



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 388 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2013/03/10

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 388

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 8 March 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 06)

388. Mr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any maintenance work is being performed by her department at the water channel flowing from the Gerhard Minne Fountainhead down to Potchefstroom; if not, why not; if so, (a) what type of maintenance is taking place and (b) how often is it performed;
- (2) what is the loss of water from the channel over the specified distance;
- (3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? NW536E

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REPLY:

- (1) The Department has maintenance staff at all its schemes to undertake the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure. The Gerhard Minnebron is part of the Mooi River Government Water Scheme. The staff complement on this scheme is sub optimal due to the request of the steering committee which was formed in the early 2000's to discuss the possible establishment of a Water User Association (WUA) to take over the operation and maintenance of the scheme. Unfortunately this WUA has not been established yet.
- 1(a) The Department realized that the maintenance on this scheme was not optimal over the last few years due to the staff shortage and has started an extensive rehabilitation project. The Department's construction unit is working at the scheme. Good progress is being made to restore the canal to an acceptable standard since the canals are over 50 years old. Chemical dosing is taking place when required to control algae growth which cause blockages.
- (2) The Lakeside Dam (Potchefstroom Dam) forms part of the conveyance system. The dam has its own catchment and with the current measuring facilities, it is impossible to determine losses out of the canal. This scheme has been in the fortunate situation that the dams have been constantly full for the last three years. Any "losses" saved in the canals will only flow over the dam wall downstream. I am not aware of any water users that have not received water due to losses caused by poor maintenance. It is possible that during very hot conditions, when all the water users request water at the same time, shortages will occur. The canal capacity is not able to service all demands simultaneously.
- (3) The Department is currently rehabilitating a number of irrigation schemes across the country. I do not foresee an individual statement being issued about Mooi River GWS. However, when applicable, a progress report on all the relevant rehabilitation projects will be issued.

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