



## **Alternative Telecommunication in the KCAA**

The Minister of Science and Technology (now the Department of Science and Innovation) published regulations in Government Gazette number 41321, Volume 630 under notice number 1411 of 15 December 2017, for the protection of the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas, in accordance with the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, 2007 (AGA Act No. 21 of 2007). Following through with the Minister's proclamations, the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is to deploy alternative means of access to telecommunication services that pose least risk of detrimental interference to the MeerKAT and SKA telescopes.

The Mobile Trunk Radio System was deployed to provide wireless voice communications, text messaging and GPS locations or tracking for police services, health services, disaster management and local farming communities around towns of Carnarvon, Williston, Brandvlei, Van Wyksvlei, Loxton, Vosburg, Copperton, and Halfweg, located within declared Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas.

[www.sarao.ac.za](http://www.sarao.ac.za)

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes.