

“EPA SEA Experience in Ireland to date”

**“Some key Issues, Challenges
and Benefits of SEA”**

Presentation to:

Mid-West Regional Authority, Senior Planners Group

SEA Meeting

Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry’s Mall, Limerick

Tuesday 18th October 2011

Outline of Presentation

PART I

SEA Legislation
Key SEA Stages and Outputs
SEA Statistics

PART II

SEA Tools
GIS Examples

PART III

SEA Environmental Topics
SEA Environmental Issues

PART IV

SEA and Integration

PART V

Benefits of SEA

PART VI

Moving SEA forward at a regional level

PART I

Part I

- SEA Legislation
- Key Stages in SEA Process
- SEA Statistics

SEA Legislation - SEA Directive

Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

SEA Directive Article 1 - Objective

- to provide for a high level of protection of the environment
- to contribute to the Integration of Environmental Considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting Sustainable Development
by ensuring that
- an Environmental Assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment

SEA Regulations

Previously Two -Now Four Sets of SEA Regulations in Ireland

- **S.I. No. 435 of 2004-European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004**
Now Amended S.I. No. 200 of 2011
- **S.I. No. 436 of 2004 –Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004**
Now Amended S.I. No. 201 of 2011

Designation of Environmental Authorities

The National Regulations have **Now** designated the following authorities as the designated Environmental Authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Dept of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
- **Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**
- **Dept of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs -NPWS**

Updates to SEA Regulations –N.N.B

S.I. No. 201 of 2011 –Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004

Population and Area thresholds:

- Population of target population 5,000 or more (previously 10,000)
- Area covered by plan area greater than 50 sq km
- Screen where less than thresholds
- N.B Would appear to relate only to LAPs –Intention?

Updates to SEA Regulations –N.N.B

When to Consult SEA Environmental Authorities:

- **Environmental Protection Agency- All SEA stages and All Sector Plans**
- **Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government- All Land Use Plans –Expansion of Ministers Role –**
Now required to Consult for All SEA Stages for All Land USE Plans only etc.
- **Dept of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources – Fisheries/ Marine - Fisheries/Marine**
- **DAFF -Fisheries/Marine**
- **DAHG –NPWS- Architecture, Archaeology, Nature Conservation**

SEA Directive (2004) Article 3 - Scope

SEA Directive Article 3- Scope:

An EA shall be carried out for P/Ps which are likely to have significant environmental effects for P/Ps prepared for the specified 11 Sectors and which:

- (i) Set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II of EIA Directive, or***
- (ii) have been determined to require an environmental assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive***

SEA Directive (2004) Article 3 - Scope































SEA Directive Article 3- Scope:

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- (i) Set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II of EIA Directive, or***
- (ii) have been determined to require an environmental assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive***

SEA STAGES and Outputs

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| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Screening |   | Is SEA/AA Required? |   | Screening Statement |   |
| Scoping |   | Identification of Key Issues |   | Scoping Report |   |
| Environmental Assessment |   | Assessment Mitigation |   | Environmental Report |   |
| Information on Decision |   | SEA Review Integration |   | SEA Statement |   |
| Implement Plan/Prog |   | Monitor Significant Effects |   | Remedial Action |   |

Sectors Subject to SEA Requirements

Tran**S**port

Wa**T**er

Tou**R**ism

PI**A**nning

Was**T**e

Fish**E**ries

Ener**G**y

I**n**dustry

Tele**C**ommunications

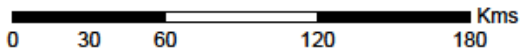
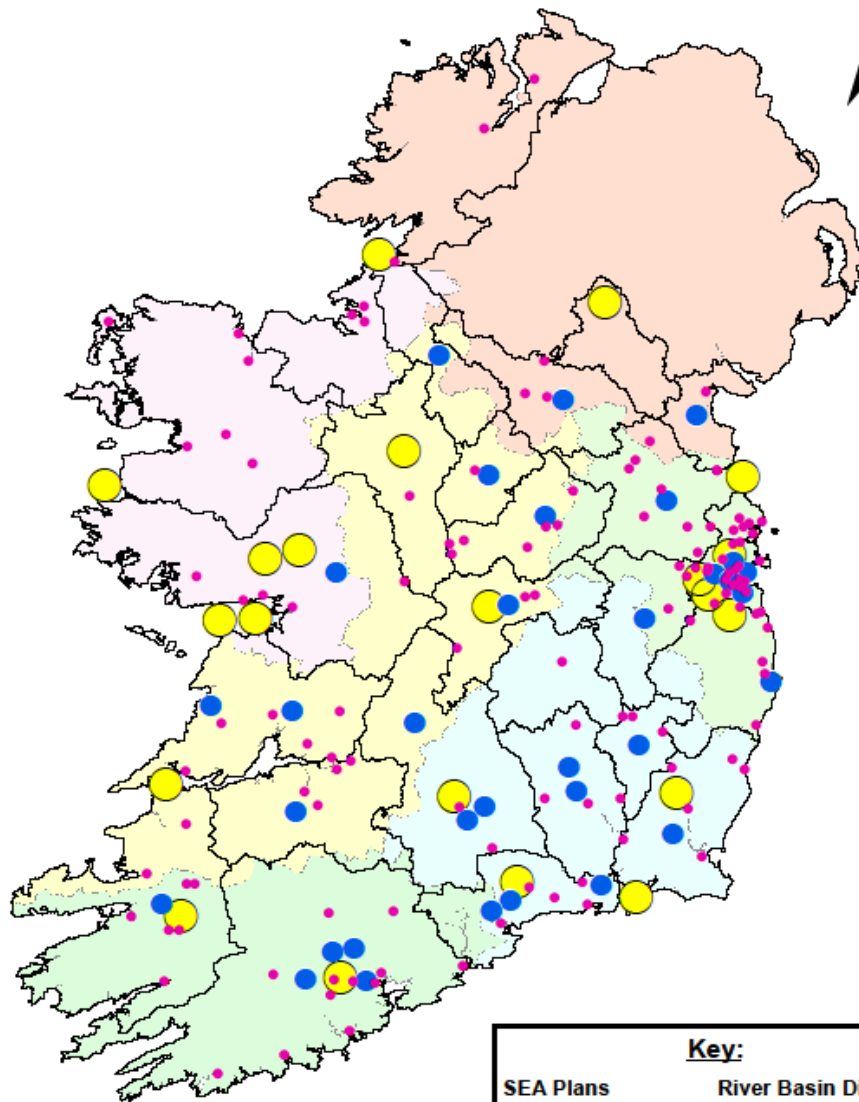
For**E**stry

Agriculture

**Total: 284 SEA's
to date**

- **Land Use -80%**
- **Water - 9%**
- **Energy- 4%**

Map of SEA Plans



Key:

SEA Plans

- Local Plans
- County or City Plans
- Regional

River Basin Districts

- Eastern RBD
- International RBD
- South Eastern RBD
- Shannon RBD
- South Western RBD
- Western RBD

