

# Western Cape Municipal Brief

07 December 2022

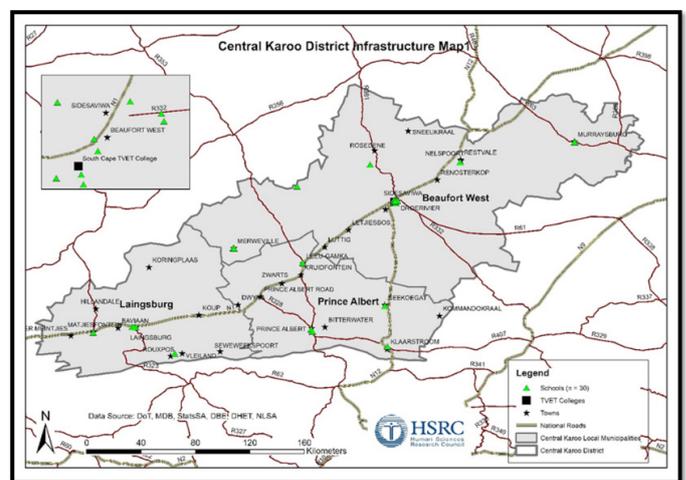


## Results of the Central Karoo's Innovation Mapping

Innovation is the engine of growth and development. Thus, the urgent need for development in South Africa calls for an increase in innovative activities. As part of the Karoo Small Town Regeneration (STR) initiative, the Department of Science and Innovation commissioned the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to conduct innovation mapping in the Karoo region across the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, and the Free State. The innovation mapping is designed to assist municipalities and other local economic development actors to plan for innovation driven inclusive economic growth.

On 28 November 2022, SALGA together with the HSRC hosted the Central Karoo Innovation webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to share the results of the innovation mapping conducted in the Central Karoo through exploring the extent of innovation infrastructure, and the nature and patterns of innovation actors.

Mr Phila Dyandyi led the webinar through outlining that innovation infrastructure, which includes basic infrastructure, education institutions and ICT networks. The map shows the geographical distribution of innovation infrastructure in the Central Karoo district of the Western Cape.



**Map:** Geographical distribution of innovation infrastructure

Mr Dyandyi said that the road infrastructure is relatively good in the Central Karoo. However, many artillery roads require upgrading and others require construction especially in and near the indigent areas of the local municipalities. Many of the smaller towns have poor to non-existent road infrastructure and are located in far distances from Beaufort West. He further mentioned that most municipalities scored 2 on a scale of 0-3. “These results indicate that innovation is clearly defined and emphasised in the Central Karoo,” said Mr Dyandyi.

Furthermore, there is also a prioritisation of innovation-driven local economic development

in resource allocation within the municipality. Municipalities are the local champions of innovation-led change. Therefore,

It is important that science, technology and innovation driven approach to policy decisions and actions; and

A participatory knowledge and skills transfer process be adopted within municipalities.

Innovation mapping will also be undertaken within other municipalities that are part of the Karoo region. These results will then be used to inform the development of the Karoo Innovation Strategy.

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