



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. 774 {NW873E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 March 2023

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

(1) In light of the recent responses to allegations of sewage outfalls in Cape Town,

(a) what number of marine sewage outfalls are in the Republic?

(b) where are the specified outfalls located?

(2) whether all the outfalls are licensed and in the permitted regulations of the Coastal Waters Discharge Permit; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details:

(3) what is the total volume of sewage licensed to be discharged into the ocean?

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

(1)

- (a) According to a study commissioned by the department in 2015 (Status Quo of Effluent Disposal in South Africa), there are approximately 126 sea outfalls discharging various types of effluent (as an example, municipal and industrial effluent) into the coastal waters of South Africa. Of these, the largest proportion is in the Western Cape (64%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (17%), the Eastern Cape (13%) and lastly, the Northern Cape (6%).

The study found the following breakdown per coastal province:

Northern Cape = 7

Western Cape = 81

Eastern Cape = 17

KwaZulu-Natal = 21

As part of the study, a total of 62 outfalls have been identified as having received an authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation prior to the promulgation of the Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM), which empowers the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to issue coastal waters discharge permits for such marine outfalls.

- (b) The following table summarises the existing municipal discharges per coastal province, district municipality and discharge zone:

Province/ Municipality	District	Number	Estuary	Surf zone	Offshore
Western Cape:			25%	45%	30%
West Coast DM		3			
City of Cape Town		14			
Eden DM		8			
Overberg		9			
Eastern Cape:			10%	80%	10%
Nelson Mandela Bay		4			
Cacadu		4			

Buffalo City	3			
KwaZulu-Natal		57%	29%	14%
eThekweni	6			
Illembe	3			
Ugu District Municipality	5			

- (2) The department started issuing Coastal Waters discharge Permits (CWDPs) in 2015. Municipalities are at various stages of applying for permits. Some municipalities have permits in place whilst others have submitted renewal applications. The Coastal Waters Discharge Permit regulations promulgated in 2019 prescribed the information and specialist studies requirement by the department in order to reach a decision on applications received. In some cases, applicants, including municipalities, were requested to supply additional information in order for the department to make an informed decision.

The following table provides a summary on the permitting status of each municipal wastewater treatment work:

Coastal Province	Wastewater Treatment Works	Status of the application
Western Cape	Robben Island WWTW	Permit not issued, the department is awaiting additional information. The applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Greenpoint WWTW Outfall	Coastal Water Discharge Permit issued
	Camps Bay WWTW Outfall	Coastal Waters Discharge Permit issued
	Hout Bay WWTW Outfall	Coastal Waters Discharge Permit issued
	Llandudno WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. The applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Millers Point WWTW	Permit not issued, the department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run

		a Public Participation Process
	Simons Town WWTW	Permit not issued, the department is awaiting additional information. The applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Mitchell's Plain WWTW	Permit not issued, the department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Hermanus WWTW	Coastal Waters Discharge Permit issued
	Potsdam WWTW	The department is awaiting an application
KwaZulu-Natal	Wastewater Treatment Works	Status of the application
	eThekweni Municipality - Southern WWTW	Coastal Water Discharge Permit issued
	eThekweni Municipality - Central WWTW	Coastal Water Discharge Permit issued
	Kingsburg WWTW	Permit not issued, the department is awaiting additional information. An applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Umdloti WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Umkomaas WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Amanzimtoti WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. An applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process

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	Port Edward WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
	Scottburgh WWTW	Permit not issued, the Department is awaiting additional information. Applicant is required to run a Public Participation Process
EASTERN CAPE	Wastewater Treatment Works	Status of the application
	East and West Bank WWTW (Hood-point, East London)	Coastal Water Discharge Permit Issued
	Driftsand- NMBM WWTW	Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality WWTWs: the Department is awaiting specialist studies/reports in order to process the permit.
	Cape Recife -NMBM WWTW	
	Fish-water Flats -NMBM WWTW	

(3) Total volume of sewage licensed to be discharged into the ocean:

Provinces	Outfall Names	Discharge Volume (m ³ / annum)	Total volumes (m ³ / annum)
Eastern Cape	Buffalo City Municipality	6 692 123	6 692 123
Western Cape	Robben Island WWTW	223 000	
	Greenpoint WWTW Outfall	16 060 000	
	Camps Bay WWTW Outfall	2 007 000	

	Hout Bay WWTW Outfall	3 934 700	36 472 800
	Llandudno WWTW	114 500	
	Millers Point WWTW	730 000	
	Simons Town WWTW	1 679 000	
	Mitchell's Plain WWTW	9 024 600	
	Hermanus WWTW	2 700 000	
KwaZulu-Natal	Central WWTW	49 275 000	147 040 250
	Kingsburg WWTW	2 628 000	
	Umdloti WWTW	876 000	
	Umkomaas WWTW	730 000	
	Amanzimtoti WWTW	8 030 000	
	Port Edward WWTW	730 000	
	Scottburgh WWTW	821 250	
	Southern WWTW	83 950 000	
Total volume of sewage authorised to be discharged in the country			190 205 173



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

DATE:17/3/2023.....