

Rural Safety Centre of Excellence

Policy Outlook 2026

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ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY AREA	FOCUS
Legal	<i>Firearm Control Amendment Bill</i>	Participate in NEDLAC, and prepare constitutional challenges if lawful ownership is undermined.
Legal	<i>SANRAL CCTV Wayleaves</i>	Litigation strategy to reinstate rural camera infrastructure permissions.
Policy	<i>National Rural Safety Strategy</i>	Advocate refinement rather than replacement; focus on station-level implementation.
Policy / Legal	<i>PSIRA Firearms Regulations</i>	Monitor finalisation, prepare legal responses to impractical controls on private security.



Rural Safety

Policy Context

Rural safety remains a critical concern affecting farmer wellbeing, labour stability, investment confidence, and rural economies.



Key Challenges

- High levels of violent crime in rural areas
- Limited visibility and capacity of rural policing
- Inconsistent implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy
- Social fragmentation and declining trust in institutions

Policy Outlook 2026

AgriSA supports a **holistic rural safety framework** that integrates law enforcement, community structures, and local government.

Policy priorities include:

Firearm Control Amendment Bill

The government position is that stricter control measures are required to reduce gun related crime in South Africa.

This Bill proposes major changes, which includes:

- Stricter self-defense licensing
- Shorter validity periods for competency certificates
- Limits on the number of firearms and ammunition a person may own
- Mandatory ballistic sampling and traceability systems

Supporters of the Bill argue that firearms are a leading cause of violent deaths in South Africa and that stronger regulation, better data, and improved oversight will reduce the availability of firearms for criminal activity.

Opponents of the Bill argue that the amendments will penalise law-abiding citizens instead of criminals. There is further concern that this Bill lacks evidence that stricter lawful ownership will result in reduced crime.

AgriSA stands against any amendment that would unfairly restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens to possess and use firearms for self-defence, hunting, sport-shooting, or rural protection.

While AgriSA supports responsible firearm regulation and improved competency verification, we reject measures that would disarm compliant citizens instead of addressing illegal firearms and ineffective policing.

This Bill is still in the consultation stage and being discussed at NEDLAC and has not yet been published for public comment in the Government Gazette. AgriSA is representing the interest of its members through its participation in NEDLAC.

National Rural Safety Strategy

This strategy aims to assist the SAPS to improve safety and security in rural areas across South Africa. The strategy was launched in 2019 and has struggled to be properly and practically implemented at all rural stations across the country.

In August 2024 Parliament questioned the progress and outcomes set within the strategy.

The NRSS is currently under review.

AgriSA has maintained that the strategy is a **well written document** and that the **issue remains the lack of effective implementation.**

During this review period (no communicated deadlines for 2026) the opinion of AgriSA remains that the strategy should not be replaced, but only small adjustments should be made to allow for more relevant and practical implementation at station level.

Private Security Industry Regulation Act (PSIRA Act)

In March 2025 the draft amendments to the PSIRA firearms-related regulations were published in the Government Gazette. The amendments were open for public comment until 25 April 2025.

The amendments to this Act aim to tightly regulate how private security firms issue and manage firearms and other equipment. These are regulatory amendments under the existing PSIRA Act and not a full rewrite of the PSIRA Act itself. A separate PSIRA Amendment Bill, which could change the law, would be a distinct legislative process if initiated.

There has been no indication that the draft amendments have yet been finalised, adopted, or promulgated into law.

AgriSA will continue to monitor the developments regarding this Act.

SANRAL Camera Agreement

AgriSA and SANRAL entered into an agreement in 2021 to allow for the application of wayleaves for CCTV infrastructure installations on national roads.

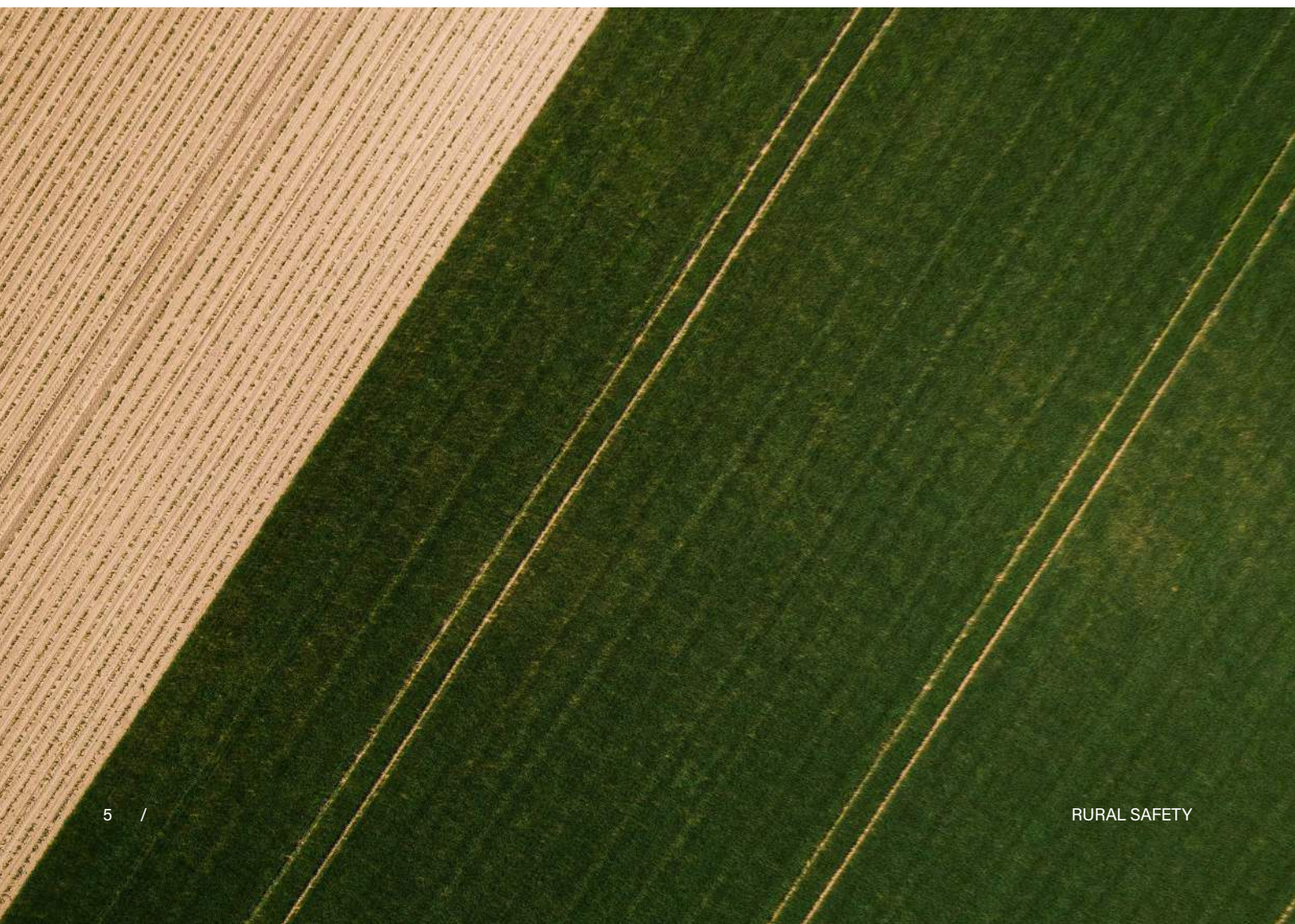
In January 2025 AgriSA was informed that SANRAL took the decision to cancel this agreement without consulting AgriSA.

AgriSA attempted to address this concern with the SANRAL leadership through a constructive engagement which SANRAL postponed repeatedly and finally cancelled without reason or alternative.

SANRAL has ceased to accept and approve wayleave applications for the legal installation of CCTV infrastructure on national roads.

A more aggressive approach has now been adopted:

- AgriSA engaged multiple stakeholders to support and assist in challenging this decision. These stakeholders included Business Against Crime through the E2 National Steering Committee, and the SAPS, who subsequently wrote a letter of support for AgriSA addressed to the Minister of Police.
- AgriSA has further written to and called for engagements with the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Transport, and the Minister of Police.
- On 24 July 2025 SANRAL sent AgriSA a letter requesting the mutual termination of the agreement, failing which SANRAL would approach the High Court to self review the agreement.
- AgriSA has declined this request. AgriSA is currently reviewing the options with legal council to decide on further actions.



Conclusion: A Call for Pragmatic Partnership

AgriSA's 2026 policy outlook calls for a renewed social compact grounded in **economic realism, institutional functionality, and shared responsibility**. Agriculture is uniquely positioned to contribute to growth, employment, and food security—but only if policy enables, rather than constrains, productive investment.

AgriSA reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the rule of law as the cornerstone of South Africa's constitutional democracy. We believe that the Constitution provides essential safeguards to protect the rights, dignity, and freedoms of all citizens, including the farming community. In advancing agricultural interests, AgriSA emphasises that policy and regulatory processes must be evidence-based, transparent, lawful, and consistent with constitutional principles of equality, fairness, and accountability. Upholding these values is not only vital to ensuring legal certainty and investor confidence, but also to safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities who depend on a stable and just framework for sustainable development.

AgriSA stands **ready to engage constructively with government, labour, finance, and civil society** to ensure **a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector** for 2026 and beyond.



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