

MILESTONES IN MOTION

2019-2024

WESTERN REGION



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANRAL



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“While recognising SANRAL’s outstanding and world-class work, there is one aspect of SANRAL’s operations that goes almost unnoticed. SANRAL transforms lives. SANRAL provides optimism. SANRAL invigorates. SANRAL facilitates a new future. SANRAL constructs vital infrastructure connecting communities, municipalities and villages.”

**Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport**

About this publication

‘Milestones in Motion’ embodies SANRAL’s commitment to propelling South Africa forward and leaving its mark on the road to progress. Over the past five years, the Agency’s flagship projects have redefined infrastructure, turning aspirations into realities across the nation.

Beyond bitumen and concrete, SANRAL’s initiatives have also brought tangible change. By empowering small businesses and fostering inclusivity, particularly among previously disadvantaged groups, SANRAL has become a catalyst for socio-economic transformation.

As we navigate towards a future defined by progress, this publication serves as a testament to our journey of building not just roads, but avenues of opportunity and bridges to a more equitable and prosperous South Africa.

Q&A

with Regional Manager **Randall Cable**



Looking back over the past five years, what are some of the accomplishments that make you proud when it comes to enhancing infrastructure and improving roads in the region?

In the Western Cape, the upgrade of the N7 has been a significant milestone. It remains a ‘work in progress’ as the region continues to upgrade and improve the N7 beyond the projects that have already been completed. Over the past five years, the region has spent well over R3 billion on upgrades. The R600 million current upgrade of the N7 between Malmesbury and Moorreesburg is well on track, having just passed the halfway mark of the three-year project. Beyond that, between Piketberg and Piekensklouf, the project has been advertised and is under evaluation.

In the Northern Cape, three intersections that all cross the R31 coming into Kimberley – on the N12 from Hopetown, the N8 from Griekwastad and the R357 from Douglas – were identified for upgrades, with a particular view to reducing the number of serious and fatal vehicle crashes, and ultimately improving safety for all road users.

The construction of the R100 million bridge on the N12 over the Orange River was another engineering feat. What was once a 9.3m-wide, single-carriageway bridge, with a pedestrian sidewalk lacking handrails, is now an impressive structural masterpiece with a width of 15.4m. The project has significantly increased the capacity of the N12 as a major industrial and commercial artery between the Northern Cape and particularly the Western Cape.

Winning an award for engineering excellence is always a notable achievement, and the Olifants River Bridge on the N7, which received a Fulton Award in 2019, was certainly no exception.

What specific hurdles has the region encountered in developing infrastructure, and how were they overcome to keep pushing ahead with delivery?

Meaningful stakeholder support and buy-in has been a challenge in some of our projects, with risks of project stoppages. Misinformation and isolated rogue entities with alternative agendas have often informed this narrative. A concerted effort to make sure that project liaison committees (PLCs) are properly constituted, and that PLC members understand the role and scope of their involvement, has contributed significantly towards addressing this challenge. We continue to see increased community involvement in our projects. We also actively cultivate cooperative governance relationships with other spheres of government to ensure a unified effort in serving South Africa’s road users.

Which projects have truly benefitted local communities? How have these initiatives improved connectivity and contributed to the region?

From enhancing infrastructure to facilitating access to workplaces, schools, healthcare and recreational destinations, large conventional projects undoubtedly impact millions of road users. Yet it is the smaller community development projects that hold a special significance here. A simple road safety initiative for Tselancho Intermediate School in Tzaneen Village, Kuruman in the Northern Cape where speed reduction was implemented and rumble strips installed in 2020 – proved pivotal enough that the school principal felt compelled to write a letter of gratitude to SANRAL.

Another example is a R1.4 million learnership programme conducted as part of the N7 upgrade in Malmesbury in 2019, aimed at uplifting the community and addressing youth unemployment. The programme saw 22 learners receiving certificates for completing their NQF Level 3 and NQF Level 4 training in various construction disciplines. Many of the participants went on to pursue further gainful employment opportunities what drivers licenses issued N2, femald contactors on N7, etc.

