



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 357 {NW363E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2021

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

- (1) Whether the buffer zones pertaining to the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas which has been proclaimed as a World Heritage Site in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act, Act 49 of 1999, which also nominates and prescribes a buffer zone, have (a) shrunk and/or (b) been extended since proclamation; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) how and (ii) what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any buffer zones have been proposed on the urban edge; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there are any plans to reduce buffer zones; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the reasons?

357. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1)
 - (a) No, the buffer zones have not shrunk
 - (b) The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site (CFRPA WHS) including the buffer zones were extended in 2015 to a core of 1,094,742 ha of protected areas which includes thirteen (13) protected area clusters with a buffer zone of 798,514 ha.

- (i) N/A
- (ii) N/A

- (2) Not all urban edge areas have buffer zones, however, where no buffer zone is defined, other forms of buffering mechanisms have been considered, for example, spatial (Biosphere reserves, Stewardship sites, formal protected areas, Conservancies, declared Private Mountain areas, catchment Areas, other Protected Areas, Landscape Initiatives, range management areas, management systems, geographical features or elements etc.) and Non-spatial (Relevant legislation, Various formal planning tools regulating land use, Management Plans and Mainstreaming (information sharing with key/relevant stakeholders etc.).

Government is currently developing a National Policy on Buffering Mechanisms in order to guide buffering (including buffer zones which is one of the mechanisms to protect the outstanding universal value of the property).

- (3) There are no plans to reduce buffer zones. However, the development of the Environmental Management Framework of the CFRPA WHS which is currently underway will advise on the way forward.

Regards



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

DATE: 4/3/2021