



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3643 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question by Mr T D Lee (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 24/11/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: 20/11/2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3643

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 NOVEMBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 40)

3643. Mr T D Lee (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 3215 on 8 November 2011, she has been informed that since 27 October 2011 there have been continuous incidences of overflowing sewage from sewerage infrastructure within the Baakens River Catchment; if so, what steps has her department taken to rectify the situation; if not,
- (2) whether she will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any (a) pre-notices and/or (b) notices of intention to issue a directive or directives have been issued against the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality since 27 October 2011 for pollution events in terms 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) No, the Department was not informed about continuous incidences of overflowing sewage from sewerage infrastructure within the Baakens River Catchment. However, on receipt of this question, on 18 November, the Department conducted an investigation of the alleged pollution, and the findings revealed that there were no signs of pollution within the Baakens River Catchment. Such findings were also confirmed by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.
- (2) Yes, the Department conducted an investigation on 18 November 2011 into the alleged overflowing sewage, and the findings revealed that there were no signs of pollution within the Baakens River Catchment.
- (3)(a) No pre-notice was issued for pollution of the Baakens River Catchment as the investigation did not reveal the alleged sewage spillages into the river and/or nature reserve.
- (3)(b) No notice was issued for pollution of the Baakens River Catchment as the investigation did not reveal the alleged sewage spillage into the river and/or nature reserve.

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