



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 102 {CW193E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14 of 2017

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Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether her Department has a policy on environmental trade-offs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

102. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

No. The department does not usually use the term 'trade-off' because it is sometimes confused with compensatory measures that may have little, if any, direct environmental benefits. However, the department has developed and published a draft national biodiversity offset policy which deals with counterbalancing residual negative effects on biodiversity and ecological infrastructure resulting from an activity after every effort has been made to avoid, prevent, reduce, moderate, minimise and then rehabilitate the impacts of the activity. This draft policy was published in the Government Gazette (Gazette No. 40733, Notice No. 276) on 31 March 2017 for public participation for a period of 60 days.

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