



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 550 {NW606E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4 of 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 February 2021

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

- (1) Whether, in view of the interdict that was granted in September 2016 against SA National Parks (SANParks) and a certain forestry company (name furnished) when ahead-of-schedule felling commenced in the Tokai Cecilia Forest, Cape Town, SANParks has, in accordance with the judgement, held public engagement on the maintenance and creation of shaded recreational space in the Tokai and Cecilia areas of Cape Town; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether SANParks has held engagement and/or public participation processes on the matter; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (3) whether five-yearly reviews, as indicated in the Tokai Cecelia Management Framework have been conducted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether SANParks has engaged with the original applicant; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

1. No. SANParks has not held any public engagements or public participation processes on maintenance and creation of shaded recreational space in the Tokai and Cecilia Forest areas.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) The intended five yearly review of the 2009 Tokai Cecilia Management Framework (TCMF), with public engagement including the identified issues, was to be undertaken in 2015 but was delayed and postponed by various factors, during which time no review of the framework could take place:
  - Firstly, by the extensive 2015 central Peninsula fires burnt over 6 000 hectares of fynbos including 400 hectares of the upper and middle Tokai plantations.
  - Secondly, by the emergency post-fire priority harvesting of fire damaged plantation trees by the forestry company.
  - Thirdly, by the litigation against SANParks and MTO by Parkscape (2016 to 2018). During the litigation process, no public engagement could take place.

The commencement of the public engagement process was further delayed due to the Covid19 epidemic and its various lockdown stages and restrictions (from March 2020 to the present). SANParks considered the possibility of utilising on-line platforms to engagement with stakeholders, however this was not possible as not all of its stakeholders are privileged to have access to such platforms.

2. No public engagement or public participation processes have taken place.
  - (a) Not applicable
  - (b) Public engagements, including the identified issues, were to be undertaken in 2015. But they were delayed and postponed due to the various factors mentioned above, 2015 central peninsula fires, post-fire harvesting, and the litigation against SANParks by Parkscape.
3. The five yearly reviews of the Tokai Forest Management Framework have not been conducted. Since the court judgement in May 2018, no reviews have taken place. The organisation has studied the judgement and conducted proper due diligence with the aim of preventing the re-occurrence of challenges that arose before the court judgement. In addition, SANParks has engaged with the Department of Agriculture to get clarity on the applicable legislation, regulations and permits required for the planting of alternative indigenous trees to provide for recreational shade as proposed in the Framework.

4. Other than informing Parkscape about the delays in the Public Engagement processes and SANParks' intention to engage an independent facilitator to assist with the review process, there has been no engagement with Parkscape. SANParks is working on a comprehensive Stakeholder engagement strategy with the aim of ensuring proper engagement with all our stakeholders, including Parkscape. SANParks acknowledges that this is an area of underperformance.

As Minister I have written to the chairperson of SANParks to express my dissatisfaction with the manner in which stakeholder management is being undertaken in this regard.

**Regards**



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

DATE: 11/3/2021