SEA Statistics 2008 – (Q3)2011

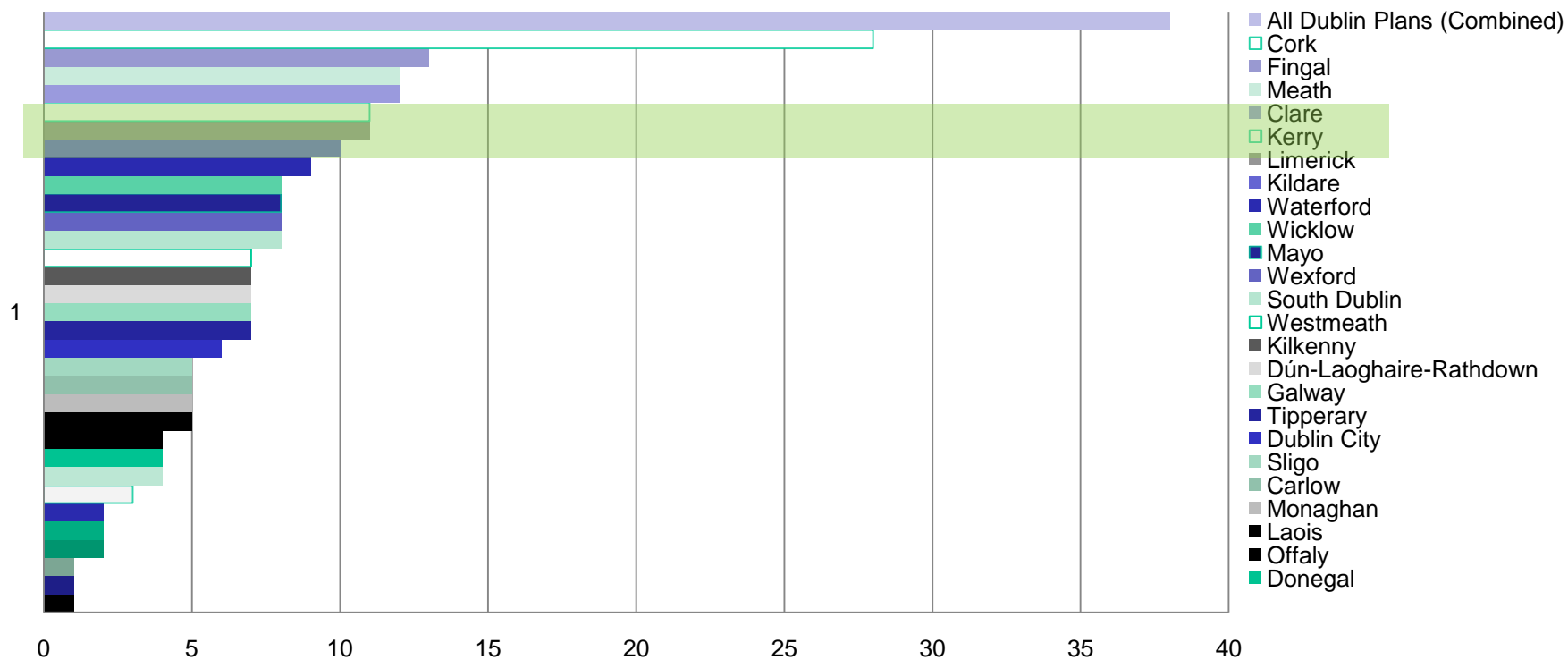
| <u>SEA Submissions</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| ■ SEA Screening | 138 | 56 | 61 | 100 |
| ■ SEA Scoping | 66 | 57 | 41 | 46 |
| ■ Draft Plan SEA ER | 69 | 36 (62)* | 49 (26)** | 21 <u>(32)</u> |
| ■ Amendments | | 25 | 21 | 16 |

* 7 SEA - 62 Shellfish Waters PRPs

** 1 SEA – 26 Freshwater Pearl Mussel SBMPs

SEA Statistics 2008 – (Q3)2011

SEA Total Breakdown of Land Use Plans



SEA Statistics 2008 – (Q3)2011

Local / County Land Use Plans (not including Regional)

| County | Number of SEA's Undertaken for Land Use Plans |
|-----------------------------|---|
| All Dublin Plans (Combined) | 38 |
| Joint Dublin LA Plans | 4 |
| Cork | 28 |
| Fingal | 13 |
| Meath | 12 |
| Limerick | 11 |
| Kerry | 11 |
| Clare | 12 |
| Wicklow | 8 |
| Mayo | 8 |
| Kildare | 10 |
| Westmeath | 7 |
| Kilkenny | 7 |
| South Dublin | 8 |
| Wexford | 8 |
| Waterford | 9 |
| Galway | 7 |
| Dublin City | 6 |
| Louth | 3 |
| Offaly | 4 |
| Sligo | 5 |
| Donegal | 4 |
| Tipperary | 7 |
| Carlow | 5 |
| Dún-Laoghaire-Rathdown | 7 |
| Laois | 5 |
| Longford | 2 |
| Cavan | 2 |
| Roscommon | 1 |
| Leitrim | 1 |
| Joint Wexford / Carlow | 1 |
| Monaghan | 5 |
| Transboundary LAPs | 2 |
| ONGOING TOTAL = | 222 |

Some SEA's Ongoing 2010/2011

Land Use

- Core Strategies
- Mid West Area Strategic Plan
- Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary –To Commence!
- Shannon Foynes Port Company Master Plan – SEA Screening Stage
- Dublin Port Master Plan

Water

- SHANNON CFRAMS
- OPW National Arterial Drainage Programme
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel SBMPs (27?) For finalisation

Energy

- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
- GRID 25 Implementation Strategy
- Kerry Wind Energy Strategy

Transport

- National Secondary Roads Needs Study
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area

Master plan under way for Shannon estuary

[IrishTimes 17.10.2011](#)

