

● Regional government  
in  
South Africa

**The spotlight  
on region**



**PROPOSAL TO THE  
COMMISSION ON REGIONS**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE DEMARCATION OF**

**REGION F**

**AS A**

**REGION/PROVINCE/STATE**

**IN A**

**NEW CONSTITUTIONAL DISPENSATION**

**PROPOSED BY**

**THE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS**

**OF**

**LOWVELD AND ESCARPMENT**

**HIGHVELD**

**OOSVAAL**

**ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF**

**THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL**

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## 1. PROPOSAL FOR THE DEMARCATION OF EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION

The proposal of the Eastern Transvaal as a region is based on the boundaries of Development Region F as demarcated in 1975 which, inter alia, includes the Self Governing Territories of Kangwane, the Mhala district of Gazankulu and the Bushbuck Ridge area of Lebowa. The latter two areas were excluded from Region F by the National Physical Development Plan of 1984.

In addition to this one other magisterial district (Delmas in the west), parts of two other magisterial districts (Soutpansberg and Phalaborwa in the north) as well as a small number of farms of the Nigel magisterial districts in the south should be included. These areas form part of the three Regional Services Councils situated in the Eastern Transvaal.

With reference to the above it must be placed on record that Delmas has requested to be included in the Eastern Transvaal as it has functionally been part of this region for a number of years. So has the management of the Kruger National Park indicated that the park as a whole should form part of the Eastern Transvaal as it is part of the Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council. From a functional point of view the park should not be divided between two regions. Furthermore its head office is situated at Skukuza which has always been part of Region F.

What follows is a detailed description of the proposal.

### DESCRIPTION:

#### 1 REGION F:

All magisterial districts

1.1 Sub Region 26 (Coincides with the area of jurisdiction of the Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council excluding Kangwane):

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Lydenburg             |
| 2 | Pilgrim's Rest 1      |
| 3 | Pilgrim's Rest 2      |
| 4 | Witrivier             |
| 5 | Nelspruit             |
| 6 | Barberton             |
| 7 | Nsikazi (Kangwane)    |
| 8 | Kamhlushwa (Kangwane) |

1.2 Sub Region 27 (Coincides with the area of jurisdiction of the Highveld Regional Services Council)

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 9  | Witbank        |
| 10 | Middelburg     |
| 11 | Groblersdal    |
| 12 | Belfast        |
| 13 | Waterval Boven |

1.3

Sub Region 28 (Coincides with the area of jurisdiction of the Oosvaal Regional Services Council excluding Kangwane):

- 14 Bethal
- 15 Standerton
- 16 Hoëveldrif (Secunda)
- 17 Balfour
- 18 Ermelo
- 19 Amersfoort
- 20 Volksrust
- 21 Wakkerstroom
- 22 Piet Retief
- 23 Carolina
- 24 Kriel
- 25 Eerstehoek (Kangwane)

1.4

Mahla area of Gazankulu

1.5

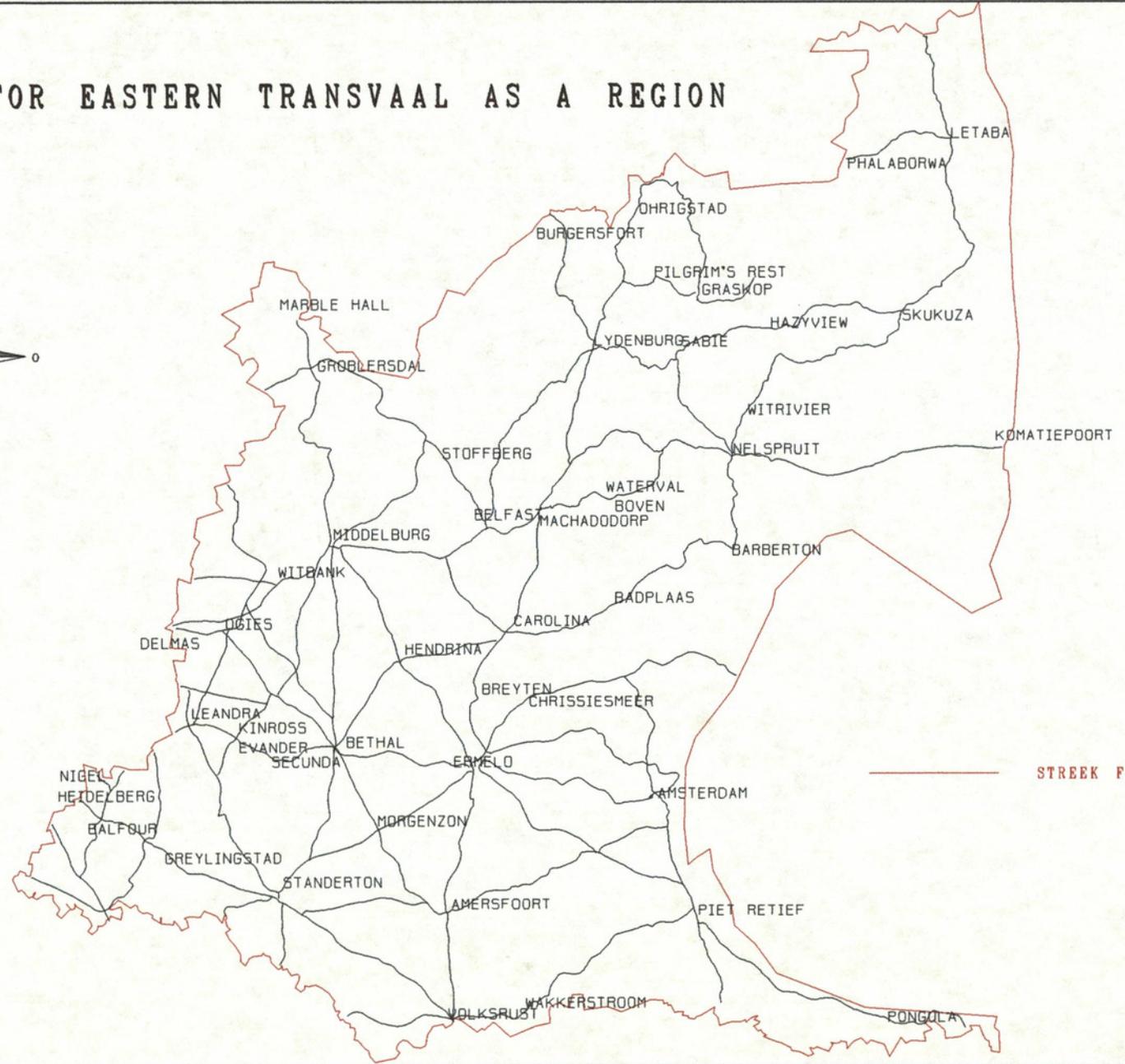
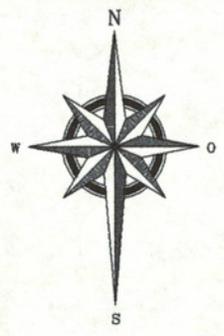
Bushbuck Ridge Area of Lebowa

# PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION

EASTERN TRANSVAAL IN RELATION TO THE REST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

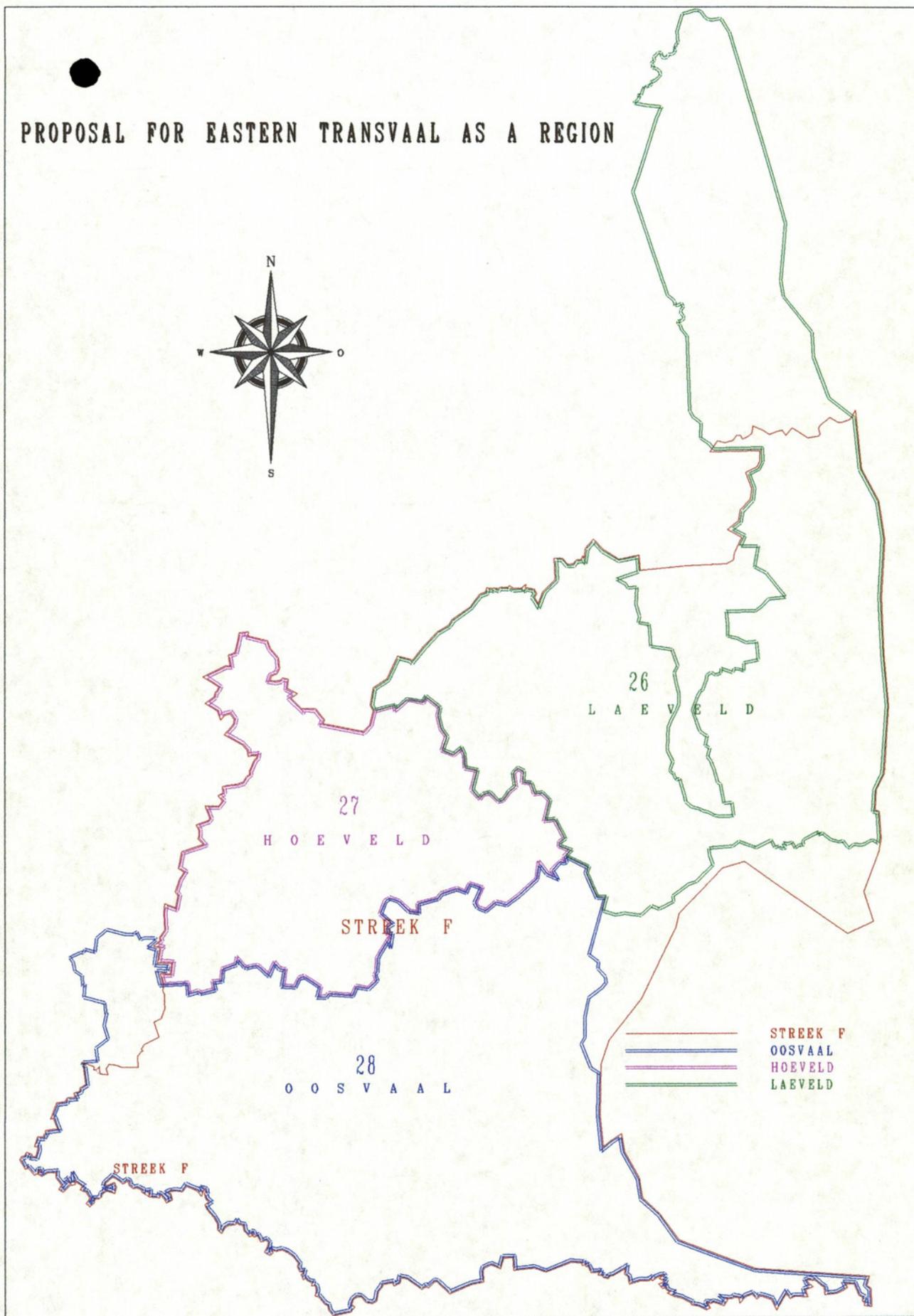


# PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION



STREEK F

# PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION



**THE BOUNDARIES OF THE THREE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS OF THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL**

**5**     **DESCRIPTION: MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS IN THE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS AREAS**

1             Sub Region 26 (Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council):

1	Lydenburg
2	Pelgrimsrus 1
3	Pilgrim's Rest 2
4	Witrivier
5	Nelspruit
6	Barberton
7	Nsikazi
8	Phalaborwa (Part of)
9	Soutpansberg (Part of)

