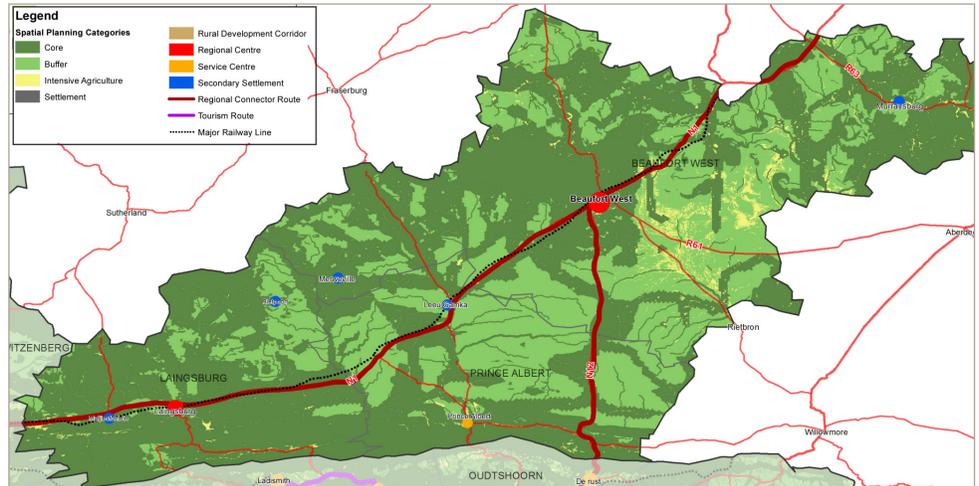
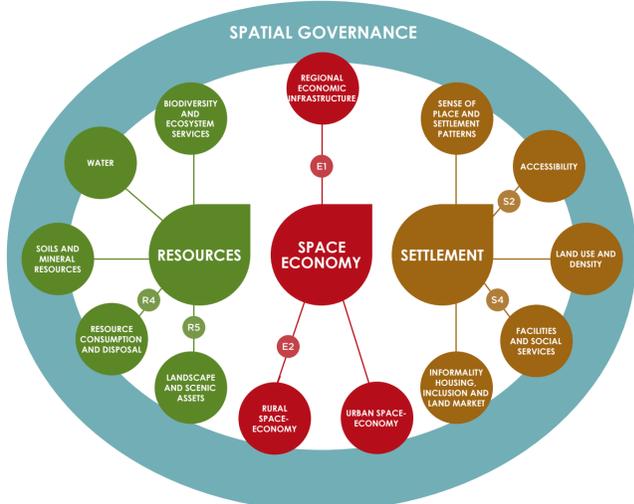


# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSDF IN THE CENTRAL KAROO

The **PROVINCIAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, 2014 (PSDF)** is the common spatial reference framework for delivering on the Province's strategic development priorities, individually and collectively. It guides the location and form of public investment of national and provincial departments as well as municipalities in the natural and built environment, ensuring that the returns on these investments are consistent with the Province's development objectives.

Area wise the Central Karoo is the largest district in the Western Cape Province. This invariably means that distances between settlements are vast. The total area of the District covers approximately 30% of the total area of the Western Cape and is sparsely populated. The district comprises of Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Laingsburg Municipalities, with Beaufort West as the primary regional service centre.

The diagram below depicts the three spatial themes underlying the PSDF and their associated elements, supported by spatial governance. Although many of the policy statements are interrelated, statements reflected on this poster is deemed the most relevant to the **Central Karoo District**.



## THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE PROVINCE'S ASSETS

The Western Cape's cultural and scenic landscapes are significant assets that underpin the tourism economy but are being incrementally eroded and fragmented. This is no different for the Central Karoo.

Between the Swartberg Mountain range in the south of the Great Karoo and the Nuwveld Mountains, which form part of the 'Great Escarpment' to the north, lies an extensive plain known as 'Die Vlakte'.

Given the pre-historic nature of the Central Karoo, the area is of great palaeontological interest (fossils), as well as archaeological sites, such as at Nelspoort, near Beaufort West. Matjiesfontein and the isolated Gamkaskloof have Provincial Heritage Site status.

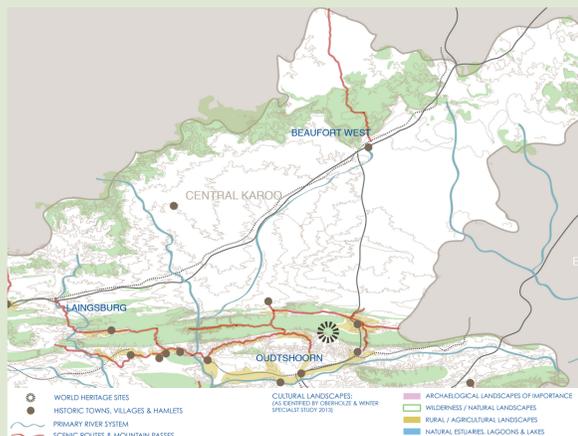
Mountain passes and 'poorts' of scenic and heritage significance include the Swartberg, Gamkaskloof Pass, Meiringspoort, Seweweekspoort and Molteno Pass in the Nuwveld range. The Karoo National Park near Beaufort West is a protected landscape, incorporating the Great Escarpment.