The slope stabilisation project in Mossel Bay also made a significant impact in the local community, including the creation of many youth employment opportunities. Young people were also supported in obtaining their driver’s licences, showcasing SANRAL’s dedication to comprehensive community development.

What’s the roadmap ahead? What are the main goals for raising the bar for road infrastructure and ensuring the wellbeing of communities?

The upgrade of the N1 from Old Oak to Worcester and as far as Laingsburg is a major priority for the Western Region. The N1 has surpassed its intended lifespan and requires immediate upgrading. The upgrade of the N2, especially along the Garden Route, is not only creating substantial economic benefits but also addressing pressing issues related to mobility and road safety, particularly amid the escalating demands on the road network. We remain steadfast in our commitment to investing in innovation and technology, with a particular emphasis on leveraging technology to enhance road safety.

YEARS OF IMPACT

2017

2018

2019

2020

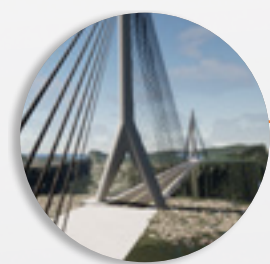
2022

2023



MARCH

SANRAL wins ISSA Award for Excellence for its Freeway Management System in the Western Cape.



FEBRUARY

Construction begins on the ground-breaking Msikaba Bridge in the Eastern Cape.



MAY

Upgrade to the Hammasdale Interchange on the N3 reaches completion.



DECEMBER

SANRAL's Engineering 4.0 research facility opens its doors at the University of Pretoria.



DECEMBER

Polokwane Eastern Ring Road opens to traffic.



OCTOBER

State-of-the-art Huguenot Tunnel lighting upgrade completed in the Western Cape.



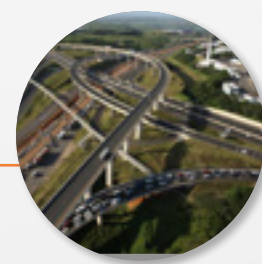
MARCH

SANRAL receives a Batho Pele Service Excellence and Innovation Award for excellent service delivery.



SEPTEMBER

R216m Montrose Interchange on the N4 in Mpumalanga opens to traffic.



OCTOBER

R1.14bn Mount Edgecombe Interchange in Durban officially opens.



OCTOBER

Olifants River Bridge in the Western Cape wins Fulton Award for excellence in concrete construction.



SEPTEMBER

R377m Pamponnek Road opens in the North West.



OCTOBER

First N3 package between Dardanelles and Lynnfield Park valued at R1.48bn commences.



DECEMBER

International Road Federation presents SANRAL with a 'Global Road Safety Award' for outstanding commitment to safer roads.



OCTOBER

R640m Musina Ring Road opens to traffic in Limpopo.



NOVEMBER

R375m Karino Interchange project on the N4 in Mbombela reaches completion.



2022/2023

SANRAL invests R7.2bn in road infrastructure in the financial year.



MAY

N3 Ashburton Interchange project breaks ground.

Flagship project

> Huguenot Tunnel



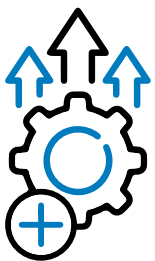
The Huguenot Tunnel is a marvel of engineering managed with precision and dedication by SANRAL over the past 25 years under SANRAL. As the custodian of this vital transportation link between the Western Cape and the interior of South Africa, SANRAL ensures seamless operation and continuous improvement.

The Agency's commitment to safety and efficiency is evident in the ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the tunnel's South Bore. SANRAL has invested around R426 million in road safety and operational upgrades over the last five years.



