



Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050
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Dear : Dr/Mr/Ms _____

Date: _____

LETTER OF CONSENT

I, _____, agree to participate in the MSc Eng Research Project entitled “*A Conceptual Framework for Optimising the Business Model of the North-South Rail Corridor (NSC) in Southern Africa*”, to be undertaken by Paul M Bester, under the supervision of Dr Ian Campbell of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and certify that I have received a copy of this letter of consent.

I am participating in this research as a representative of _____, which is a stakeholder in the NSC, and hereby confirm our participation and interest in the NSC forums and also in this NSC research. I acknowledge that the research has been explained to me and I understand what it entails, as follows:

- I will be required to complete a structured confidential questionnaire prompting me to express my views and opinion on the NSC, and will be required to forward information that can be used in developing the framework for the NSC model.
- The intention of the questionnaire is for me to convey an accurate position of our role and expectation for the future of the NSC.
- I will also be invited to voluntarily participate in an one-on-one telecon with the researcher where my views, opinions and information shared in my responses to the questionnaire will be explored for clarity of understanding by the researcher. This telecom will be noted.
- All information collected during the research project will be populated in a confidential spreadsheet, which will become the source data for the study.
- Participation is voluntary and I may withdraw at any time even after signing the consent form.
- My anonymity will be protected and respected (a pseudonym will be used to conceal my identity), however based on my position in the NSC, it may be possible that I could be identified.
- Responses and information provided will be kept by the researcher only and stored in a secure location for 5 years and then destroyed.
- I will be entitled to receive a summary report, documenting the result of the research.
- Results from the study may be reported in academic papers and at conferences.

This project was approved by the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment of the University of the Witwatersrand, and also by the School of Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Research Ethics Committee (non-medical) of the University. If I have any questions or concerns about my rights or treatment as a participant, I may contact the Chair of the School of Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Research Ethics Committee (non-medical).

Signed: _____

Questions concerning the study can be directed to:

Date: _____

Paul Bester

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