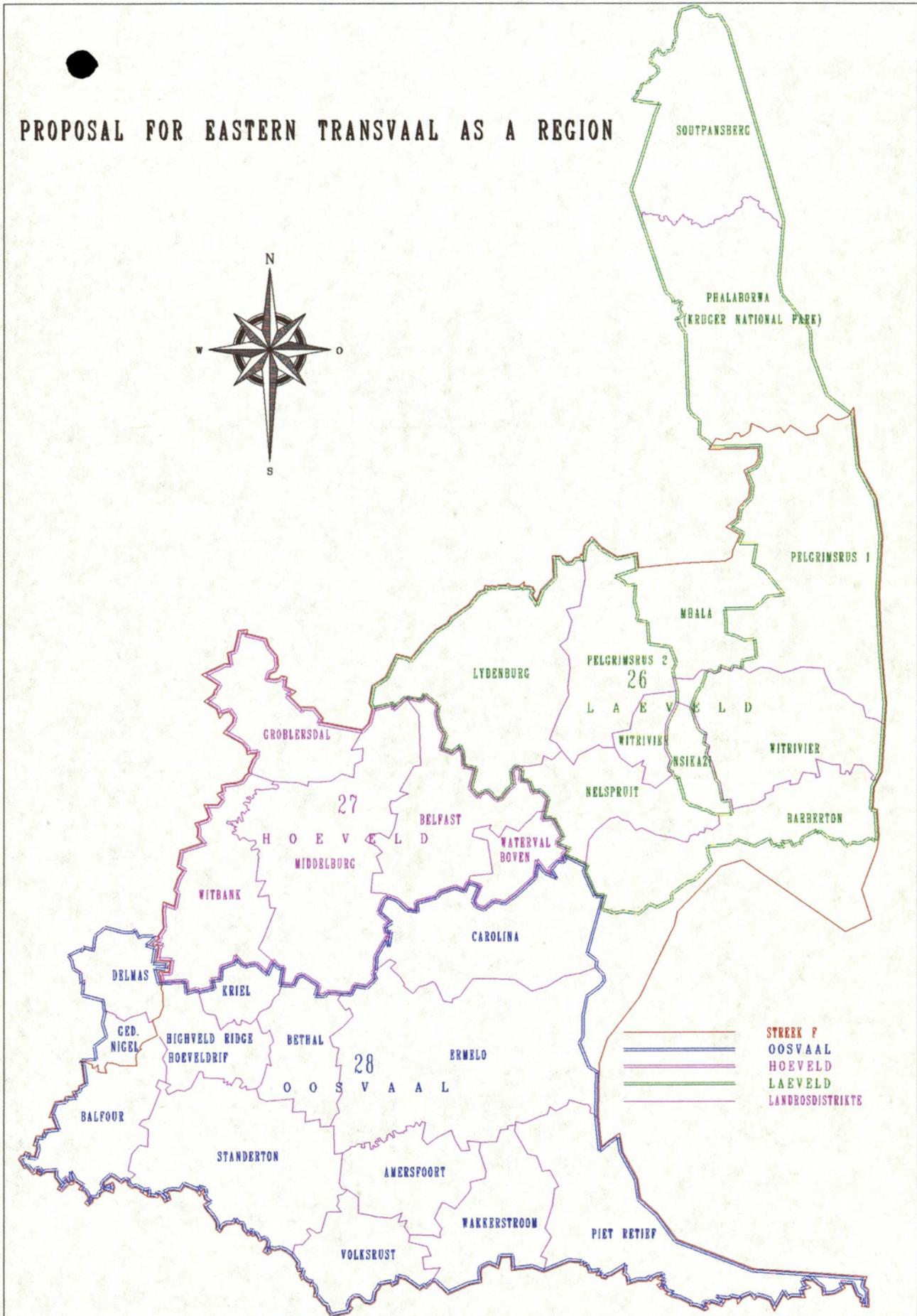
2             Sub Region 27 (Highveld Regional Services Council)

10	Witbank
11	Middelburg
12	Groblersdal
13	Belfast
14	Waterval Boven

3             Sub Region 28 (Oosvaal Regional Services Council)

15	Bethal
16	Standerton
17	Hoëveldrif (Secunda)
18	Balfour
19	Ermelo
20	Amersfoort
21	Volkstrust
22	Wakkerstroom
23	Piet Retief
24	Carolina
25	Delmas
26	Nigel (part of)
27	Kriel

# PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION



**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS IN THE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS AREAS**

7 **THOSE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS NOT IN REGION F BUT BEING PART OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS. THESE ARE:**

7.1 **LOWVELD ESCARPMENT REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Those parts of the Magisterial districts of:

