



TO : HANSARD AND HOUSE BUSINESS
FROM : MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
SUBJECT : RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS 171 OF IQP 6 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

171. Mr L Kruger to ask the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

With regard to directives issued in terms of Section 53 and 151 of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) to municipalities:

QUESTION(S)	RESPONSE(S)
1. How many (a) notices and (b) directives were issued to the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) in response to non-compliance with the above-mentioned Act for the current administrative term of the Council;	(a) The municipality has received Eleven (11) Notices of Intention to Issue a Directive in terms of National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 during the current council administration. (b) The municipality received One (1) Directive in terms of National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 during the current council administration.
2. with regard to (1) above, what are the (a) specific directives and (b) conditions of each for the BCMM;	(a) The Directive was issue to the municipality on 09 October 2024, regarding continuous overflow of sewage in manholes at Pefferville, KuGompo. The directive issues were as follows: <i>Put measures in place to avoid, manage and ultimately stop the continuous overflow of raw sewage from the manholes at Pefferville, East London, which is currently polluting the unknown tributary of the Buffalo River within fourteen (14) working days of receipt of this directive.</i> <i>Undertake corrective measures to ensure that there are no recurring manhole spillages in the area within fourteen (14) working days of receipt of this directive.</i> <i>Undertake clean up measures and rehabilitate the affected areas including the receiving water resource within</i>

	<i>fourteen (14) working days of receipt of this directive.</i> <i>4. Provide an action plan within fourteen (14) working days of the receipt of the directive indicating actions to be taken to prevent recurring spillages. The written corrective Plan of Action (PoA) must further specify measures, infrastructure improvements, system operating progress materials, and any other relevant aspects that will address all the non-compliances identified.</i> <i>5. The action plan must also include taking samples of the nearby water resources (the unknown tributary of Buffalo River with GPS Co-ordinates S33.008548, E27.885691) to determine the extent of the impact caused by the continuous sewage spills.</i> <i>6. Appoint a suitably registered professional to compile a Rehabilitation Plan for all the areas affected within thirty (30) working days upon receipt of the directive which must be submitted to the DWS for recommendation. The Rehabilitation Plan must entail amongst others; the nature and extent of the impact that the pollution has had or may have on the water resource and measures that will be implemented to remediate or mitigate the impacts with clear timeframes and descriptions of how and when each remedial/mitigation action will be implemented.</i> <i>7. The Rehabilitation Plan must further indicate the cost estimates of the entire rehabilitation process.</i> <i>8. Implement all the recommendations contained in the Rehabilitation Plan and rehabilitate the areas affected by the water uses within thirty (30) working days of the DWS approval of the Rehabilitation Plan.</i>
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- (b) While the municipality has a maintenance team attending to sewage spillages from manholes in Pefferville, sewage spillages in the area are still persistent, due to primarily two reasons.

The first reason relates to the high density in the area, resulting from uncontrolled backyard dwellings and informal settlements. The high number of backyard dwellings and informal settlement result in more flows to the sewers than they were originally designed for. In some instances, a property designed for a single household can be occupied with up to six different households, all connected to the sewer designed for the single household, resulting in the sewer being prone to frequent blockages. In addition, there is generally poor workmanship on some of the sewer connections, resulting in even more blockages, as some are connected in opposite direction of the sewage flow.

The second result relates to high levels of vandalism of manholes for salvaging of steel reinforcement. This results in open manholes attracting foreign objects, with ultimate blockage of the manhole. In some instances, foreign objects are intentionally dumped to the sewers resulting in frequent blockages.

The municipality is working on a long-term plan of dedensification of Pefferville, through the Duncan Village Redevelopment Initiation. This long-term plan, however, has not been achieved as yet due to non-availability of land for relocation of communities prior to development and for funding constraints for both purchase of privately owned land and development costs.

	Therefore, Pefferville remains one of the municipal areas negatively affected by frequent sewage spillages.
3. with regard to (1) above, how many directives have (a) successfully been attended to and (b) how many are still outstanding;	As indicated above, the Directive related to Pefferville has not been fully addressed. The municipal maintenance team stationed in the area attends to sewage blockages daily. A permanent long-terms solution is dedensification of Pefferville and redevelopment of the sewerage system in the area.
4. with regard to (1) above, how much has been utilized in rands and cents, to address these directives;	Attendance to sewage blockages and periodic replacement of damaged manholes and manhole cover is addressed through daily municipal operation and maintenance budget, such that it is not easy to specifically reduce this a value at this stage.
5. how much in rands and cents is still required to ensure that any outstanding directives are addressed?	The value cannot be established as yet, as indicated above.