Plan to guide development
and conservation into future

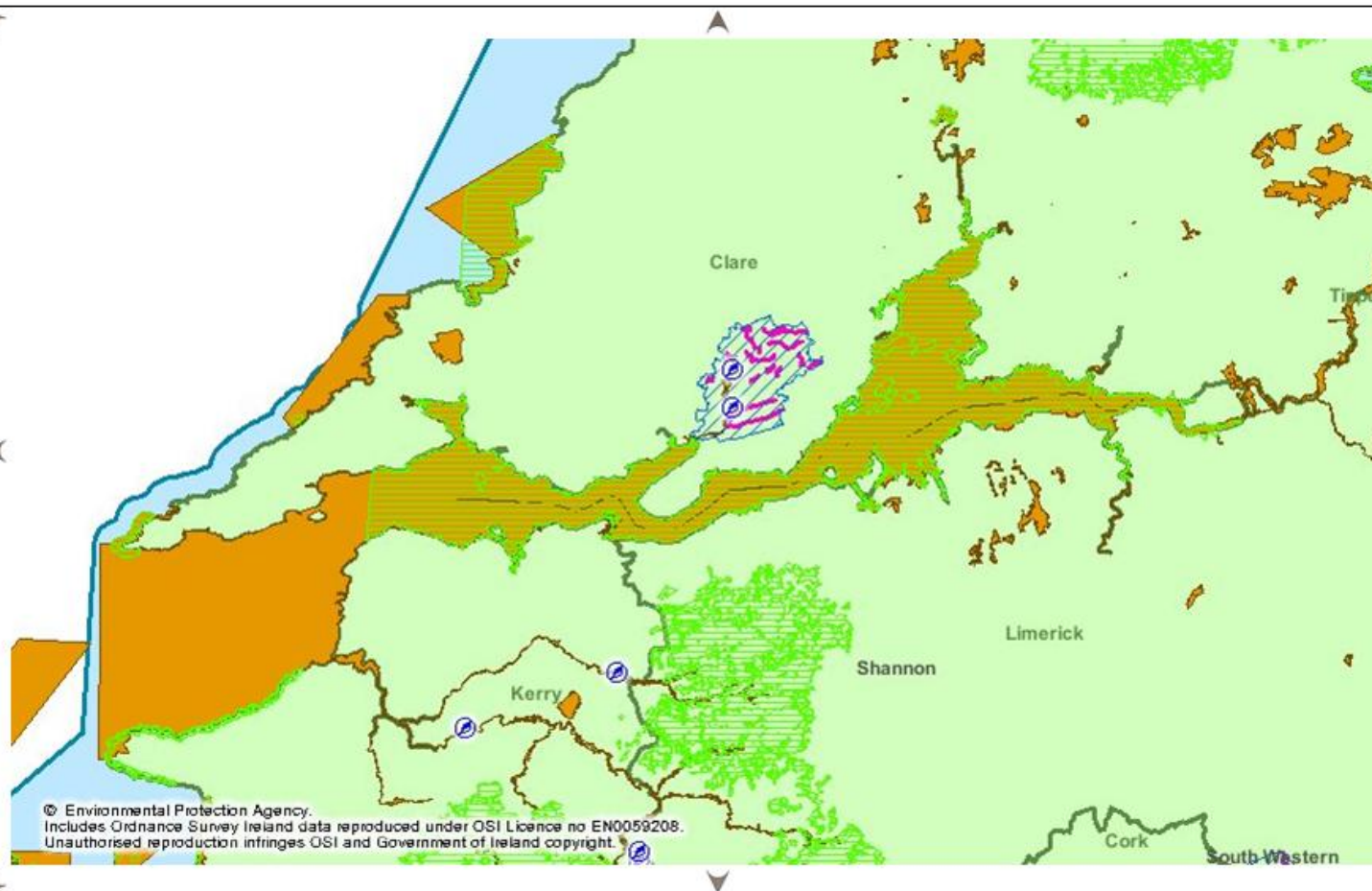
Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

Despite the presence of installations such as Moneypoint power station and Aughinish Alumina, the entire estuary is a special area of conservation under the EU habitats directive and much of it is also a special protection area under the birds directive.

“These designations impose considerable obligations on those charged with their protection,” the brief says. Thus, the strategic plan “should not impact negatively on the favourable conservation status of a designated site, either by itself or in combination with other plans”.

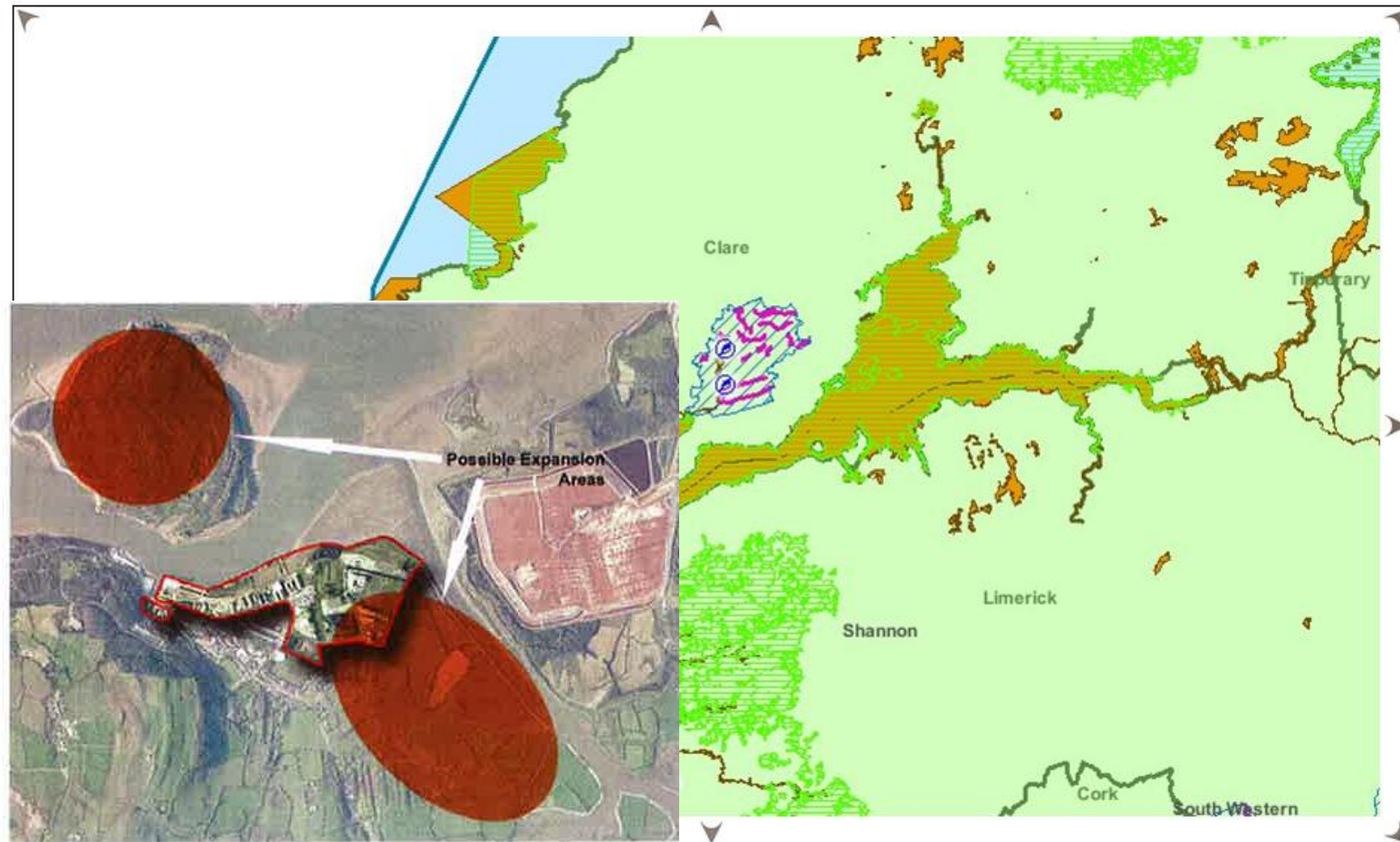
When completed, the plan is to be incorporated into the four local authorities’ development plans, and it will be up to them to implement its policies and objectives. It will also become part of the Shannon Foynes Port Company’s master plan, now being drafted.

