

Notice of the intention to declare the Karoo and the Sutherland Central Astronomy advantage areas

The Minister of Science and Technology intends to declare the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas and the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area in terms of section 9 of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act (Act No.21 of 2007). Two notices and draft declarations will be published in the Government Gazette simultaneously to provide for the following:

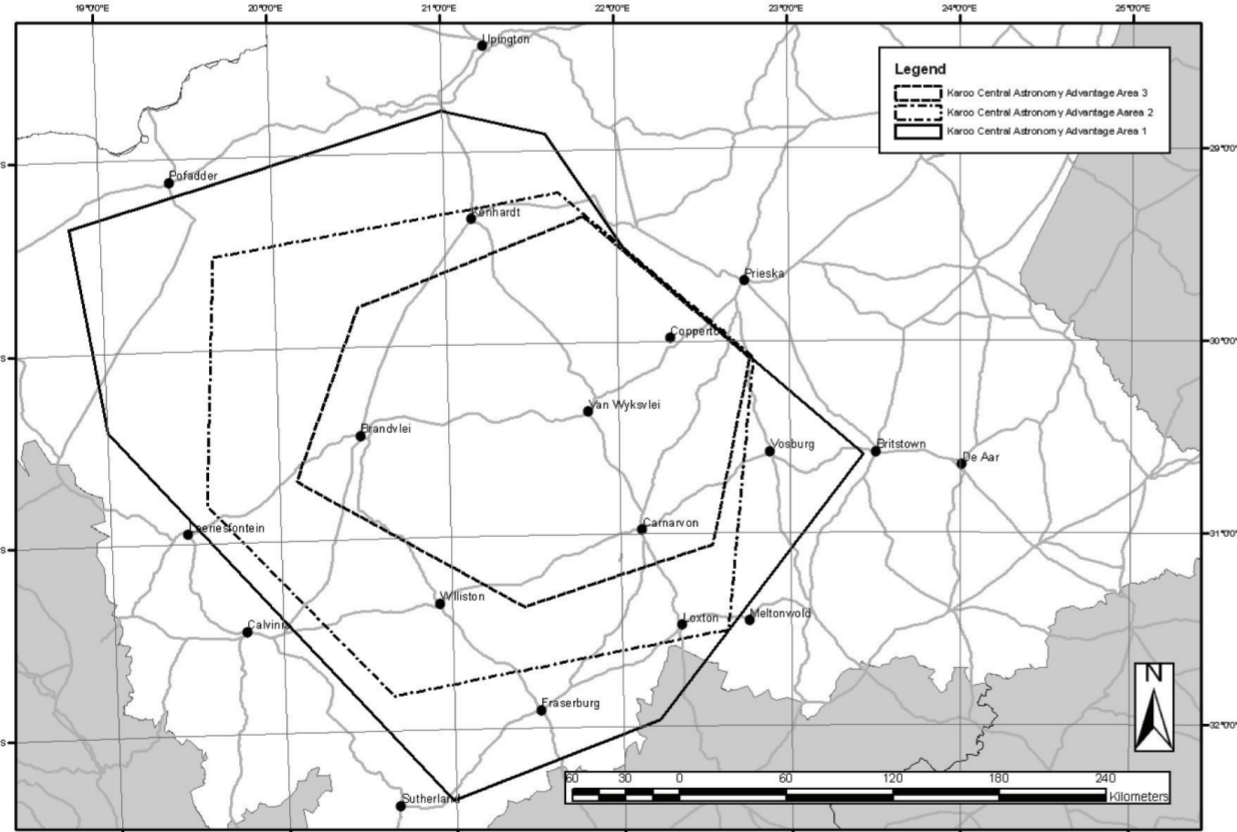
1. Notice of the intention to declare the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas to be used for radio astronomy and related scientific endeavours.
2. Notice of the intention to declare the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area to be used for optical astronomy and related scientific endeavours.

The areas to be declared are depicted in the maps shown below. Although there would be some overlap between the Karoo areas and the Sutherland area, the use of the areas will be quite different and would be subject to different protection criteria.

