



# forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 299 {CW307E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 May 2022

**Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether her department's waste management plans assisted previously disadvantaged communities with employment opportunities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

### 299. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA) and its Regulations enabled the creation of jobs.

#### Waste Sector Employment (2017 to 2021dec.)

Sector/Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Formal employment	71 606	70 752	79 786	110 055	54 899
Informal employment	59 636	52 964	76 165	59 900	56 235
*Other	3 339	2 849	5 897	-	7 220
	<b>134 581</b>	<b>126 565</b>	<b>161 848</b>	<b>169 955</b>	<b>118 354</b>
Industry/Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Recycling	35 137	27 681	24 962	21 016	16 014
Not Elsewhere Classified					
Waste and Scrap	42 760	43 850	66 310	86 109	39 845

<b>Waste Collection</b>	56 684	55 034	70 576	62 830	62 496
<b>Total</b>	<b>134 581</b>	<b>126 565</b>	<b>161 848</b>	<b>169 955</b>	<b>118 354</b>

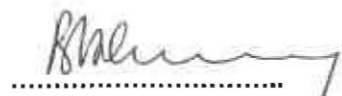
Source: Stats SA, QLFS 2017 to 2021

\*Other refers to employers and own-account workers aged 15 years and older

In a quest to protect South African citizens from the novel coronavirus, the lockdown resulted in a shock in the labour market and a big change in the way people went about doing their work. Due to Covid-19 lockdown and economic impacts, the sector has lost over 51 000 jobs between 2020 and 2021, of which most jobs lost where accounted to the formal sector losing over 55 000 jobs, while the informal lost just under 4000 jobs.

The DFFE has already started working with various producers to implement the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes (EPR) in 2022. The DFFE is expecting to have more jobs created and reported towards the end of the current financial year as part of the requirement from the EPR Regulations. The producers and producer responsibility organisations (PROs) are all compelled to report on the number of jobs created per annum from their EPR schemes.

**Regards**



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

DATE: 27/5/2022