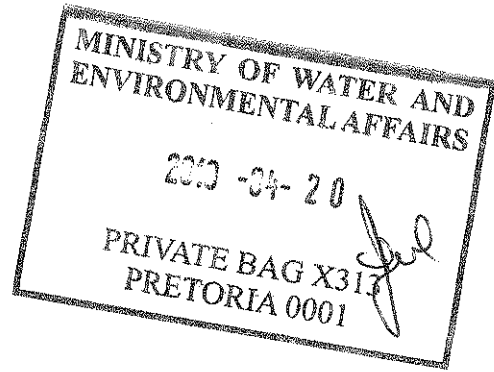




**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: H Smit  
Telephone: 012-392-1301  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 798 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Ms A M Dreyer (DA); is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 26/4/10

✓  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 26. 04. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 798

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 MARCH 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8)

798. Ms A M Dreyer (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 386 on 10 March 2010, any alternative water sources are available to persons living around the areas where acid mine water is decanting into the surface water in the Tweelopies Spruit; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what alternative water sources are available to vegetable farmers in the Tarlton area to irrigate their lands;
- (3) how will ground water in the Zwartkrans dolomite compartment be safeguarded from contamination by the decanting of acid mine water in this area? NW929E

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, there are alternative water sources to the people living in the areas where acid mine water could have an impact on their water resources. The people make use of water from Rand Water or their own boreholes which are not impacted by the acid mine water.  
  
My Department conducts regular water sampling in the affected area, the mines and various other role players in order to scientifically monitor any changes in ground water quality. This information is reported to the Western Basin Technical Working Group, consisting of representatives from the relevant regulators, mining houses as well as interested and affected parties.
- (2) There is no need for alternative water sources for the vegetable farmers in the Tarlton area due to the fact that they are not impacted by the acid mine water in the Tweelopies Spruit originating from the Western Basin (down stream to Tarlton).
- (3) The best solution to avoid any acid mine water reaching the Zwartkrans dolomite compartment is to stop the pollution at the source. My Department has recently intervened by forcing the mines to contain, pump and treat increased volumes of acid mine drainage. It is also envisaged that the water table in the Western Basin will be drawn down to ensure that no untreated acid mine water could enter the Tweelopies Spruit.

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