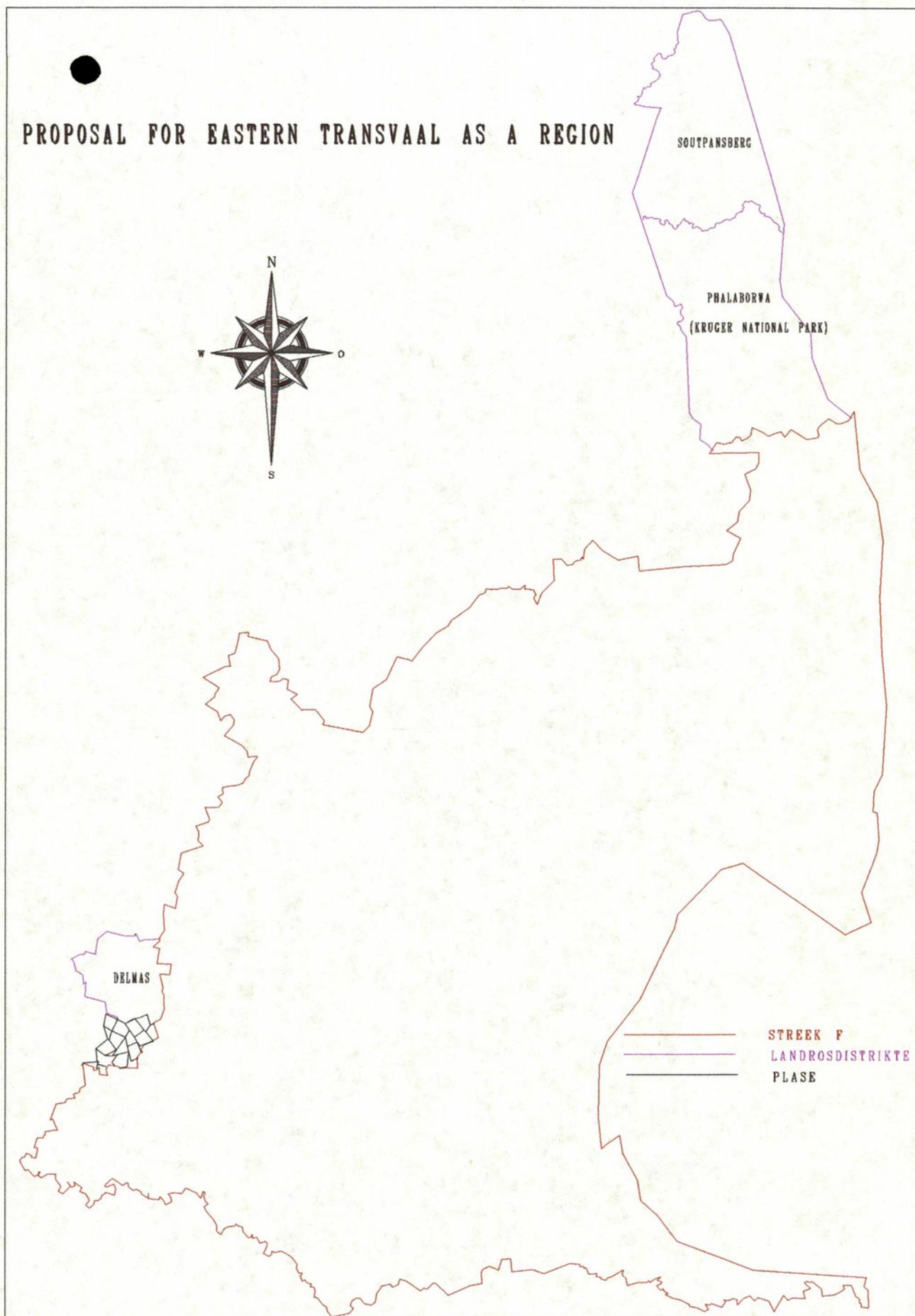
- 7.1.1 Soutpansberg
- 7.1.2 Phalaborwa

which fall within the boundaries of the Kruger National Park.

7.2 **OOSVAAL REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL:**

- 7.2.1 Delmas
- 7.2.2 The following farms of the Nigel Magisterial district:
  - Nooitgedacht 286 IR
  - Nooitgedacht 294 IR
  - Bosmanskop 293 IR
  - Leeukop 299 IR
  - Winterhoek 314 IR
  - Palmietfontein 316 IR
  - Palmietfontein 337 IR
  - Palmietfontein 322 IR
  - Malkop 317 IR
  - Wonderfontein 342 IR
  - Groenkuil 318 IR
  - Honigfontein 339 IR
  - Wolvenbank 338 IR
  - Klippan 324 IR
  - Langzeekoegat 323 IR
  - Langzeekoegat 325 IR
  - Potfontein 285 IR
  - Morea 331 IR
  - Witkop 330 IR
  - Vrisgewaag 501 IR
  - Vrisgewaag 329 IR
  - Modderbult 332 IR

PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION



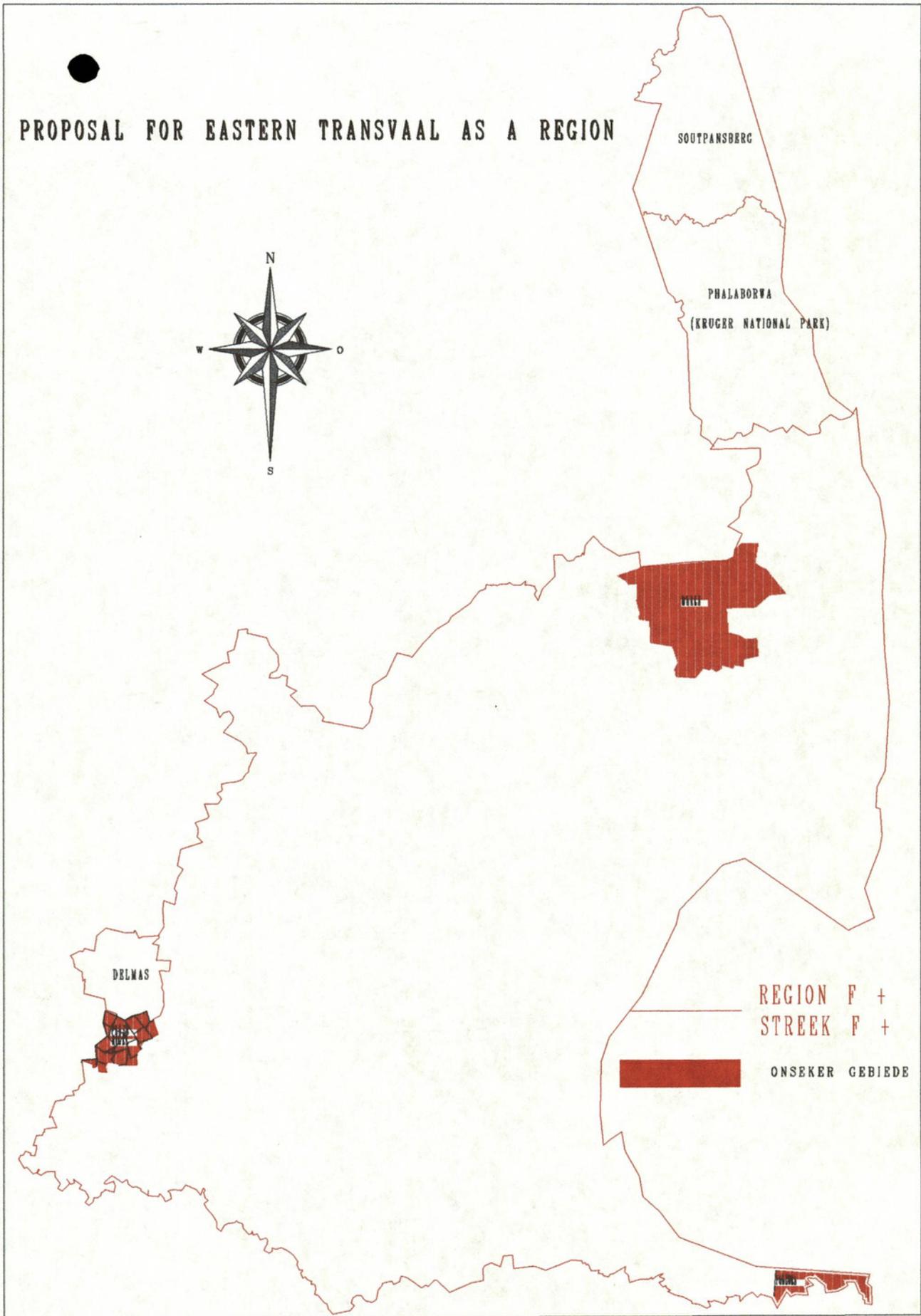
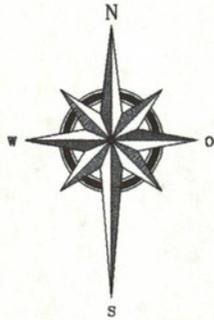
**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS NOT IN REGION F BUT PART OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS**

