



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 1691 {NW1899E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2021**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 04 June 2021**

**Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) What (a) are the full relevant details of the progress that has been made to achieve the resolutions of 6 August 2008 (details furnished) and (b) steps are currently being taken to implement the approved Vecon report;
- (2) whether her department has been working together with local authorities to implement the Vecon report since 2008; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**1691. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) (a) In 2014, the then Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), in conjunction with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) commissioned a feasibility study for the recommissioning areas to evaluate the most feasible and inclusive way of redistributing the areas and to ensure that recommissioning areas remained commercially productive and viable for ongoing forestry purposes. The study recommended that approximately 22 402 ha of the recommissioning area should be broken up into the following five (5) different packages: Boland plantation, Jonkersberg plantation, Bergplaas plantation, Homtini plantation and Buffelsnek plantation.

- (1) (b) The DAFF in 2016 appointed a Professional Service Provider (PSP) Jaymat Enviro Solution to conduct land rights inquiry to establish the rightful beneficiaries of the Western Cape recommissioning areas. The study was concluded in 2017.

In 2018, DAFF commenced with the process of organising the identified beneficiary communities to form community trusts that will in future represent communities on matters of beneficiation and management of the Western Cape.

In 2019, DAFF facilitated community meetings and workshops on trust deeds and the process of electing trustees. Unfortunately, DAFF could not complete this process prior to the restructuring on 1 April 2021, when Forestry migrated to the new Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). The process was re-initiated in in 2021. Currently, the process of appointing the Professional Service Provider is in its final stages. The tender has been advertised and the closing date is 15 June 2021.

In 2020, the DFFE took a decision to adopt a lease model as per the Vecon Study recommendations. This will be done through an open tender in line with Supply Chain Management policies. The tender process will provide an opportunity for strategic investors to express interest on four of the business packages identified through the IDC study. Successful strategic investors will form partnerships with community trusts identified through the land rights enquiry process.

- (2) No, the DFFE has not been working with Local Municipalities. DFFE is working with the Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum, which was established to represent the identified beneficiaries in the Boland and the Southern Cape.

**Regards**



**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE:** 18/6/2021