



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1351 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr L S Ngonyama (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 04/06/12

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED<sup>as</sup>/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/06/05

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1351

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MAY 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)

**1351. Mr L S Ngonyama (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether her department is encouraging the treatment of waste water to enable its further use for (a) industrial, (b) agricultural and (c) domestic purposes; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details, in each case?

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**REPLY:**

Yes, the Department encourages the treatment of waste water to enable its further use for industrial, agricultural and even domestic purposes.

(a) Industrial

All industries are required to submit Integrated Water and Waste Management Plans for their facilities when they apply for water use authorisations. Industries are also encouraged to follow the Best Practice Guidelines developed by the Department.

(b) Agriculture

In agriculture, irrigation of land with waste or water containing waste is a controlled activity in terms of Section 37 (1)(a) of the National Water Act. As such, during the authorisation process, conditions with specific water quality standards and limits are applied. Guidelines for reuse of waste water sludge; which is a by-product of the waste water treatment process have also been developed.

(c) Domestic Purposes

The Department encourages the treatment of waste water to enable its future use for domestic purposes. In future, more re-use of waste water even for domestic use to potable standards will be necessary because of our scarce fresh water resources. Stringent safety processes will be incorporated into such treatment plants to safeguard public health as well as blending with fresh water.

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