9

**POSSIBLE AREAS OF DOUBT:**

- 9.1            The Pongola corridor between Swaziland and Natal.
  
- 9.2            The Mhala area being part of Gazankulu
  
- 9.3            The Bushbuck Ridge area being part of Lebowa
  
- 9.4            The farms being part of the Nigel magisterial District which district is only partly included in the Oosvaal Regional Services Council area.

# PROPOSAL FOR EASTERN TRANSVAAL AS A REGION



**AREAS OF DOUBT**

11.1 **BOUNDARIES**

11.1.1 **HISTORICAL BOUNDARIES**

Eastern Transvaal is bordered in the east by the international boundaries of Mozambique and Swaziland and by the province of Natal. In the south it is bordered by the province of the Orange Free State and Development Region H.

In the west Eastern Transvaal is bordered partly by Development Regions G and H as well as the Self Governing Territory of KwaNdebele.

Kangwane (originally a tribal authority) has been the subject of investigation for demarcation since mid 1970. It achieved Executive status in 1977 and Self Governing Status in 1979. The same applies to the Mhala district of Gazankulu.

The proposed region was part of the Republic of Transvaal and since 1910 part of the Province of Transvaal.

All magisterial boundaries are honoured except that of Nigel, Phalaborwa and Soutpansberg which, due to other functional reasons such as the boundaries of the Oosvaal Regional Services Council and the Kruger National Park, are only partially included.

11.1.2 **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Eastern Transvaal has a highly developed infrastructure in respect of transportation, communication, water schemes, the industrial, mining, electricity generation and agricultural sectors all serving the growing economy.

An indication of this is found in the background report prepared by the Highveld Services Regional Council. Of significance is the GGP of Eastern Transvaal and its economic growth over the last decade and its development potential. These factors justify the infrastructure and is due to the large variety of products being produced or manufactured.

## 11.2 ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION

### 11.2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RENDERED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Central Government has over the past few years decentralised the activities of several of its departments. The boundaries of operation of these decentralised departments, with one exception, coincide exactly with the boundaries of Region " F ". If region " F " is delimited as a separate region/state/province, it will be clear from the undermentioned state departments which have offices in the region, that the second tier government would be in a position to commence and continue to govern the region/state/province with the minimum of administrative adjustment and expenditure in respect of those services which may be devolved to this tier of government. In many cases there are sub-offices in larger centres and most of the towns in the region have local offices of many of the departments.

The following departments of state have regional offices in Region " F " :

Internal Affairs	- Nelspruit
Water Affairs & Forestry	- Nelspruit
Finance ( Receivers of Revenue )	- Nelspruit
	- Witbank
	- Standerton
Correctional Services	- Witbank
S A Police - Regional & Divisional	- Middelburg
S A Police - Divisional	- Secunda
	- Nelspruit
	- Ermelo
	- Standerton
	- Lydenburg
S A Defence Force	- Nelspruit
Central Statistical Service	- Nelspruit
Regional and Land Affairs	- Nelspruit
Manpower	- Witbank
Mineral and Energy Affairs	- Witbank
National Health & Population Dev.	- Nelspruit
National Education	- Middelburg

11.2.2 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS (TRANSCVAAL PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND KANGWANE )

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has sub-divided the Transvaal into various regions for the decentralisation of its activities. The boundaries of the Eastern Transvaal region of the Transvaal Provincial Administration coincides exactly with that of Region " F ". Regional offices is situated at Witbank with a sub-regional office at Nelspruit. If Region " F " is delimited a separate region/state/province the present second tier government will be in a position to very easily adjust administratively and at a minimum additional expenditure.

