

1313. Dr V Knoetze to ask the Premier:

With reference to the announcement that the provincial government is to establish a multidisciplinary team to drive the oceans economy in the province, which the Premier announced will “unlock investment bottlenecks”, “monitor delivery across the value chains of the blue economy” and noting that a study commissioned by the Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC) found that the oceans economy currently contributes about 5.2 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (R27.9 billion) and has the potential to create 1 million jobs by 2033:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1) Whether he can kindly provide the mandate and terms of reference of the multidisciplinary team, including (a) a complete list of members (industry leaders, academics, government officials) and their affiliations, (b) start-date and duration of the mandate, (c) budget allocation for the team’s operations and (d) performance targets (milestones) established at inception, especially those relating to (aa) job creation, (bb) investment mobilization and (cc) value-chain development;	ECSECC is still processing the recent pronouncement made by the Honourable Premier at the recently held Oceans Economy Symposium on the 28 th of October 2025. Once complete, the details of the implementation plan will be made available.
2) Whether he can kindly submit the methodology, baseline data and copy of the empirical study conducted by an academic (name furnished for the purpose of the reply), including (a) how the current 5.2 % GDP figure and the R27.9 billion value were	The Oceans Economy Empirical Study Methodology used quantitative modelling of the data from Stats SA, organised according to the System of National Accounts. The baseline period for the data was 2023. From the data modelling, a Satellite Account was constructed, which is a

<p>calculated, (b) detailed sector-by-sector breakdowns for (i) marine transport and manufacturing, (ii) offshore oil and gas, (iii) aquaculture and fisheries and (iv) marine tourism and coastal infrastructure;</p>	<p>comprehensive statistical profiling of particular industries disaggregated from the Standard Industry Classification. This methodology provides for a decomposition of data and nuanced quantitative understanding industries and sub-industries.</p>
<p>3) Whether he can kindly provide detailed historical data for the provincial oceans economy for the past five financial years i.e. (i) 2019/20, (ii) 2020/21, (iii) 2021/22, (iv) 2023/24 and (v) 2024/25, including (a) contribution to provincial GDP by value and by sector, (b) number of jobs (direct, indirect) in each sector, (c) level of investment (public vs private) mobilized and linked to coastal/marine projects and (d) identity of major investors and their contracts or agreements;</p>	<p>Qualitative research has been undertaken alongside the empirical study. This involved assessing each Oceans Economy project in the Eastern Cape, using information supplied by the various project champions. The study report is currently being generated and will be made available as soon as it is completed.</p>
<p>4) Whether he can kindly explain and substantiate the job creation potential claim of “a million jobs by 2033” including (a) supplying the calculation model showing how the number was derived, (b) outlining each job category (skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled) and where they will be located</p>	<p>The qualitative study referred to above will provide detailed breakdown of the jobs created per each project.</p>

<p>(coastal vs inland), (c) stating if any jobs have already been created to date under the oceans economy initiatives; if so, how many and (d) detailing the mechanism for tracking job creation and verifying that jobs are sustained;</p>	
<p>5) Whether he can kindly detail all funds committed or planned for marine and port infrastructure development, including the cited Transnet National Ports Authority commitment of R7 billion to the province and for each project can he kindly provide (a) project name, location, scope, (b) total budget, (c) funding source (provincial, national, private), (d) timelines for implementation, (e) current status and (f) anticipated employment and value-chain impact;</p>	<p>ECSECC is still finalising the report. Once the CAPEX information is complete, it will be made available.</p>
<p>6) Whether he can kindly provide a risk assessment and environmental-impact statement for the key sectors of the oceans economy that the province intends to promote i.e. (i) offshore oil and gas, (ii) aquaculture, (iii) marine manufacturing and (iv) marine tourism, including (a) environmental-licensing status,</p>	<p>No EIA information is available for all the projects assessed through the qualitative study. The variable was not included in the study.</p>

<p>(b) mitigation plans for marine pollution, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, (c) capacity of local institutions to monitor compliance and (d) strategy for community, youth and emerging operator participation in the value chain;</p>	
<p>7) Whether he can kindly provide quarterly performance reports for the oceans economy Secretariat within ECSECC for the past two years, including (a) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) such as (i) number of investment enquiries processed, (ii) number of projects approved, (iii) value of contracts signed, (iv) jobs created and (v) Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME)/enterprise empowerment metrics, (b) actual vs target performance, (c) audit findings (if any) and (d) any corrective actions taken for under-performance or delays;</p>	<p>Reports of the Oceans Economy secretariat are part of the Annual Report.</p>
<p>8) Whether he can kindly clarify the governance, oversight and accountability framework for the multidisciplinary team and the broader oceans economy initiative, including (a) reporting lines to the Legislature, (b) whether an independent external</p>	<p>ECSECC is still processing the recent pronouncement made by the Honourable Premier at the recently held Oceans Economy Symposium on the 28th of October 2025. Once complete, the details of the implementation plan will be made</p>

<p>review or audit has been mandated, (c) mechanisms for public disclosure of results and outcomes, (d) sanctions or corrective mechanisms for non-performance or undue delays and (e) how stakeholder engagement (especially coastal communities) is monitored and factored into decision-making;</p>	<p>available.</p>
<p>9) Whether he can kindly provide a detailed local beneficiation and community participation plan linked to the oceans economy strategy, including (a) targeted procurement and enterprise-development targets for historically disadvantaged groups and coastal communities, (b) number and value of contracts awarded to local SMMEs, (c) training and skills pipelines established to enable youth and women to access the emerging industrial marine economy;</p>	<p>The information is currently not available as it needs to be sourced directly from implementing champions and agencies and will be made available once received.</p>
<p>10) Whether he can kindly explain how the province intends to guard against value-leakage and speculative investment hype, by providing (a) benchmarks against other comparable coastal provinces or countries with developed blue economies, (b)</p>	<p>The Eastern Cape Oceans Economy Secretariat participates in the national Oceans Economy Secretariat where benchmarking exercise on similar projects from other maritime provinces will be undertaken.</p>

<p>evidence of realistic baseline assessments of local industrial capacity and marine infrastructure, (c) cost-benefit analyses of key proposed projects showing return on (i) investment, (ii) social inclusion and (iii) sustainability rather than mere headline job numbers and (d) how lessons learned from past delays and under-performance in the province's economic programmes are being applied to this oceans economy initiative?</p>	
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