

Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager Releases Draft Network Statement Version 4 for Public Consultation

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Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM) has published the Draft Network Statement Version 4 (NS V4) for public consultation on the TRIM website, inviting rail industry participants and interested stakeholders to help shape the next phase of South Africa's rail access framework.

The publication marks another important milestone in the implementation of South Africa's rail reform programme and reinforces TRIM's commitment to a transparent, fair and non-discriminatory approach to managing access to the national rail network.

The NS V4 was developed in support of Government's rail reform agenda and is aligned with the National Rail Policy, 2022 and the Economic Regulation of Transport Act, 2024. The reforms seek to strengthen competition, encourage private sector participation, improve the utilisation of rail infrastructure and build a more efficient, sustainable freight logistics system.

The NS V4 is the primary document governing access to South Africa's national rail network. It sets out the commercial, operational and regulatory framework, together with the requirements and processes that apply to parties seeking access to the rail infrastructure. It provides the transparency and certainty needed to support informed participation in an evolving open access rail environment.

Stakeholder engagement is central to developing a practical and effective Network Statement. The consultation process provides an opportunity for industry participants to share their experience, expertise and perspectives, helping to ensure that the final document reflects regulatory best practice, operational realities and the shared objective of a modern, efficient rail network.

The DoT will invite rail industry stakeholders and any interested persons to submit written comments on the TRIM's draft NS V4. A copy of the NS V4 and Annexures t can be downloaded at <https://www.transnet.net/TRIM> and comments are requested by 24 July 2026 as per the published Government Gazette. The DoT will convene a Feedback Session, which will be held on Tuesday, the 21st of July 2026 from 10h00, and the venue will be communicated on the Department of Transport website.

TRIM values the contribution of all stakeholders and looks forward to working together to deliver a Network Statement that strengthens transparency, regulatory certainty and investment confidence, while supporting a safe, efficient and commercially sustainable rail network that advances South Africa's economic growth and logistics competitiveness.