



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NAS90

EdTM

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 590 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr L J Basson (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 07/10/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

MRS NP MOKONYANE  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 09.11.14

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### QUESTION NO 590

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 JULY 2014**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5)**

**590. Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) How many (a) water licence applications did Project Letsema receive in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013 and (v) 2014, (b) were approved in each year, (c) are still pending in each year and (d) were declined in each year;
- (2) is there a backlog in the processing of applications; if so, (a) why is there a backlog and (b) what steps has her department taken to resolve it? NW673E

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## REPLY:

- (1)(a) and (c) The number of water use license applications (WULAs) received by the Department over the years to 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 is summarised in Table 1 below.

	Totals to December 2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals
WULAs Received	3790	1004	642	625	147	<b>6208</b>
WULAs Finalised	3630	674	311	260	36	<b>4911</b>
WULAs in progress	<b>160</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1297</b>
Percentage composition per year						
% finalised	96%	67%	48%	42%	24%	79%
% in Progress	4%	33%	52%	58%	76%	21%
% distribution of WULAs in progress per year	12%	25%	26%	28%	9%	100%

As at June 2014, the Department had received 6208 water use licence applications. Of those received, 4911 have been finalised. The total applications submitted up to December 2010 is **160** and is still under consideration. The numbers for 2001 to 2010 are not disaggregated on a year by year basis.

(1)(b) and (d). The types of decisions arrived at over the period are given in Table 2 below.

**Table 2:** Summary of finalised WULAs from 2010 to 2014 and types of decisions

Status of Application	2010 and backlog	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Authorised issued	<b>2303</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3306</b>
WULAs declined or files closed due to lack of information in the applications	<b>1327</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1605</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3630</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4911</b>

- (2) There is a backlog in processing of water use authorisation applications which had accumulated in the Department as reflected.
- (2)(a) The backlog arises due to delays arising from submission of outstanding information by applicants, and the additional time required to conduct more rigorous technical analysis of complex water use applications coming into the Department in the face of scarce water resources in South Africa.
- (2)(b) The Department has instituted a two pronged process of tackling the applications. There is a dedicated team dealing with the backlog, priority applications, the complex and integrated applications whilst the regional office teams are dealing with other applications. The Department has therefore made progress in resolving the backlog. Overall 79 % of applications received have been finalised. The remaining 21 % are in various stages of assessment, at various ages from date of submission.

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