Port company chief executive Patrick Keating said it was “one of the key economic engines” of the region, with trade valued at more than €6 billion a year, and needed a “clear vision for making sure the company can continue to deliver for the estuary, region and nation”. Clare County Council planning officer Gordon Daly said the port company was “totally on board”; its chief executive is a member of the steering committee and the company is also part-funding the overall project.



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Shannon Foynes Port Company Master Plan



PART II

Part II

- SEA Tools
- GIS

Some SEA Tools /Guidance

- **SEA GIS Search and Reporting Tool**
- **Prioritisation and Assessment Procedure**
- **ENVision –www.epa.ie**
- **EPA Public Authority Enforcement Network**
- **EPA Report Series**
- **State of Environment Reporting**
- **SEA Guidance/Methodology**
- **SEA WebPage**
- **SEA Process Checklist**
- **SEA Submissions**
- **SEA Consultation/ SEA Workshops**
- **SEA related Applied Research and Outputs**

Part III

Part III

- SEA Environmental Topics
- SEA Environmental Issues

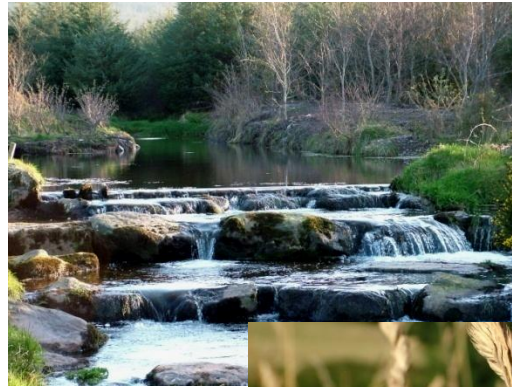
SEA Environmental Topics include:

- Air
- Climatic Factors
- Cultural Heritage - Archaeology, Architecture
- Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna
- Water
- Landscape
- Material Assets
- Population Human Health
- Soil
- Inter-relationships between the above

SEA ↔ AA

SEA- Key SEA Environmental Issues

- **Surface Water Quality**
- **Groundwater Quality**
- **Water Conservation**
- **Waste Management**
- **Human Health/ Quality of Life**
- **Population Increase**
- **Infrastructure Needs/ Forward Planning for Infrastructure**
- **Biodiversity Loss**



SEA- Key SEA Environmental Issues

- Use of Natural Resources
- Energy Conservation
- Urban Air Quality/ Traffic Management
- Climate Change
- Flood Risk/Coastal Protection
- Landscape
- Loss of Agricultural Land
- Cultural Heritage



PART IV

Part IV

- SEA and Integration

Common Integration Issues found in EA –EPA Experience

- **Timing - EA commences too late**
- **Plan / Programme/ Project developed separately to EA**
- **Lack of Interaction between EA and P/P/P Teams**
- **Lack of understanding of role of EA**
- **Minimal investment in EA Scoping Consultation**
- **Transboundary EA not addressed**
- **No QA/QC of process and Outputs**

Common Integration Issues found in EA –EPA Experience

- **Key decisions during EA not documented;**
 - Scoping In/Out Topics
 - Key Assumptions- **Population Increase/ Climate Change etc.**
 - Significance Criteria

- **Data**
 - Upto date baseline data
 - Data Gaps not identified/ addressed
 - Application of GIS

- **Linkages with other Assessment Processes**
 - HDA/AA
 - Flood Risk Assessment
 - EIA/SEA

- **Linkages with other Plans /Programmes**
 - Land Use Plans adjoining Plan area
 - Significant Projects- Dublin Water Supply Scheme
 - Regional Planning Guidelines
 - WFD –RBMPs

Common Integration Issues found in EA –EPA Experience

- **Mitigation Measures**
 - Linkage with Significant Effects not clear
 - Vague
 - Lack of commitment
 - Residual Effects
 - Enforcement of implementation
 - Monitoring of Effectiveness
 - Remedial Action where mitigation not Effective

- **Summary of Outputs of EA not included in P/P or SEA ER**
 - No reference to how EA influenced the P/P

- **Lack of early Engagement and Interaction with Key Decision –makers**

- **Lack of Strategic Planning/ Assessment**
 - “Bigger Picture Planning
 - Joined –Up thinking/ Assessment

Common Integration Issues found in EA –EPA Experience

EPA Submission:

SECTION 1 - INTEGRATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The comments below relate to the integration of environmental considerations identified in the Environmental Report and additional information highlighted by the EPA, within the Plan. Suggestions are put forward for consideration with a view to addressing the integration of a number of key environmental considerations within the Plan.
- It is recommended that the Plan should include a more detailed account of how the Strategic Environmental Assessment influenced and was integrated within the Plan –making process.
- Specific reference should be made to Policies, which were influenced by the environmental assessment. Specific Policies, which have been introduced to mitigate significant adverse environmental effects identified, should also be highlighted.

Common Integration Issues found in EA –EPA Experience

EPA Submission:

MITIGATION MEASURES

- “Confirm the Mitigation and Enhancement measures set out under Section 9.2 Mitigation Measures for the specific environmental issues have been adopted as Policies within the Draft Plan.
- Where, this is not the case, describe the reasons for not taking into account the proposed mitigation/ enhancement measures. For those “Mitigation/Enhancement Measures” adopted provide a table clearly showing the link with the relevant Plan Policy.
- The proposed “mitigation measures” should be re-examined and assessed in the context of their ability to fully avoid the relevant significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan. Where full mitigation is not likely to be achieved, identify what other measures are underway through different instruments or what other measures are required which would ensure the identified effects of the Plan are fully mitigated.

Summary Table

- There would be merits in providing a summary table outlining how significant environmental effects are linked directly to proposed mitigation measures, monitoring measure and a policy or objective in the Plan as appropriate.”