Completed upgrades at a glance

- New variable message signs and LED road signs to improve communication with road users
- Mechanical dampers in the tunnel ceiling for swift smoke extraction
- Replacement of 6,000 light fittings with LED lights to save electricity
- Replacement of switch-gear that regulates the electrical current in the tunnel



New upgrades on the horizon

- Transparent wind barriers on the Hugo's River Viaduct to reduce the risk of trucks overturning
- Sensors for air quality, traffic conditions and lighting conditions
- Intelligent lighting control
- Wind turbines next to the tunnel entrances to reduce energy demand
- Intelligent, distributed jet fan ventilation system for optimal fresh air supply
- An additional high-level reservoir to supply ample water for fire emergencies



“SANRAL has invested significantly in road safety and operational upgrades at the tunnel and plans are currently at the design stage for the construction of a second tunnel, which will bring the Huguenot Tunnel in line with international standards.”

Reginald Demana,
SANRAL CEO



A R4bn project upgrade is set to change the Huguenot Tunnel from a single, bi-directional tunnel to two separate carriageways, each in single-directional tunnels. Using the latest technology, the upgraded dual tunnel will greatly improve the efficiency of traffic on the N1.



Flagship project

A story of impact: Huguenot Tunnel



“ I have inspected progress on improvements to the Huguenot Tunnel, the longest road tunnel in Africa. These are examples of engineering excellence right here in South Africa, and I am immensely proud of what SANRAL is doing. ”

Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport



3.9 KM

Longest road tunnel in Africa



13,000

Daily vehicle traffic



26 MIN 15 MIN

heavy vehicles light vehicles

Travel time savings



31.1 MILLION

Travel hours saved since 1988



5.5 MILLION BARRELS

Estimated fuel saved to date



24/7

Ventilation and vehicle monitoring



R426 MILLION

Spent on upgrades over the past 5 years



R4 BILLION

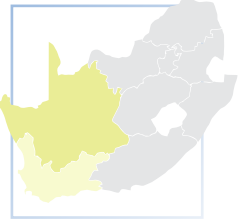
Cost of commissioning the future North Bore



“ The Huguenot Tunnel is one of South Africa's most iconic structures. We look forward to collaborating with SANRAL to deliver a safe, aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive and modern road tunnel. ”



SMEC South Africa,
engineering consultants
for the commissioning of
the North Bore



Flagship Projects

From the cities, mountains and dorps of the **Western Cape** to the arid landscapes and red dunes of the **Northern Cape**, SANRAL's Western Region spans some of the country's most scenic routes. By strategically linking these diverse landscapes, our flagship projects create vital corridors that not only facilitate seamless travel experiences but also act as catalysts for regional economic prosperity.

1 Huguenot Tunnel

The Huguenot Tunnel near Cape Town is a marvel of engineering managed with precision and dedication by SANRAL. The Agency has invested around R426 million in road safety and operational upgrades to date. See page 4 for more on these ongoing upgrades.

2 N7 Malmesbury upgrade

The R600 million upgrade of the N7 between Malmesbury and Mooresburg involves widening a 25km stretch of road and the construction of additional climbing lanes to create more passing opportunities.

