

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

HON. JANE COWLEY, MPL



B. Sc.(Stellenbosch) HED (UNISA)
M. Ed (Mathematics) (Rhodes)
Shadow MEC Health
Deputy Shadow MEC DEDEAT
Portfolio Committee in Finance
Chairperson: Provincial Fundraising Committee



Cell phone: 072 903 5038

Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho

E-mail: fishwifec@gmail.com
jcowley@ecleg.co.za

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Attention: The MEC for COGTA

Dear Hon Nqatha

Re: State of Molteno Sewage Pumps

On a recent oversight visit to Molteno. I was horrified at the state of the sewage systems in the town. In several areas of the coloured community, pumps have sewage bubbling out of them as they have burnt out. These pumps were never replaced when the sewage plant was upgraded in 2014, and they are not powerful enough to pump sewage up to the plant.

As a result, the residents, and particularly learners from the local school, have to walk through raw sewage to get to the school building. Furthermore, the sewage then flows into the Stormbergwaterspruit, which is the only source of fresh water in the town for stock to drink from. This water is then used to irrigate crops further down the valley. The water was tested three years ago, and already then was deemed completely unfit for use.

The failure of the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality and the Chris Hani District Municipality to take any action to either mitigate or rectify the situation in all this time is an indictment on local government. I trust that you will ensure that the matter is resolved speedily in order that the dignity of the residents and learners in the area is restored and that the enormous health risks associated with living alongside raw sewage are removed.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Jane Cowley MPL