The Kangwane Self Governing State is situated within Region " F " and has its own administrative structures which render all the services in its area of jurisdiction. This area is capable of being incorporated into a new regional government with equal ease and minimum expenditure.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has the following branches situated in Region " F " with seats of administration indicated next to each :

Community Development	- Witbank
Roads	- Lydenburg
Works	- Middelburg
Hospital Services	- Nelspruit
Health Services	- Nelspruit
Nature Conservation	- Nelspruit

11.2.2 THE MORE IMPORTANT SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE11.2.3.1 HOSPITALS

The following provincial hospitals are situated in Region " F "with the number of beds as indicated.

<u>LOWVELD REGION</u> - CONTROL HOSPITAL	- Rob Ferreira	- 266 beds.
	OTHER	
	- Waterval Boven	- 11 beds.
	- Sabie	- 116 beds.
	- Barberton	- 298 beds.
	- Lydenburg	- 159 beds.

**Total 850 beds.**

<u>HIGHVELD REGION</u> - CONTROL HOSPITAL	- Middelburg	- 349 beds.
	OTHER	
	- Witbank	- 380 beds.
	- Carolina	- 84 beds.
	- Belfast	- 16 beds.
	- Groblersdal	- 35 beds.

**Total 784 beds.**

<u>EAST VAAL REGION</u> - CONTROL HOSPITAL	- Bethal	- 233 beds.
	OTHER	
	- Majuba Gedenk	- 98 beds.
	- Elsie Ballot	- 12 beds.
	- Ermelo	- 243 beds.
	- Evander	- 70 beds.
	- Itshelejiba	- 134 beds.
	- Piet Retief	- 227 beds.
	- Standerton	- 219 beds.

**Total 1 236 beds.**

<u>KANGWANE REGION</u>	- Temba	558 beds.
	- Shongwe	218 beds.
	- Embuleni	192 beds.

**Total 968 beds.**

**GRAND TOTAL 4 418 BEDS.**

There are also four private hospitals in Region " F " situated at Middelburg, Witbank, Nelspruit and Trichardt.

### 11.2.3.2 AMBULANCE SERVICES

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has appointed the three Regional Services Councils in Region " F " as its agents to render the ambulance services which is the responsibility of the Province in terms of the Health Act. In KanGwane the Government renders this service. The three Regional Service Councils render the service in their respective sub-regions - Highveld, Lowveld and Oosvaal. The T P A subsidises the service to the standards set by them. The Regional Services Council's have, however, extended the service to cover all of their area of jurisdiction and carries this additional financial burden.

### 11.2.3.3 CLINICS

The following clinics serve Region " F " :

#### KANGWANE REGION:

##### KANGWANE GOVERNMENT

- 58 Clinics spread over the whole sub-region.

#### HIGHVELD REGION:

##### TRANSSVAAL PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

- 11 Clinics for primary health care spread over the whole sub-region.
- 11 Clinics for mouth care spread over the whole sub-region.

##### LOCAL AUTHORITIES:

- All the local authorities in the sub-region have clinics serving their communities.

#### LOWVELD REGION:

##### TRANSSVAAL PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

- 10 Clinics for primary health care spread all over the sub-region.
- 7 Clinics for mouth care spread all over the whole sub-region.

##### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- All the local authorities in the sub-region have clinics serving their communities.

#### OOSVAAL REGION:

##### TRANSSVAAL PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- 23 Clinics for primary health care spread all over the sub-region.
- 18 Clinics for mouth care spread all over the sub-region.

##### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- All the larger local authorities have clinics serving their communities.

#### 11.2.3.4 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The proposed region is excellently served with educational and training facilities provided by first and second tier governments. The following facilities are available :

Pre-primary Schools	-	90
Primary Schools	-	800
Secondary School	-	93
Private Schools	-	11
Technical Colleges	-	7
Technicon Satellites	-	2
University Satellites	-	2

#### 11.2.4 NODAL POINTS

There are three clearly identifiable nodal points which render services to Region " F ". One of these nodal points is situated in each of the sub-regions.

##### HIGHVELD

- Middelburg/Witbank. This nodal point has an population of more than 300 000 and could be defined as a metropole. In a recent study this nodal point was identified as one of South Africa's five future secondary cities.

##### LOWVELD

- Nelspruit/Witrivier. This nodal point has an urban population of 28 600. In close proximity to this nodal point is situated the urban population of several KanGwane towns.

##### EAST VAAL

- The TEKS - Area consisting of the towns of Trichardt, Evander, Kinross and Secunda. The nodal point has an urban population of more than 300 000 and could be described as a metropole.

11.2.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

11.2.5.1 REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS:

The following Regional Services Councils have been established and are functioning within the boundaries of development Region F:

**Highveld Regional Services Council**, within the boundaries of the magisterial districts of Belfast, Groblersdal, Middelburg, Waterval Boven and Witbank, and consisting of the following constituting bodies:

Belfast Town Council  
Dullstroom Village Council  
Eastdene Management Committee  
eMgwenya Town Committee  
Emthonjeni Town Committee  
Groblersdal Town Council  
Hendrina Village Council  
Kwaguqa Town Council  
Kwazamokuhle Town Committee  
Machadodorp Village Council  
Marble Hall Town Council  
Mhluzi Town Council  
Middelburg Town Council  
Nasaret Management Committee  
Ogies Local Area Committee  
Phola Town Committee  
Roosenekal Local Area Committee  
Sakhelwe Town Committee  
Schoongezicht Management Committee  
Siyathuthuka Town Committee  
Vandyksdrift Local Area Committee  
Waterval Boven Village Council  
Witbank Town Council  
Hoëveld Rural Council  
Kragveld Rural Council  
Loskopvallei Rural Council

Oosvaal Regional Services Council, within the boundaries of the magisterial districts of, Balfour, Bethal, Carolina, Delmas, Ermelo, Highveld Ridge, Piet Retief, Standerton, Volksrust, Wakkerstroom and the Eastern part of the magisterial district of Nigel which is situated outside the proposed guideplan boundary of East Rand/Far East Rand.

