



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 841 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Ms N W A Mazzone (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR ALF WILLS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 841

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2015 {NW989E}

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 March 2015

Ms N W A Mazzone (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Is her department aware of the dune encroachment that is threatening the Kenton Bushmans River Mouth and estuary; if not, what will her department do with this information; if so, (a) what steps has her department taken in this regard and (b) what are the future plans to (aa) rehabilitate the area and (bb) mitigate the specified negative development?

841. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

The Department of Environmental Affairs was made aware of the issue at the Eastern Cape Provincial Coastal Committee held on 5 December 2014. Mr Chester Wilmott presented the matter at the Bushmans Estuary Forum meeting.

- (a) A meeting was held with relevant stakeholders and/or affected parties on 17 February 2015. The interested and affected parties who attended the meeting were provided with advice and inputs on how to deal with the matter. They were further advised to contact the municipality and the provincial department; and
- (b) it was decided in the meeting that the provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism should address the matter as the relevant competent authority and be responsible for issuing any necessary Environmental Authorisation.
- (aa) It is the responsibility of the competent authority (Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism) to facilitate and manage any necessary rehabilitation of the degraded area in conformity with provisions of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Act, 2008, particularly section 58 of the ICM Act that deals with the duty of care. However, the Department of Environmental Affairs (Branch: Oceans and Coasts) will continue providing support to provincial and local government in these efforts;
- (bb) An Environmental Authorisation or a Directive issued in terms of NEMA: Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 are the key tools available to the competent authority (Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism) to mitigate any potential environmental impacts from proposed developments.

---oOo---