EA QA/QC Procedures Checklists



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA Process Checklist

Consultation Draft 2008

Abstract from Draft Checklist for
IEMA EA Forum 2009
Integration in EA Workshop
30.04.2009

EA QA/QC Procedures Checklists

POST P/P ADOPTION QUALITY AND INTEGRATION WITH THE P/P

Minimum Requirements

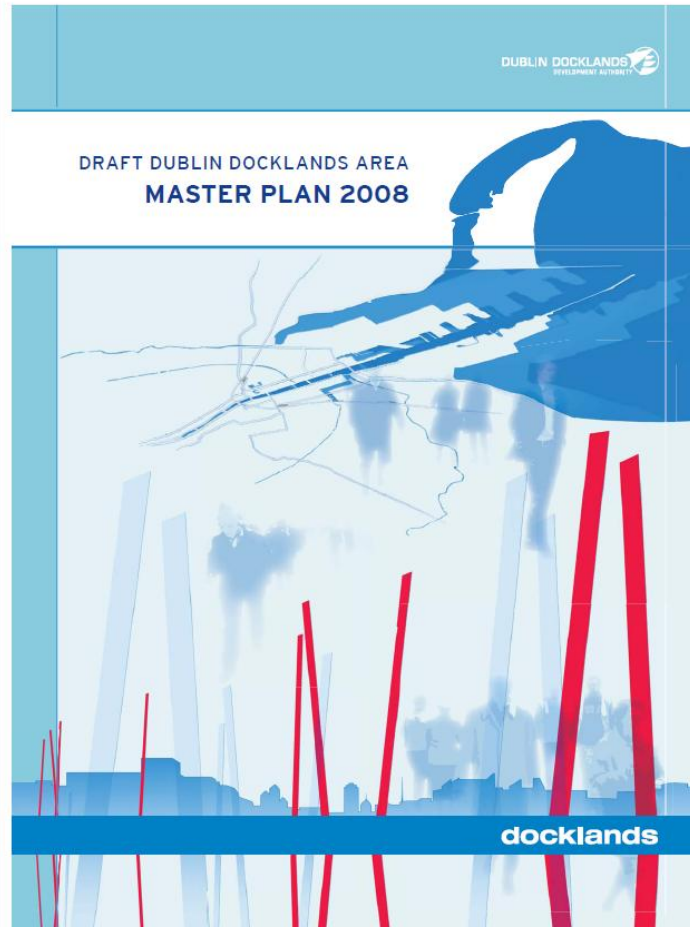
| | Question | Yes, No, Comment | Statutory basis |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| 13.1 | Have environmental considerations been integrated in the P/P preparation and adoption? | | SEA Directive Article 1 |
| 13.2 | Is the Environmental Report of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive? | | SEA Directive Article 12 (2) |

EA QA/QC Procedures Checklists

Additional Recommended Task

| | Question | Yes, No, Comment | Statutory Basis |
|------|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13.3 | Is the ER well presented and laid out in a logical sequence? | | |
| 13.4 | Does the ER make effective use of maps, tables, figures, etc. | | |
| 13.5 | Has the integration of the P/P making process and the SEA process been documented, including key stages and decisions? | | |
| 13.6 | Has a description been provided in the ER of the screening process and subsequent determination? | | |
| 13.7 | Have the key decision-makers been informed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the requirement for and purpose of environmental assessment? (b) the responsibilities of the plan making authority in the context of SEA? (c) the intended outputs of the SEA process? | | |
| 13.8 | Has a summary of the key outcomes of the environmental assessment been provided? | | |
| 13.9 | Does the non-technical summary summarise the main findings of the environmental assessment and how they influence the plan? | | <u>DoEHLG Guidelines</u> S. 4.41 |

Some Examples of Integration of Outputs of EA



Some Examples of Integration of Outputs of EA

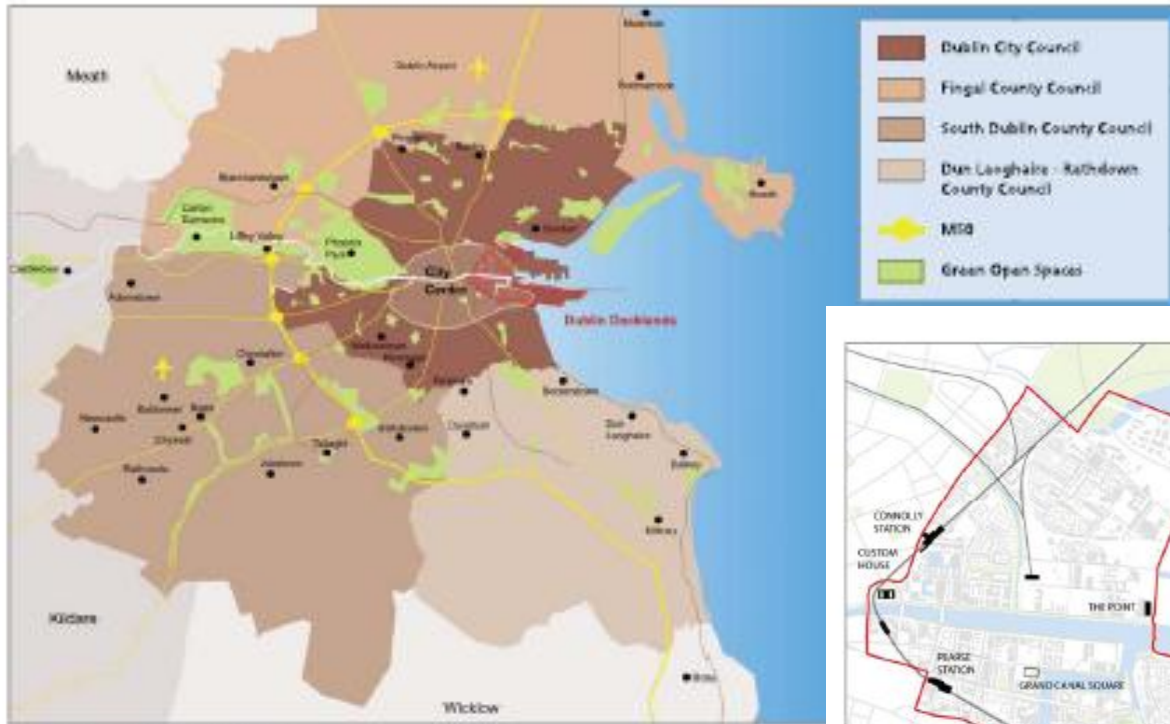


FIGURE 11 DUBLIN CITY CONTEXT



FIGURE 12 DOCKLANDS MASTER PLAN AREA

5.2.7 POLICIES

The Authority will:

Policy IF1

Ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken by utility companies and contractors to the installation of infrastructure.

Policy IF2*

Co-operate and liaise with Dublin City Council as the water services authority in ensuring that the potable and fire water supply, together with the foul sewer and storm water drainage systems, are upgraded to meet the demands arising from the additional physical development in advance of, or in parallel with, the carrying out of the development, while protecting the environment and also having regard to the Greater Dublin Regional water and drainage infrastructural constraints. Measures to include the full integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) into new development, as well as the separation of foul and storm water and retrofit of SuDS where practical.

Policy IF3

Support the elimination of the discharges from the outfall of the Greater Dublin drainage sewer (Grand Canal Tunnel) from its present location in the Inner basin of the Grand Canal Dock.

Policy IF4*

Actively support Dublin City Council in the upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant at Ringsend as part of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy.