The Oosvaal Regional Services council consists of the following constituting bodies:

Amersfoort Village Council  
Amsterdam Village Council  
Acalea Management Committee  
Badplaas Local Area Committee  
Balfour Village Council  
Balfour Indian Management Committee  
Bethal Town Council  
Botleng Town Council  
Breyten Village Council  
Carolina Town Council  
Caropark Management Committee  
Cassimpark Management Committee  
Charl Cilliers Local Area Committee  
Chrissiesmeer Local Area Committee  
Davel Local Area Committee  
Delmas Town Council  
Devon Village Council  
Eloff Village Council  
eMbalenhle Town Council  
eMzinoni Town Council  
Ermelo Town Council  
eSizameleni Town Committee  
eThandakukanya Town Committee  
Evander Town Council  
eZamokuhle Town Committee  
Greylingstad Village Council  
Hoëveldrif Rural Council  
Impumelelo Town Committee  
Kempville Management Committee  
Kinross Town Council  
Kriel Town Council  
KwaChibukhulu Town Committee  
Kwadela Town Committee  
Kwathandeka Town Committee  
Kwazanele Town Committee  
Leandra Village Council  
Lebohang Town Committee  
Lothair Local Area Committee  
Mineral Rural Council  
Morgenzon Village Council  
Nthorwane Town Committee  
Perdekop Local Area Committee  
Piet Retief Town Council  
Platorand Rural Council  
Pongola Village Council  
Retiefville Management Committee

Sakhile Town Committee  
Secunda Town Council  
Silindile Town Committee  
Silobela Town Committee  
Sivukhile Town Committee  
Siyazenzele Town Committee  
Standerton Town Council  
Stanwest Management Committee  
Sundra Local Area Committee  
Thistle Grove Indian Management Committee  
Thistle Grove Management Committee  
Thubelihle Town Committee  
Trichardt Town Council  
Volksrust Town Council  
Volksrust Management Committee  
Vukuzakhe Town Committee  
Wakkerstroom Village Council  
Wesselton Town Council

**Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council**, within the boundaries of the magisterial districts of Barberton, Pilgrimsrest, Lydenburg, Nelspruit and Witrivier, consisting of the following constituting bodies:

Nelspruit Town Council  
Barberton Town Council  
Lydenburg Town Council  
Witrivier Town Council  
Graskop Village Council  
Sabie Village Council  
Komatipoort Village Council  
Malelane Village Council  
Emjindini Village Council  
Mashishing Town Committee  
Town Committee of Simile

**11.2.5.2 FORMAL JOINT ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE FOLLOWING LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT REGION F:**

Barberton/Emjindini  
Sabie/Simile  
Lydenburg/Mashishing  
Dullstroom/Sakhelwe  
Breyten/Kwazenele  
Hendrina/Kwazamokuhle  
Standerton/Sakhile  
Volksrust/Vukuzakhe  
Wakkerstroom/eSizameleni

A further 19 communities are negotiating joint administrations

**11.2.5.3 MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The Secretariat of the Association of Eastern and South Eastern Transvaal Local Authorities, one of the four regional associations of the Transvaal Municipal Association and consisting of 33 local authorities is at present situated in Bethal, while the Secretariat of the Transvaal Local Government Association (East) one of the four regional associations of TRALOGA consisting of 52 Local Authorities is situated in Nelspruit.

**11.2.5.4 SANCO:**

South African National Civic Organisation has recently established an Eastern Transvaal Branch with head office in Carolina and local branches in all black towns.

**11.2.6 SPORT AND RECREATION:**

The provincial headquarters of the following sporting bodies are inter alia situated in the Region:

**RUGBY:**

South Eastern Transvaal:	Witbank
Lowveld:	Nelspruit

**ROAD RUNNING:**

Eastern Transvaal Road  
Running Association: Nelspruit

**HOCKEY:**

Eastern Transvaal: Witbank

**BADMINTON:**

South Eastern Transvaal: Witbank

**WRESTLING:**

South Eastern Transvaal: Evander/Secunda

**DEEP-SEA ANGLING:**

Eastern Transvaal: Delmas

**TENNIS:**

Eastern Transvaal: Witbank

11.2.7 **RECREATION AND TOURISM:**

Eastern Transvaal is an international tourist destination with a large number of resorts, hotels and other accommodation as well as the Kruger National Park and private game parks.

It is indeed a mecca for inland tourism and recreation.

1

SECOND TIER OF GOVERNMENT (REGIONAL LEVEL)

The boundaries of the proposed Region coincide exactly with that of the Transvaal Provincial Administration region for the Eastern Transvaal, with the exception of Kangwane.

The Self Governing Territory of Kangwane and the Transvaal Provincial Administration are at present involved in negotiations to establish a joint authority. The establishment of such a joint authority on regional level speaks for itself.

2

THIRD TIER OF GOVERNMENT (LOCAL LEVEL)

The area is already sub-divided into three Regional Services Councils. Although Kangwane is not part of any of the three Regional Services Councils, limited assistance is given by the Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council. It is foreseen that Kangwane will be served in total by Lowveld and Escarpment Regional Services Council in a new constitutional dispensation.

Reference is made under the heading Administrative Considerations to the joint administrations for local authorities which already exists in some or other form as agreed upon locally as well as to the number of those in the process of being established by means of local negotiations. This is regarded as a significant contribution towards effective rationalisation of administrative structures.

As was stated in paragraph 11,2,5,2 of this document local government is also decentralised at regional level, which coincides with the proposed regional boundaries.

11.4 **THE NECESSITY OF LIMITING THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER COSTS AS MUCH AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE**

One of the prime objectives of negotiating a new political dispensation based on regions, is to bring government closer to the people. This is expected to result in more effective government with better voter control as well as considerable cost savings due to an elimination of duplicated structures.

The retention of the boundaries of Region F as a basis for new region/state/province will make financial sense.

