MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 579 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mrs S P Kopane (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:
(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 579

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5 NW523E

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 07 March 2011

Mrs S P Kopane (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1) What is the current status of the ban on driving on the beaches of St Lucia town in KwaZulu-Natal;

(2) whether any beach driving is permitted under certain conditions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Mrs S P Kopane (DA)
SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT
HANSARD
PAPERS OFFICE
PRESS
579. THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANSWERS:

1) The Regulations for the Control of Use of Vehicles in the Coastal Zone ("the Regulations") provide for a general prohibition on the public recreational use of vehicles in the South African coastal zone as a whole, although limited vehicle access is allowed by certain specific user groups, under strict conditions. With reference to St Lucia, the beaches in this area are under the jurisdiction of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, and as such are also subject to the conditions of the Park. Last Year the Park issued conditions in a record of decision with respect to vehicle use at boat launching sites and vehicle use in concession use areas within the Park, Vehicle use at St Lucia is restricted to the designated public boat launching site, using only the access control points to enter or exit the coastal zone, and staying within the launch site boundaries. The concession use area at St Lucia extends from the St Lucia on-ramp to 100 metres south of First Rocks, with access being only from the said on-ramp; vehicle use is restricted to a maximum of two concession operator vehicles at any one given time, and no self-driving is allowed by members of the public. It must also be noted that no quad bike use is allowed anywhere within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, and that the daily permit system for public vehicle access which previously applied to certain coastal areas within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park is no longer in operation.

2) In terms of the Regulations in general, no person may use any vehicle in the coastal zone, unless that use is (1) a permissible use under Regulation 4; (2) authorised in terms of a permit granted under Regulation 6; (3) within a boat launching site licensed in terms of Regulation 7; or (4) authorised in terms of an exemption granted under Regulation 20. Examples of permissible uses include (1) in an emergency situation in order to safeguard human life or health, property or any aspect of the environment; and (2) the use by an employee of any organ of state of any vehicle for the purposes of performing the public duties of that organ of state. The vehicle access permits can be granted for the following purposes: (i) carrying on a non-recreational activity in terms of a right, permit or exemption granted under the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998); (ii) scientific research (only by recognized institutions); (iii) carrying on a tourism business (only by accredited operators); (iv) accessing private property (provided there is no reasonable alternative access to the property); (v) producing an advertisement, feature film, still photograph or a television programme; (vi) access by a physically disabled person (who has
been certified by the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa); and (vii) carrying on an organised provincial or national recreational sport fishing competition (only if sanctioned by the South African Shore Angling Association). The only vehicle access permits granted to date at St Lucia have been to a Boat-Based Whale Watching operator in possession of an Marine Living Resources Act authorisation, and to a number of physically disabled persons (there are currently 19 valid permits in this category).

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