3 Thembalethu Bridge upgrade

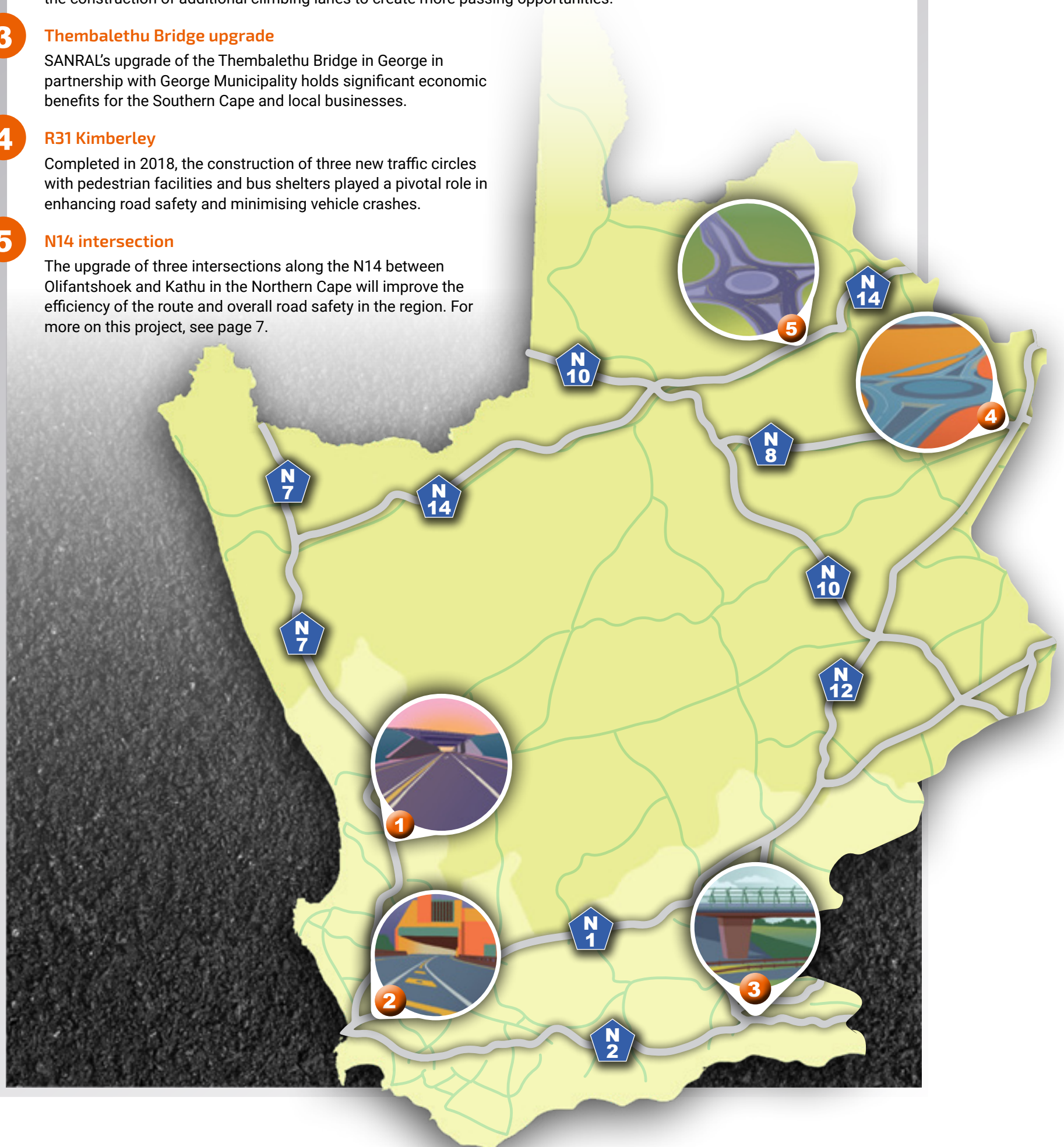
SANRAL's upgrade of the Thembalethu Bridge in George in partnership with George Municipality holds significant economic benefits for the Southern Cape and local businesses.

4 R31 Kimberley

Completed in 2018, the construction of three new traffic circles with pedestrian facilities and bus shelters played a pivotal role in enhancing road safety and minimising vehicle crashes.

5 N14 intersection

The upgrade of three intersections along the N14 between Olifantshoek and Kathu in the Northern Cape will improve the efficiency of the route and overall road safety in the region. For more on this project, see page 7.



Flagship project

> N14 roundabouts in Kathu



The town of Kathu in the Northern Cape, though relatively small, has experienced significant growth in mining activity, leading to a notable surge in freight traffic. This has given rise to concerns regarding mobility, traffic flow and road safety in the region.

Amid the Northern Cape government's intensified focus on industrialisation, especially with the advancing Kathu Industrial Park, the upgrade of the three intersections along the N14 between Olifantshoek and Kathu emerged as a critical imperative.

Recognising the strategic importance of this stretch of the N14 in facilitating regional industrial growth, SANRAL launched a comprehensive R60 million project to upgrade the intersections. The incorporation of roundabouts into the design is key to enhancing mobility, optimising traffic flow and bolstering road safety in the area.