The two existing regional governments of Kangwane and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, will be replaced by one new regional government and regional administration. This will obviously result in cost savings.

Because region F is a compact region although covering 66 000 km<sup>2</sup> (6% of the area of South Africa), travelling distance and time of politicians and officials will be minimised with the resultant cost benefits.

The large geographic area which will result from the combination of Regions F and for example G will necessitate its subdivision into subregions and most of the advantages of regionalisation will be lost.

The argument that less regions will lead to cost savings, through the elimination of government structures, should be balanced by the necessity for effective government in manageable sized regions. Bearing in mind the well developed infrastructure and development potential of the Eastern Transvaal, this balance will be most effectively implemented in a region as proposed.

11.5 THE NEED TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO PEOPLE

The boundaries for the new state/region/province will cause the minimum inconvenience to the people.

There is at present a widely accepted sense of belonging among the inhabitants of Region F, which should be maintained in any new delimitation.

Although the Mhala/Bushbuck Ridge areas are indicated as possible areas of doubt, a strong sense of belonging to the Eastern Transvaal already prevails in these areas and they should thus be included.

The geographic area of the proposed region is such that the government and administration of the people of the Region will be able to be carried out on the existing sub-regional and a regional basis with a minimum of inconvenience.

The existing nodal points referred to in paragraph 11.2.4 of the report, together with the present social infrastructure, are so situated that the people of the region could be effectively served without major changes.

11.6 THE NEED TO MINIMISE THE DISLOCATION OF SERVICES

The present decentralisation of services on first, second and third tier government level for the Eastern Transvaal, coincide exactly with the proposed boundaries for a new region/state/province and will thus cause no dislocation of services at these levels.

In respect of infrastructural services the area of the Eastern Transvaal to a large extent relies on existing regional services, but is also effectively linked by national services such as road, rail, telecommunication and water. The latter should not cause any disruption, but rather support the provision of services.

The service Eastern Transvaal is rendering to the rest of South Africa in respect of electricity generation and distribution, will continue as it is at present, and should not cause any dislocation of services in other regions.

Other energy sources generated in the proposed region are coal and fuel/petroleum and likewise this provision will continue to the benefit of other regions.

11.7 **DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS**

The attention of the commission is drawn to the background report referred to as the Working Document, which is already in possession of the Commissioners and in particular to paragraph 5.4 on page 71, and all the maps and tables following this paragraph. (Pages 71 through 86)

Although there is a diversity of language groups, ethnicity, religion and level of education in the population of the proposed region, experience over the past decade has already clearly indicated an acceptance of each other as part of a geographic region.

It should thus not be difficult to create a microcosm of the broader South Africa in the proposed region.

## 11.8 ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE REGION

- 11.8.1 The Eastern Transvaal contributes 10% of the national GGP. In relation to other regions it is the fourth highest. The Eastern Transvaal is surpassed only by the PWV (37%), Natal (14%) and Region A (13%).
- 11.8.2 The Eastern Transvaal contributes 53% of production in the energy sector in South Africa.
- 11.8.3 Over the last decade the Eastern Transvaal recorded the highest growth rate of all the regions (5,5%), this growth being due mainly to the enormous boom in the manufacturing sector of the region.
- 11.8.4 The Eastern Transvaal has the lowest unemployment rate of all the regions in South Africa (8,7%)

## 11.9 DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

### 11.9.1 PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Eastern Transvaal has enormous development potential and the following projects are at present under construction or consideration:

- 11.9.1.1 The extension of the Columbus Stainless Steel factory near Middelburg with a capital investment of R4,5 billion;
- 11.9.1.2 The completion of a Gass Pipeline between Secunda and the Middelburg/Witbank-area;
- 11.9.1.3 The building of the Driekoppies Dam in the Onderberg-area in the Lowveld subregion with a capital investment of R488-million;
- 11.9.1.4 The building of the Inhaca Dam in the Lowveld with a capital investment of R250-million;
- 11.9.1.5 The merging of SASOL and AECI as far as certain of the industrial capabilities (plastic) are concerned.

### 11.9.2 THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL HAS THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF ALL THE REGIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA (8,7%)

### 11.9.3 FURTHER POTENTIAL

Other sectors in which the Eastern Transvaal have enormous development growth potential are:

#### 11.9.3.1 TOURISM

The enormous tourism potential of the Eastern Transvaal is well-known with specific reference to the Kruger National Park and the Lowveld-area. Currently two new hotels are being built in Nelspruit. Further expansion is being planned on the border of the Kruger National Park. Also refer to paragraph 11.2.7 of this report.

#### 11.9.3.2 AGRO-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The agro-industrial potential of the region has not yet been fully developed. For instance final planning is being done to develop the agro-industrial capacity of the Loskopdam-area (Groblersdal/Marble Hall) in particular the processing of tobacco, citrus and cotton.

#### 11.9.3.3 MOZAMBIQUE PEACE TREATY

The signing of a Peace Treaty in Mozambique augers well for the development axis between Pretoria and Maputo which will benefit all the major towns along the route Witbank, Middelburg, Nelspruit, and Komatipoort. The latter is already benefiting from the development of the second sugar mill and the building of the Driekoppies Dam. Obviously the tourism potential along the route will also be stimulated.

#### 11.9.3.4 AIRPORT

There are existing airports at Witbank, Middelburg, Secunda, Nelspruit, Skukuza and various other towns.

#### 11.9.3.5 ENERGY

Export of high quality processed coal also has high development potential as sanctions against the RSA are lifted.

11.10 CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE REALITIES

The attention of the commission is drawn to the background report referred to as the Working Document, which is already in possession of the Commissioners and in particular to pages 66 - 70 as well as the map on page 73.

From this it is clear that there are four dominant language groups in the Eastern Transvaal - Afrikaans, Zulu, Si-swazi and Northern-Sotho. Great acceptance of each already exists.