Karoo National Park Fossils



Meiringspoort



## SAFEGUARD CULTURAL AND SCENIC ASSETS R5

Priority focus areas proposed for conservation or protection include landscapes under pressure for large scale infrastructural developments such as wind farms, solar energy facilities, transmission lines and shale gas development in the Central Karoo.

The Province has a small emergent sustainable energy sector in the form of wind and solar generation facilities located in the more rural, sparsely populated areas.

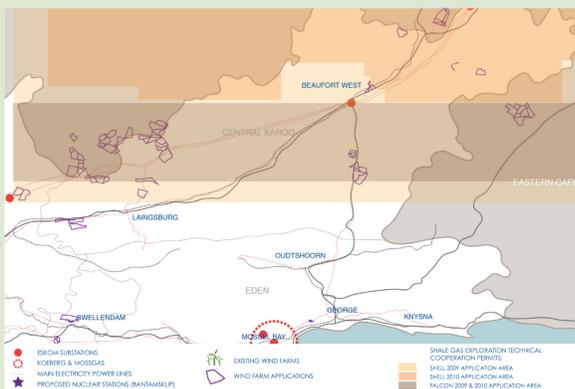
The results of shale gas prospecting in the Karoo Basin could significantly change the Province's energy mix, and introduce new land and water use pressures in a sensitive arid environment.

## ENERGY R4

Support emergent Independent Power Producers and sustainable energy producers (wind, solar, biomass and waste conversion initiatives) in suitable rural locations.

## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Encourage and support renewable energy generation at scale.



## DEVELOPING INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

There are many isolated and declining settlements in the Central Karoo and these continue to be marginalised by distance and transportation costs.

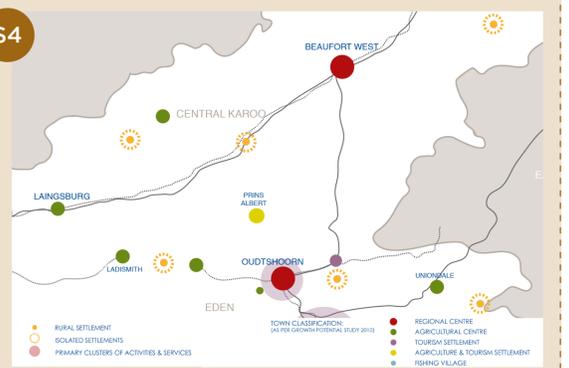
## IMPROVE INTER AND INTRA-REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY S2

- Strengthen functional linkages between settlements and larger towns, with specific attention given to introducing rural transport systems such as an Integrated Public Transport Network in the rural regions. Promote the upgrading of existing rail infrastructure.
- Roll-out The Western Cape Government's Green Economy and broadband programmes as new technologies offer the prospects of making living in and working out of rural towns and villages more attractive.

The equal distribution of services across an extensive area such as the Central Karoo is not achievable, especially in areas with low density, scattered settlements.

## BALANCE AND COORDINATE THE DELIVERY OF FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES S4

- Invest in regional service centre towns to support and integrate with the rural hinterlands, prioritising investment in housing, health and education in these towns rather than dispersing investment to villages and hamlets.
- Use ICT and periodic social services to reduce the need for rural dwellers to travel to services.



## OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPACE ECONOMY

In terms of regional economic infrastructure, the challenge to establish rail as the dominant mode of freight movement, introduce viable public transport systems, and transition to a 'greener' economy remains difficult. Escalating risks to the Provincial space-economy include: climate change and its impact on economic activities, particularly agriculture; water deficits; and energy and food insecurity.

The demand for infrastructure in the Western Cape is determined by the rate of economic growth and the nature thereof. The reality is that the Central Karoo, the Province's largest district, is sparsely populated and contributes less than 2% of GDP.

## USE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO LEVERAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH E1

- Use off-grid technologies when the upgrading of infrastructure is required in small towns with no apparent growth potential.
- Prioritise remote rural areas, small towns and low income urban areas for the roll-out of broadband.

Agriculture is going through a difficult transition period with its traditional export market in recession, escalating pressure on operating margins, more stringent international and national compliance requirements, and instability in the labour market.

The rural space-economy agenda is not only about agricultural development, it is also about broad based agrarian transformation, diversifying rural economic activities, tourism, government promotion of rural development and land reform programmes, and functional ecosystems.

## DIVERSIFY AND STRENGTHEN THE RURAL ECONOMY E2

- Extend current rural livelihood support programmes to cover a wider range of activities and build a broader rural skills base. Target future support to settlements that are stagnating or situated in a remote rural area. Use broadband technology to extend the programme's coverage and align with Thusong Centres.