



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)**

QUESTION NO. 358 {NW374E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2023

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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether she has put a policy in place for all government departments, especially the Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure and of Transport to use climate resilient construction techniques to mitigate the impact that sporadic floods could have on infrastructure; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published the National Climate Change Response White Paper in 2011 which provides guidance to sectors for coordinating a response to climate change. The sectors include Agriculture and Commercial Forestry; Health; Biodiversity and Ecosystems; Human Settlements and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

Furthermore, the Department developed the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in 2020 which provides overarching guidance to the following sectors: agriculture and forestry; coastal zones; health; terrestrial ecosystems; urban and rural settlements; and water resources. In this regard, all the departments inclusive of the Public Works and Infrastructure as well as Transport could use the policy frameworks developed to design tailor-made measures to address and/or mitigate the impacts of flood on the infrastructure.

The National Adaptation Strategy further highlights areas of action that need to be taken by sectors to increase physical infrastructure resilience and enhance adaptive capacity, and the Department of Public Works, Infrastructure and Transport have been explicitly mentioned in terms of building resilient infrastructure and enhancing adaptive capacity.

The Honourable Member is advised to get further details from the relevant Departments on their contribution to the plan.



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

DATE: 27/2/2023