Policy IF5*

Additional wastewater infrastructure to facilitate intensification of development in the North Lotts Planning Scheme Area to be identified in the Amended North Lotts Planning Scheme and developed in tandem with the carrying out of development in the Docklands.

Policy IF6*

The rollout and phasing of development under the Poolbeg Planning Scheme and other amendments and extensions to Planning Scheme Areas within the Docklands Area to be subject to the provision of adequate wastewater infrastructure provided, in consultation with Dublin City Council and other relevant authorities at regional and/or local level to serve that development.

Policy IF7

Secure the provision of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, including WFI and broadband internet, throughout the Docklands.

Policy IF8

In consultation with the ESB and Bord Gáis, seek to resolve any remaining supply and distribution difficulties which may be encountered in the Docklands and ensure that there is adequate capacity for future development.

Water
Supply

Waste water
Infrastructure

Policies Emerging
From EA Process
Distinguished by *

Designated natural heritage sites policies

It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:

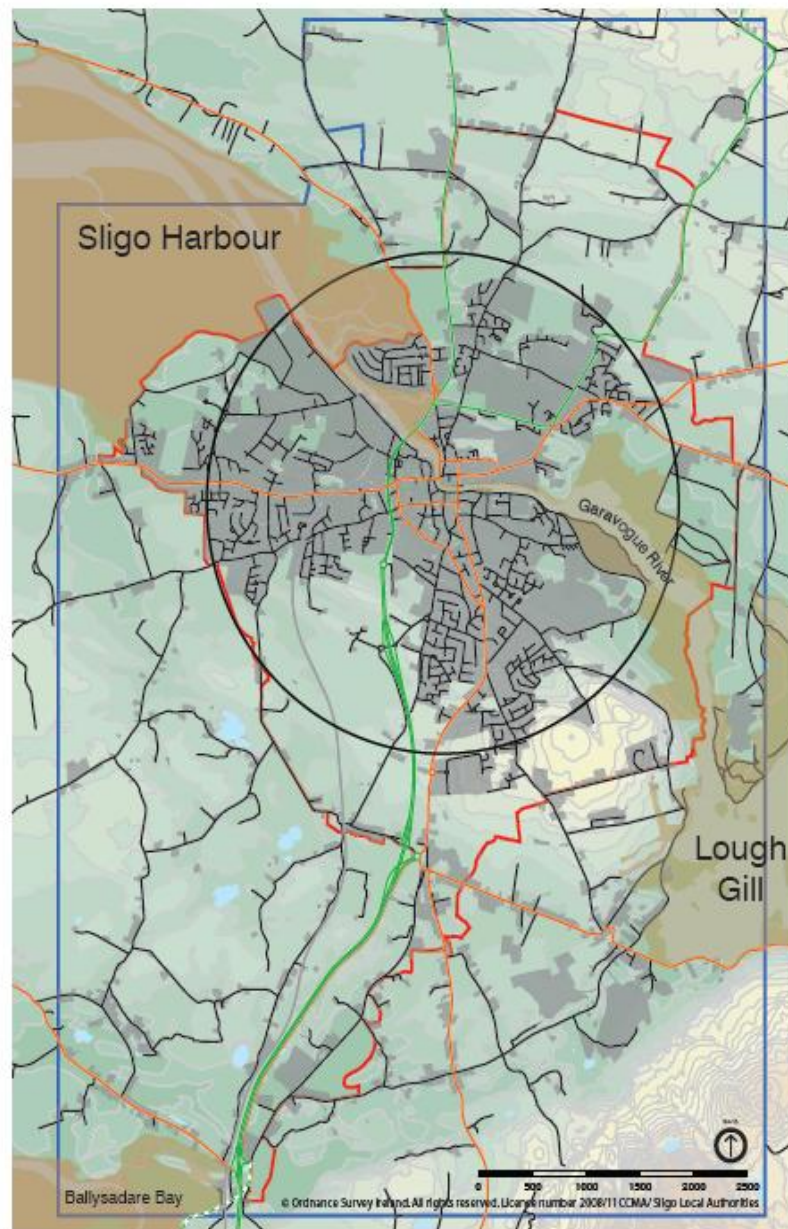
- P-NH-1** Protect natural heritage sites designated in European and national legislation and in other relevant international conventions, agreements and processes. This includes sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs).
- P-NH-2** Maintain, and where possible enhance, the conservation value of cSACs (candidate SACs) and SPAs and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this plan.
- P-NH-3** Consult with the relevant prescribed bodies and appropriate agencies when considering undertaking, approving or authorizing developments which are likely to affect designated natural heritage sites or those proposed to be designated.
- P-NH-4** Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives.
- P-NH-5** Promote areas for appropriate development, primarily for recreational and educational purposes, that would not conflict with maintaining favourable conservation status and the meeting of the conservation objectives for these sites.

Designated natural heritage sites objectives

It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:

- O-NH-1** Require an appropriate environmental assessment in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a designated natural heritage site or those sites proposed to be designated.
- O-NH-2** Ensure that environmental assessments in relation to designated natural heritage sites (or those sites proposed to be designated) are carried out by appropriate professionals.
- O-NH-3** Provide guidance to developers in relation to proposed developments which are likely to affect designated natural heritage sites or those sites proposed to be designated.

Fig. 13.I Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)



13.3.4 Inland waters – rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater

The rivers and streams occurring within the Plan area are home to a variety of habitats and species. The banks (riparian zones) of rivers and streams are particularly important as they contain a range of habitats and species which are different from the surrounding landscape. River banks also function as ecological corridors and “stepping stones” that enable species to move from place to place.

Wetlands associated with rivers and streams, such as wet grasslands and marshes, are important for biodiversity but have other benefits. They reduce the flow of pollutants to both surface water and ground water and ease the impacts of flooding by retaining floodwaters and releasing them slowly back into our waterways. Rivers and streams also provide recreational benefits for local communities. Groundwater is important for supplying water to and maintaining wetlands and river flows in dry periods.

Rivers and streams will be maintained in an open, semi-natural condition, wherever possible. Their corridors and valleys will be protected and maintained for their biodiversity, landscape and flood protection value. This will be achieved by strictly controlling development in river and stream corridors and valleys and by implementing sustainable drainage systems for commercial and residential developments. Groundwater resources will be protected and managed in a sustainable manner.

Inland waters policies

It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:

- P-NH-15** Protect rivers, streams and other water courses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitat for fauna and flora.
- P-NH-16** Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of river and stream corridors and valleys, maintain them free from inappropriate development and make provision for public access where feasible and appropriate.
- P-NH-17** Protect rivers and stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors, maintaining them free from inappropriate development, and discouraging culverting or realignment.
- P-NH-18** Ensure that all proposed greenfield residential and commercial developments use sustainable drainage systems in accordance with best current practice.
- P-NH-19** Ensure that floodplains and wetlands within the Plan area are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection value.
- P-NH-20** Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources.



