



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

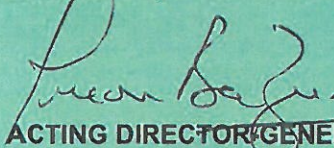
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Enquiries: Mr T. Balzer
Telephone: 012-336-8477
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 276 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M W Makhubela (COPE-Limpopo) is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 31/03/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2011/08/31

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 276

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05 AUGUST 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 21)

276. Mr M W Makhubela (COPE-Limpopo) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has a strategy to encourage the implementation of water-sensitive urban design that minimises pollution and erosion so that storm water is captured within the urban landscape rather than simply being discharged into the sea; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

No, the Department does not have a strategy that promotes water-quality-wise urban design and storm water attenuation *per se*.

Local government has executive authority in respect of municipal planning and the Department of Water Affairs supports local government where appropriate. The Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process and the establishment of Water Services Development Plans should house specifications for water-wise development at municipal level. The Department's planning mandate in respect of water quality endeavors to ensure fitness-for-use of receiving water resources. From a regulatory perspective, the Department manages water uses, such as sewage works which constitute the end-point of large quantities of urban storm water through the water use authorisation process, e.g. licensing. The Department is further also responsible for ensuring that water use efficiency measures are implemented by local government in order to prevent wasteful practices and to manage water demand.

The town, Atlantis in the Western Cape constitutes an example where the Department actively supported local government, and where storm water designs was completed prior to finalising the urban lay-out plans in order to enhance water supply to the town.

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