



## 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 1277 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 17/05/11

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS BEE MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 20.5.2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1277

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 APRIL 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

**1277. Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, in the light of the new evidence released regarding the pollution levels of the (a) Loskopdam, (b) the effect on the Olifants river and (c) the impact on the environment and particularly the Kruger National Park she will deal with this pollution as a priority; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so;
- (2) Whether she will deal with the problem by appointing a task team or take any necessary steps to rescue the environment around the Olifantsriver from pollution; if not, why not; if so (a) what steps will she take and (b) when?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) The Department is aware of a study which is being currently conducted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Upper Olifants River (Bethal to the Groblersdal- Loskop Dam). Since November 2009, a multidisciplinary team comprising of a number of scientists have been working in the upper Olifants River catchment and the Loskop Dam to assess eutrophication and chemical pollution. The three year-study, which is now in its second year, is funded by the Olifants River Forum and the initial executive summary of the study, released during March 2011, has recommended a number of actions, amongst which deal with wastewater related issues.

It should be noted that the Department has prioritised the prevention of pollution of the Olifants River and ensures that as and when the new information from the study is released, recommendations from the study are implemented.

- (2) The following are the steps which have been and/or will be taken by the Department to address pollution around the Olifants River:
  - Currently the Department has profiled potential polluters and these are audited and monitored for compliance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). In cases of non compliance action is taken. The Department has also selected key strategic points along the Olifants River for monitoring. The Regional Office: Mpumalanga is in the process of building its capacity to ensure effecting enforcement and compliance. The outcome of the study will inform an appropriate intervention strategy to deal with pollution of the Olifants River
  - Formation of Departmental task team to deal with the pollution in the Olifants River using the existing Olifants, Luvuvhu, Letaba and Inkomati (OLLI) Water Resource and Oversight Forum, where the Kruger National Park is a member.
  - Ensure that there is multidisciplinary Departmental representation in the Olifants River Forum (ORF)- a forum where the CSIR and the Project Management Team (comprising of different stakeholders) conducting research on the sources of pollution and recommendations for resource protection provide feedback on the project.
  - Ensure that there is continuous water quality monitoring of selected sites in the Olifants River to check compliance or impact of the steps taken.

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