



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 COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 39 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr R A Lees R Morgan (DA-KZN); is attached for your consideration.

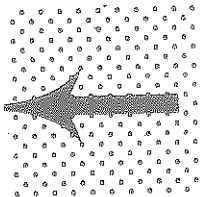

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 31/5/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 31/05/2010



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 39

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 MAY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)

★39. Mr R A Lees (DA-KZN) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) whether any action has been taken to ensure that alien and invasive vegetation like wattle, which is the target of the Working for Water Programme is fully eradicated in a target area/portion of land before the project is closed and handed over to the landowner; if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (2) whether the landowners in the Tintwa area of the Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal, near Ladysmith are allowing the programme to be carried out on their land; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Working for Water (WfW) Programme ensures that where an agreement is entered into with the particular landowner which sets out the specific target for clearing on his or her property, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is approached to issue a directive on the affected property when a target is reached which the DAFF monitors in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983). It should be noted that the DAFF pursues legal recourse. In the instances where issued directives have not been adhered to.

The WfW Programme is negotiating for the DAFF to delegate authority of issuing directives to WfW Programme, to allow for a more streamlined management arrangement. It is also envisaged that such delegations might be addressed in the promulgation of the proposed regulations linked to the management of invasives under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004).

In the meantime, the WfW Programme has also adopted a new approach where the landowner is required to contribute some of the operating costs (such as transport and equipment for the clearing work) from the outset, to ensure that the risk of undertaking the work is equitably shared, as well as to ensure ownership of the work by the landowners.

- (2) Yes, the landowners in the Tintwa area have previously allowed the WfW Programme to work on their land. Although the area was handed over to landowners with the assistance of the DAFF, there was clearly inadequate monitoring of the maintenance of the land in a cleared state. The WfW Programme has committed to work with the landowners and DAFF to rectify the situation.

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