Western shores of Lough Gill

Inland waters objectives

It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:

- O-NH-10** Consult with prescribed bodies prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on rivers, streams and watercourses.
- O-NH-11** Require that runoff from a developed area will not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.

13.3.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) mitigation policies

- A. The objectives and actions contained in the County Sligo Heritage Plan 2007-2011 are supported.
- B. The objectives of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Sligo, when prepared, are supported.
- C. No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects)¹.
- D. Subsequent plan-making and adoption of plans arising from this plan shall be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- E. Procedures shall be set up to ensure compliance of subsidiary plans with the requirement of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- F. Habitat mapping projects which have begun shall be completed and their findings utilised to inform the development management process.
- G. No ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity are to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.
Landscape
- H. An appropriate visual impact assessment shall be prepared for any proposed development that has potential to cause significant adverse impact on the landscape character of the Plan area and adjoining lands, using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods.

1. Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be:
(a) no alternative solution available;
(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Separate Section in Plan Outlining EA Derived Policies



Killarney

Town Development Plan

2009-2015

New policy for the preparation a landscape character assessment of Killarney Town its environment and the four action areas (Town Core AAP, Northern Gateway AAP, Inner Core AAP and Flesk River Valley AAP), ideally within two years of the adoption of the Plan. This assessment should then be used to inform the assessment of planning applications within these areas.

It is an overall objective of the Plan to protect designated scenic landscapes, views, routes and landscape features of local value (see Section 9.5 of the Plan).

Policy NH 05 A

To undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for Killarney town, its environment and the three action areas, Inner Core, Flesk River Valley and the Northern Gateway within 2 years of the adoption of the plan in accordance with the Landscape and Landscape Assessment guidelines by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

New policy stating that new significant developments in the Flesk River Valley area should include Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessments in submission of planning application to demonstrate that they will not have a negative impact to the character or views from or to the AAP

See above also

Policy NH 05 D

To request a landscape character assessment as part of proposed developments, where it is considered that a proposed development, by virtue of scale, design or location may interfere with protected viewpoints and scenic routes. The Planning Authority will require landscaping schemes to be submitted as part of planning applications so to encourage existing on site features to be incorporated as part of new developments and for any new development to integrate with its natural environment. It will also be a requirement for a soil stability assessment to be submitted as part of any development where the development is likely to impact on soil stability.

Policy NH 05 H

To request a Visual Impact Assessment for any proposed development with potential; to impact on the landscape character and visual receptors of the plan area and adjoining lands in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Guidelines or other more relevant guidelines, i.e. in relation to road proposals; Guidelines by the National Roads Authority

New and Amended Policies

Arising from EA Process and related Submissions

Water and Wastewater**Reference in the Plan**

Construction of the proposed additional cell at Sheheree Reservoir to ensure reservoir storage capacity for Killarney Town

Policy Infra 07 (c)
To liaise with Kerry County Council in the construction of additional cells at Sheheree Reservoir to ensure reservoir storage capacity for Killarney town subject to assessment of its effects on Sheheree Bog cSAC

Continued reduction in UFW by the way of leak detection and watermain repair by the water conservation team to ensure an adequate supply of water in the future;

New policy Action: POLICY INFRA 10 (l):
It is a policy of the Council:

To implement the provisions of Kerry County Councils Water Conservation Strategy as proposed under the lifetime of the Town Plan. Killarney Town Council will liaise with Kerry County Council to ensure that this Strategy will give consideration to the significant increased demands on water supply generated by the significant transient tourist population visiting and staying in the Killarney area

New policy Action: POLICY INFRA 10 (m):
It is a policy of the Council to:

Request that developments above a pre-determined threshold prepare a Water Conservation Plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the development.

Development of the proposed water treatment facility at Lough Guitane is required along with the proposed chemical dosing system to reduce the risk of Cryptosporidium contamination to ensure a supply of uncontaminated water within the study area;

New policy Action: POLICY INFRA 07 (w):
It is a policy of the Town Council:

To liaise with Kerry County Council to ensure any recommendations set out in The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - A Report for the Years 2006-2007 for Killarney are implemented

New policy Action: POLICY INFRA 07 (u):
It is a policy of the Town Council:

To liaise with Kerry County Council in ensuring the provision of a safe and secure drinking water supply for Killarney.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Source Protection report which include fencing off the source and improved animal husbandry in the catchment area need to be implemented to protect the water source;

New policy Action: POLICY INFRA 07 (v):
It is a policy of the Council:

To have regards to the Lough Guitane Source protection Plan as prepared by Kerry County Council and where applicable implement the measures outlined in the Plan

**In the order of ~40 new
& ~30 Amended Policies
Emerged from
EA Consultation!!**

PART V

Part IV

- SEA related Research /Guidance Proposals
- Recent SEA Commitments

EPA SEA Activities 2010/2011

1. SEA Process

- Ongoing Prioritised Interaction with P/P makers
- Engage Sectors not yet applying SEA – e.g. Forestry, Industry, Tourism,
- Promotion of SEA Best Practice
- Ongoing Development of in-house Procedures – Prioritisation
- Lean thinking – Six Sigma – Streamlining our SEA processes

2. Some Key On-going SEA's

- Offshore Renewable Energy
- GRID 25 Implementation
- CFRAMS

3. SEA Guidance and Tools Development

- EPA SEA WebPage development
- Ongoing Testing Refinement of SEA and GIS Reporting Tool
- GISEA – Update GIS in SEA Manual
- CEA Guidance
- SEA Sector and Topic Guidance

EPA SEA Related Research/Guidance Activities 2010/2011

SEA Related Research & Guidance:

Research Projects:

- *Effectiveness of SEA in Ireland – Commenced 07.04 .09.*
- *Development of GIS- Ongoing*

Guidance:

- *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment Methodology – Commenced Q2 -2012*
- *Cumulative Effects - Best Practice Guidance – Consultation Draft Q1 2012*
- *Application of GIS in SEA - Consultation Draft*
- *Environmental Liability Regulations - Guidance Document*

Other Research

- *BIOCHANGE, BIOFOREST; BOGLANDS, AGBIOTA ; SYMBIOSYS, *Habitat Mapping**

Basis for EPA SEA Review

- SEA Directive in place since 2004
- 284 SEA 's commenced to date
- Benchmark against EU, UK and Scottish (ongoing) Reviews
- Now timely to take stock – *Some key Questions*
 - Is environmental protection in P/Ps being enhanced through application of SEA? Is SEA delivering better Plans/Programmes?
 - Identification of best practice approaches in SEA in Ireland and the key associated challenges?
 - How can application of SEA be improved as a driver for improved integration of environmental considerations and delivering sustainable development?
 - What efficiencies can be implemented to maximise the benefits of SEA to P/P making process? Value for Time, Money and Effort?
 - How can the effectiveness of SEA be measured?
 - Time now to consider monitoring and follow up requirements?

