

National Council of Province

Question No 701

Mr W A S Aucamp (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Whether the SA National Road Agency Limited will consider taking responsibility for the life threatening 34,8 km stretch of the R708 road between Winburg and Theunissen in the Free State (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what procedures to be followed in this regard and (b) which circumstances should be met for such consideration to be given effect?

CW801E

REPLY

The R708 road between Winburg and Theunissen is part of the 2819 km of Strategic and Primary roads in the Free State earmarked to fall under the jurisdiction of SANRAL, but to date has not been transferred to SANRAL.

- a) As per section 40 (1) of the SANRAL Act 7 of 1998 the Minister of Transport may declare any existing road to be a national road, but then only with the agreement of the Premier of the Province in which the road is situated.
- b) As indicated the R708 is already part of the 2819 km of Strategic and Primary roads in the Free State earmarked to fall under SANRAL, the only outstanding requirement is for the Premier of Free State Province to, in writing request the Minister of Transport for these roads (including R708) to be declared as national roads to fall under the jurisdiction of SANRAL. Once declared as national roads, SANRAL will be able to immediately assume maintenance responsibility of these roads.