The upgrades are expected to yield significant improvements in both the efficiency of transportation and the overall safety of the road network. They are also designed to accommodate vehicles carrying abnormal loads, which require a wider turning circle than regular traffic. As construction nears completion, the final phase involves the application of asphalt overlays.

The successful execution of this upgrade project not only aligns with the evolving needs of a growing town but also reflects SANRAL's commitment to facilitating safe and efficient transportation solutions in support of regional development.



Roundabout safety

Roundabouts have become a preferred intersection design in many regions worldwide.

- Geometric design encourages lower speeds
- Continuous traffic flow reduces risk of high-speed, right-angle collisions
- Reduced stops and starts lead to lower fuel consumption



“The economic impact of these road safety upgrades to the intersections on the N14 cannot be understated.”

Friedl van der Merwe,
SANRAL Project Manager

Flagship project

A story of impact: N14 roundabouts in Kathu

Infrastructure plays a vital role in shaping the Northern Cape's evolving economic landscape, acting as the backbone for development and progress. Beyond the physical structures, SANRAL's initiatives serve as a catalyst for job creation, skills development and community empowerment. This approach aligns with President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for infrastructure development to spearhead the country's post-COVID economic recovery.



90

Local labour opportunities



11

Subcontractors engaged



7

Suppliers engaged



R13 MILLION

Spent on subcontractors and suppliers



“ SANRAL provided training to the subcontractors and all their employees, and we could see the improvement in the quality of their work. Jobs and skills transfer for youth and women have been prioritised. ”

Friedl van der Merwe,
SANRAL Project Manager

Flagship project

Championing transformation: N14 roundabouts in Kathu

Transformation is at the core of SANRAL's operations, and every effort was made to ensure targeted enterprises were afforded the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the upgrade of the N14 intersections.



Kenny Raseroka

Subcontractor, Raseroka Projects

For Kenny Raseroka, the work opportunities provided by SANRAL on the project have been key to improving his company's Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) grading, which is crucial for contractors looking to expand their business and compete effectively in the industry.

"Our scope of work is mainly on excavation. This project has given my company a major economic push and we are now looking at upgrading from a 1CE to a 2CE or even 3CE. This is really one of those projects that came to our region and unlocked opportunities and growth."

He also highlights the ability to involve more local labour when workload increases. "When we have more work, we can take on more of the local labour force, which really does make a difference within the community."

James Mongake

General worker

James Mongake, a versatile general worker trained as a flag person, linesman and traffic control operator, has gained vital hands-on experience on the project.

"I was unemployed before, but now I've received training and can work with my hands. I've learned so much and can now apply for other jobs with the training I got here."



Ipeleng Giyemi

General worker

Ipeleng Giyemi, a Kathu local, has directly experienced the positive impact of SANRAL's upgrades and the resulting job creation. As part of the local labour cohort, she is employed as a flag person on the project. The work opportunity has provided a critical source of income for her young family.

"This is my first job. It has changed my life because I have a little one and now I can provide. I have been trained and gained valuable experience."



Empowering through education



SANRAL recognises the pivotal role of education in shaping a sustainable and thriving South Africa. Its initiatives in this area over the past five years have been marked by a deliberate shift towards greater inclusivity and more comprehensive impact.

The shift can be clearly seen in the Agency's Scholarships and Bursaries Programme. While civil engineering remains a key focus, policy changes have facilitated the inclusion of learners across more diverse disciplines.

Bursaries are targeted towards deserving applicants who meet the requirements in a range of fields relevant to SANRAL's core business, from human resources and environmental science to law, electrical and electronic engineering, computer science, mechatronics, and many others. In the past reporting year, the Agency also expanded its educational reach beyond 'traditional' universities to include tertiary institutions considered 'previously disadvantaged'.

In a concerted effort to address gender disparities in the built environment industry, SANRAL has increased awards to female applicants, actively working towards greater gender representation.

The SANRAL Scholarships Programme extends support to high school learners from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, irrespective of their chosen subjects. The recently implemented Scholarships Policy underscores the commitment to inclusivity.