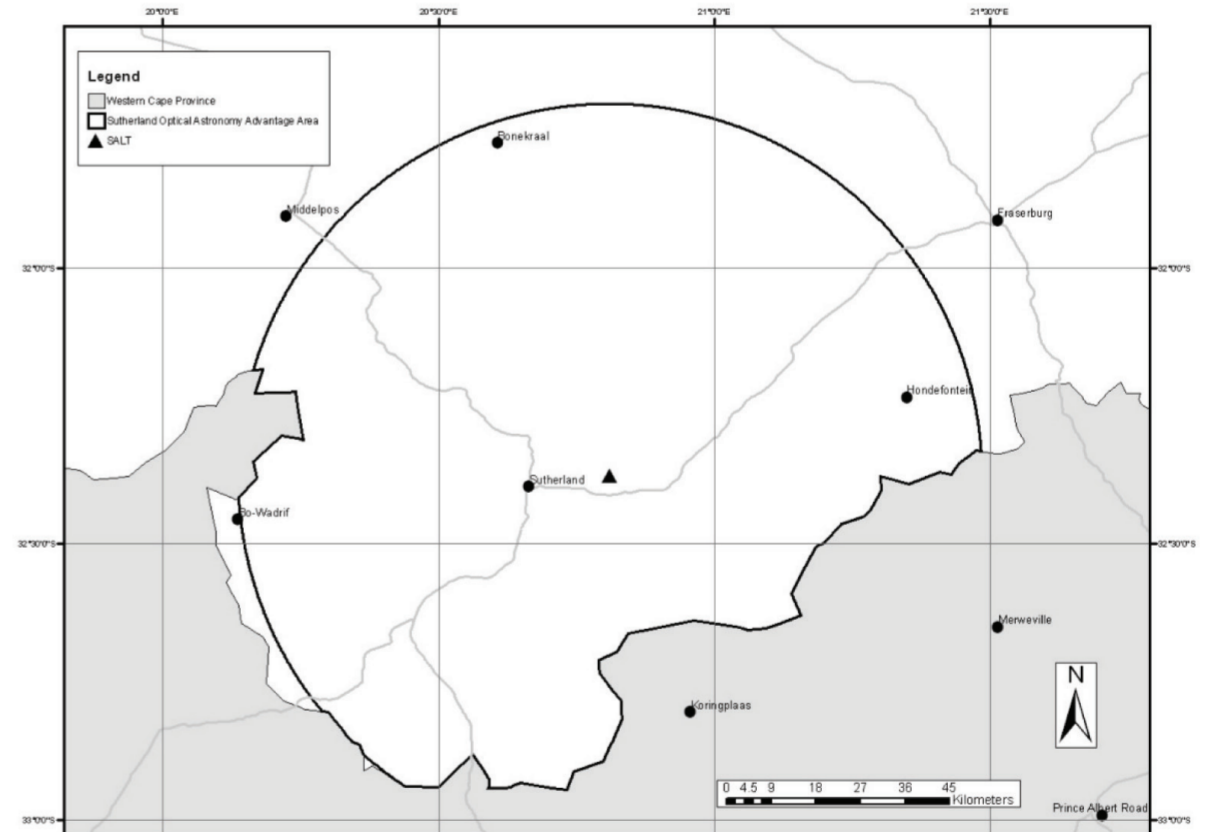
As required by the Act, the Minister is conducting a public participation process. This process includes the distribution of registered letters addressed to private landowners within the areas to be declared that contains a copy of the proposed notice and declaration with an explanatory information document included. The address list was compiled with information obtained from the local authorities. If any private landowner within the areas to be declared has not received the registered post by 18 February 2013, that person should download the relevant documents from the internet website www.dst.gov.za, or call Ms Lipuo Mothae at 012 843 6463 or email to lipuo.mothae@dst.gov.za, to provide an address to which a registered letter could be sent.

The public participation process includes lawful occupiers of the land within the areas to be declared. Such persons may also request documents to be provided.

A part of the public participation process is the compilation of a permanent register of interested and affected parties for the areas to be declared. Registered persons will be consulted when protection regulations are made at a later stage. Invitations to register have already been published in the Government Gazette twice in 2010 but will be included in the registered letter. The invitation is still open but will close by 28 February 2013 in order that the register may be compiled. Additions or amendments may be made after the closing date.



Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas 1, 2 & 3 intended to be declared



Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area intended to be declared



science
& technology

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA