



## **TRANSNET INVESTIGATE METHODS TO PREVENT DAMAGE CAUSED BY SEVERE WEATHER PATTERNS**

**[Johannesburg; 18 February 2021]** In an effort to improve customer service, Transnet SOC Ltd ("Transnet") is investigating methods to deal with unpredictable and severe weather patterns, which have negatively affected the railway network recently.

Increased changes and unpredictability in the weather patterns dictates that improved measures be implemented to avoid damage to railway network and the broader port infrastructure.

Freight Rail, one of Transnet's operating divisions, has experienced disruptions in the past weeks, related to the damage caused by excessive rain following the Eloise cyclone.

The heavy-haul line including the iron-ore and the manganese channel experienced unusual disruptions to its operations due to a number of wash-aways incidents.

Wash-aways occur when there is sudden heavy rains, which scours away the base of the railway track leaving the rail, and sleepers hanging without any support. This can lead to derailments or serious incidents.

TFR has had to shut down a number railway lines to repair and replace culverts, used to allow water to be channelled in one direction. Such unplanned train stoppages results in volume losses and negatively affects our customers.

As part of preventative measures, TFR will conduct topography and hydrological surveys in all areas susceptible to heavy rains, of which its outcome are incorporated into the shutdowns that occur annually.

TFR also carries out inspections governed by the manual for infrastructure condition assessments (MICA). This occurs at least twice a year before winter and summer and ensures that the culverts are cleaned of any debris, vegetation and blockages before heavy rains. Another measure involves physical inspections of railways using trolleys- a small rail vehicle.

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