In addition to bursaries and scholarships, SANRAL also runs the Technical Excellence Academy (TEA), which has been instrumental in shaping the professional landscape. With a comprehensive five-year training programme, real road design projects and dedicated mentors, the TEA has contributed to the accelerated development of 121 engineers to date, with 53 candidates actively in training.

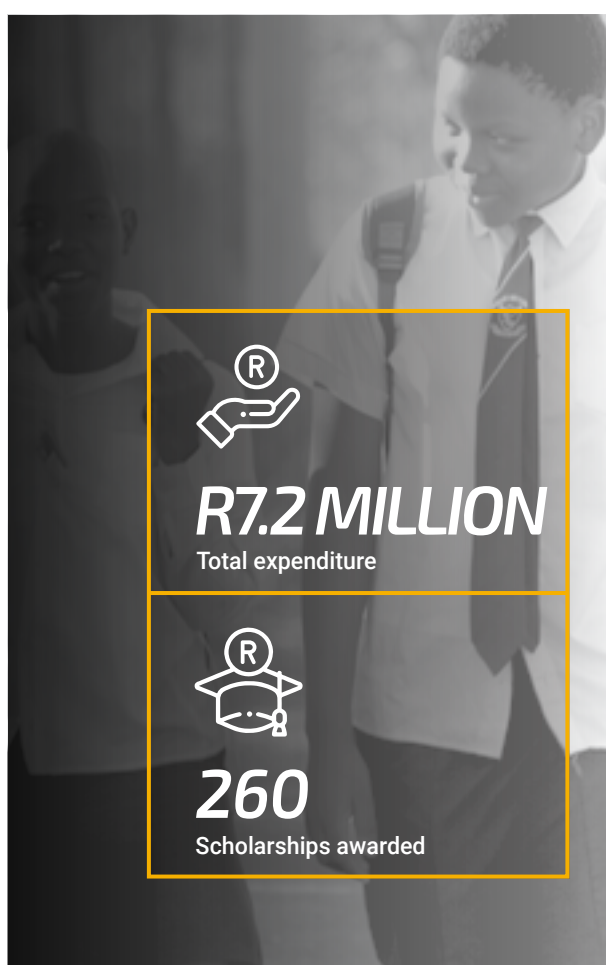
SANRAL's collaborative partnerships with universities across South Africa not only support innovation and research excellence but also contribute to talent development in science, technology and engineering, reinforcing the Agency's role as a catalyst for progress and knowledge-sharing.

Through its extensive educational initiatives, SANRAL is not only building technical expertise but also nurturing a diverse and skilled workforce for the benefit of the nation.

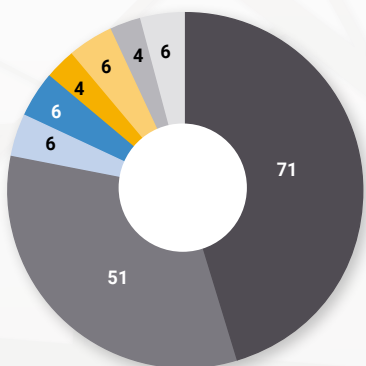
Bursaries in 2022



Scholarships in 2022

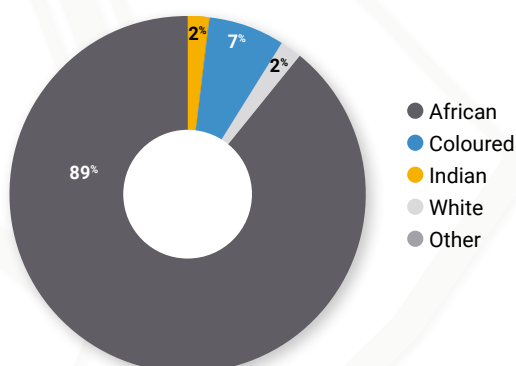


Number of bursary recipients in 2022 by population group



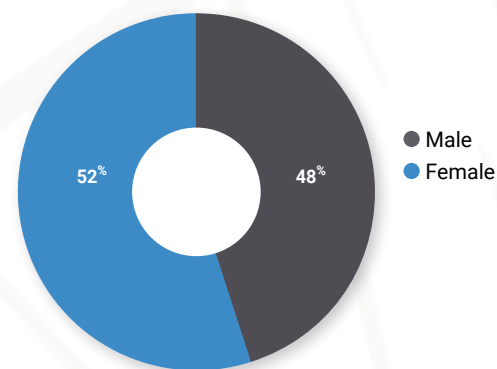
- African female ● African male
- Coloured female ● Coloured male
- Indian female ● Indian male
- White female ● White male

