	7.4	162	<10		<20	<0.08	0.025	2.48			13,800	6,300
2010/05/04	7.6	125	13		<20	0.43	0.085	1.44			6100	4800

BAAKENS RIVER @ D/S OF BRICKMAKERS KLOOF BRIDGE

DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	Turbidity	TDS	F.COL	E.coli
2010/02/11	7.7	162	28		36	<0.08	0.033	0.82			1,700	1,400
2010/03/10	7.6	159	33		<20	<0.08	0.023	0.74			2,800	1,900
2010/05/04	7.6	116	12		<20	0.32	0.071	0.81			48000	42000

BAAKENS RIVER @ D/S 3RD AVENUE BRIDGE NEWTON PARK

DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	Turbidity	TDS	F.COL	E.coli
2010/02/11	8	139	<10		36	<0.08	0.038	0.33			140	76
2010/03/10	7.5	144	22		<20	5.11	0.237	0.36			1,300	1,100
2010/05/04	7.7	133	<10		<20	0.45	0.072	1.14			342	328

BAAKENS RIVER @ TARGETKLOOF D/S CHELMSFORD AVENUE BRIDGE

DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	Turbidity	TDS	F.COL	E.coli
2010/02/11	8	139	<10		32	<0.08	0.035	1.03			178	112
2010/03/10	7.2	161	79		28	<0.08	0.026	0.86			900	630
2010/05/04	7.7	110	18		<20	<0.08	0.041	0.67			300	186