Recent SEA Awareness and Commitments

■ EPA Review:

“Government Departments must ensure that there is sufficient clarity and rigour in the application of SEA to avoid the introduction of major policy initiatives without sufficient consideration of long term environmental consequences.”

....consideration should be given to the EPA assuming a wider statutory role to independently support, monitor and critique the SEA process, from a sound scientific viewpoint.

■ Draft National Biodiversity Plan

The SEA process supports the objective of making biodiversity concerns central to decision –making.....

The Government considers that the full implementation of the SEA Directive is critical to ensuring that all development is sustainable and protects biodiversity.

PART V

Part V

- Benefits of SEA

Benefits of SEA?

- Identifies likely Significant Effects at Strategic level and at early stages of P/P making process
- Provides Opportunities for -Avoidance, Protection, Mitigation
- Promotes Examination/Development of Reasonable/ Realistic Alternatives
 - Alignments/ Technologies!
- Promotes Meaningful Integration of Environmental Considerations in P/P making process
- Promotes Transparency in P/P making process
- Sets a Robust Framework for future “related projects”

Benefits of SEA?

- Promotes the consideration of Cumulative Effects with other P/P/Ss
- Ensures Forward Planning/ Adaptation for Environmental Change e.g Climate Change
- Promotes the Consideration and Assessment of Short, Medium and Long-term Scenarios and Effects
- Can be a Significant Support Mechanism for Strategic Decision -making
- Ensures Compliance with SEA Directive and National SEA Regulations
- Removes Potential for legal challenge due to non -application of SEA

Benefits of SEA?

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Benefits of SEA

- Guides the design and selection of least damaging Alternatives/Options for Projects
- Identifies Transboundary Effects at an early stage
- Promotes early Engagement with Key Stakeholders
- Informs Key stakeholders of Plan/Programme
- Can address through P/P Policies/Objectives/ likely future environmental conflicts
- Promotes the avoidance of likely significant effects at P/P and Project level
- Promotes the consideration of Cumulative Effects with other P/P/Ss

Benefits of SEA?

- **Engages and Informs key Decision makers and Public**
- **Can improve significantly the “Environmental Sustainability” of the P/P/S**
- **Can improve significantly the “Environmental performance” of the P/P/S Strategy making body**
- **Can raise national and international Best Practice in Environmental Design of Projects**
- **Reduces the potential for significant delays in Adoption and Implementation of P/P and execution of related Projects**
- **Can increase Public Awareness and possibly Public Acceptance of P/P and related projects**

Benefits of SEA

**237524: Coor East,Doonsallagh, Glenageer,Knocklassa and others,
Co. Clare. (10/9)**

Clare County Council

Windfarm - 31 no. wind turbines,substation, control buildings,mast, borrow pits, underground electricity connection, new and upgraded access roads and all associated works. Boolynamiscaun,Boolinrudda,

Case reference: PL03 .237524

Case type: Planning Appeal

Decision: Grant permission with revised conditions

Date Signed: 18/08/2011

EIS Required: Yes

Benefits of SEA

■ An Bord Pleanála - Direction

The Board noted that certain defined areas of County Clare have been designated in the Development Plan, adopted by the planning authority, as strategic areas for wind farm development.

In the context of national policy to develop alternative sources of renewable energy, *the Board considered the planning authority policy appropriate and noted that it had been subject of strategic environmental assessment.*

Benefits of SEA

- **Ensures other relevant P/Ps are taken into account**
- **Ensures Forward Planning/ Adaptation for Environmental Change e.g Climate Change**
- **Promotes the Consideration and Assessment of Short, Medium and Long-term Scenarios and Effects**
- **SEA requires Positive as well as Negative effects to be considered**
- **Can be a Significant Support Mechanism for Strategic Decision -making**
- **Ensures Compliance with SEA Directive and National SEA Regulations**
- **Removes Potential for legal challenge due to non -application of SEA**

PART VI –SEA

Moving Forward at a Regional Level

- **Some Suggestions**
- **Conclusions**

Some SEA Challenges & Opportunities

1. **Appropriate Assessment -Integration with SEA**
2. **Flood Risk Assessment**
3. **RPG Implementation**
4. **Revised/ Reduced SEA Thresholds/ Population and Area**
5. **WFD /RBMP Implementation Plans – How can Actions inform Policies**
6. **Core Strategy –CDP / LAP Update Variation/ Review**

SEA and Plan-making

- **Develop SEA Teams within and between Planning Authorities**
- **Engage in the SEA Process early - Screening, Scoping, Consultation**
- **Comply fully with the requirements of the SEA Directive**
- **Review the SEA Process and learn from experience- share resources**
- **Review of SEA Quality/Compliance**
- **Ensure those involved in preparing/ implementing the Plan are actively involved in the SEA/AA Process**
- **Formal Role of RPAs in SEA/ AA Overview**

Map of SEA Plans



Transboundary
Issues

Assess the
Bigger Picture

Cumulative /
In-Combination Effects

Integrate AA with
SEA

**Bring About
Environmentally
Sustainable Development**

SEA Best Practice

- **Forward Plan**
- **Know Scope of P/P**
- **Zone of Influence of P/P**
- **Focus on Key Issues**
- **Full Range of Impacts**
- **Natura 2000 Sites etc.**
- **Assess at relevant level**
- **Prioritise Avoidance**
- **Precautionary Principle**
- **Identify other P/Ps & P's**
- **Realistic Mitigation**

Some Key Sources of Information

- WFD – RBMP’s/POM’s/GIS Based Information & Reports
- WFD – Protected Areas, Water Body Status
- DoEHLG / OPW - Published Guidance
- EPA – ENVision- Environmental Maps, GSI, MPWS, OPW etc.
- EPA – SEA GIS Automated Reporting Tool (when available)
- NBC
- EPA - Ireland’s Environment 2008/ NIEA SoE Report
- Completed SEA’s – RPGs, County Plans, Town Plans, Flood Risk Plans etc.
- Statutory Body Submissions/ **SEA Statements**
- County Heritage/ Biodiversity Plans/ Habitat Mapping

SEA Criteria

- Key Criteria of SEA Requirement

- Article 3 SEA Directive

- **Plan / Programme**
- **Plan/ Programme for one of 11 Sectors**
- **Sets Framework for Projects requiring EIA!!**
- **Plan impacts on Natura 2000 sites??- Appropriate Assessment!!**

- Annex II Criteria

- **Cumulative nature of effects**
- **Transboundary nature of effects**
- **Magnitude and Spatial Extent-**
 - **Geographical Area affected**
 - **Population affected**
- **Value and Vulnerability of area**
 - **Special Natural Characteristics –SACs. SPAs,**
- **Effects on hydrogeology/ hydrology of wetland sites**
- **Effects on Areas or Landscapes of recognised National , Community or International Protection Status**
- **Potential Effects on features of archaeological value- wetland archaeology**

Are SEA Regs
too prescriptive-
Screening of
All Variations?