Percentage of scholarship recipients in 2022 by population group



- African
- Coloured
- Indian
- White
- Other

Percentage of graduate engineers by gender



- Male
- Female



From bursary to mastery: Naashif Mowzer's success story

Naashif Mowzer's journey from a SANRAL bursary recipient to becoming a project manager at the Agency is a testament to his determination and to SANRAL's efforts to open doors for talented youth in the roads industry. After enrolling at the prestigious University of Cape Town for a BSc in civil engineering, Mowzer faced financial hardships in a single-parent household. A full SANRAL bursary proved to be a turning point in his academic journey. With newfound motivation, Mowzer's performance soared, earning him distinctions and accolades.

After graduation, he was placed on a significant infrastructure upgrade project on the N7 in Malmesbury, allowing him to gain valuable experience. He continued to sharpen his skills at the Technical Excellence Academy (TEA), before his journey led him back to the SANRAL Western Region office. Today, he takes charge of diverse engineering projects, from road maintenance to construction, showcasing his expertise and dedication.

Engaging for impact



In the realm of road infrastructure, effective stakeholder engagement is vital. Establishing communication and collaboration with communities, local authorities and other affected groups helps to prevent conflict, streamlines project execution and ensures a more inclusive approach to project planning.

Over the past six years, SANRAL has significantly reshaped its approach to stakeholder engagement, spurred on by the introduction of its Horizon 2030 strategy in 2017. This shift represented a notable departure from the Agency's previous practices.

Before Horizon 2030, this area of SANRAL's work lacked a coherent strategy, leaving project managers and engineers without a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder needs. Engagement often took the form of a reactive response to emerging issues, resulting in project interruptions and contractual penalties. The significance of engaging with communities and stakeholders early and often became increasingly apparent.

Horizon 2030 marked a major turning point, establishing 'Stakeholders' as one of the pivotal pillars in SANRAL's strategic framework. The Agency adopted a more systematic approach, including the identification, mapping and engagement of diverse stakeholders. International standards and benchmarks, notably the AAA1000 Stakeholder Standards, became guiding principles.

All of SANRAL's projects are now guided by a 14-Point Plan that prioritises community engagement and SANRAL's Transformation Policy, with the goal of advancing women, youth, people with disabilities and Black contractors. A project liaison committee (PLC) is established for each project to facilitate communication, subcontracting and procurement.



The impact of these changes has been apparent on projects like the Thembalethu Bridge upgrade in George, a collaborative venture between SANRAL, George Municipality and the Department of Transport. This partnership highlights the importance of robust engagement practices in ensuring project success and delivering substantial economic benefits to the Southern Cape.

With 30% of the project spend earmarked for targeted enterprises, the upgrade has presented huge opportunities for start-ups and emerging small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). Communicating these opportunities has been a central focus.

A meticulous process of engagement with relevant stakeholders has ensured that SMMEs are well-equipped and capacitated to tender for the various work packages on the project. Special attention was paid to setting up the PLC, ensuring that the PLC members are able to effectively convey project information to diverse communities across George.

As SANRAL drives the project closer to the expected completion date at the end of 2024, its stakeholder engagement efforts are helping communities to recognise that road infrastructure not only connects places but also serves as a conduit for shared economic benefits and prosperity.

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WHO'S STIMULATING OUR ECONOMY?

Looking at the 44 898 work opportunities created, and the 5 920 individuals trained over the last 5 years: **We Showed Up.**

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