

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
STATEMENT**

LISMORE LOCAL AREA PLAN

2014 - 2020

February 2014



**Waterford County Council
Comhairle Chontae Phort Láirge**

1. Introduction

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 require that following the adoption of a plan or programme, the plan making authority makes a SEA statement available to the public and environmental authorities. The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:-

- 1) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- 2) How the environmental report, submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Plan and Environmental Report have been taken into account during preparation of the plan.
- 3) The reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with and,
- 4) The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

A SEA Screening Report was prepared by Waterford County Council on the potential significant environmental impacts of implementing the Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020. The SEA Screening Report concluded that Strategic Environmental Assessment and preparation of an Environmental Report were not required for the Lismore Local Area Plan .

2. SEA Screening Report and Submissions and Observations

Pre-draft consultation on the Lismore Local Area Plan Issues Paper was carried out between May 1st and May 15th 2013. A total of five submissions were received during this consultation period from;- the NRA, Inland Fisheries, DAHG, Department of Education and general public. Submissions in relation to environmental issues were received from Inland Fisheries Ireland and highlighted the need to include policy on Water Quality, Municipal Sewage Treatment Infrastructure, Aquatic Habitat Protection, Invasive Species, River/Stream Crossing Structures, Water Conservation, SUDS, Management Policies and Sustainable Planning for the Environment. Policies were included in the plan in relation to WWT capacity and water quality (Policies INF10, 11, and Objective INF10).

The Draft Lismore Local Area Plan and SEA Screening Report were put on public display from June 10th 2013 until July 22nd 2013. A total of 8 submissions were received in relation to the plan. Two of the submissions were concerned with the zoning of specific areas of land. Issues raised in the submissions included the following;

- Traffic Management.
- Archaeological heritage.
- Provision of recreation areas.
- Floodrisk Management.
- Core Strategy.

Submissions were received on SEA from the EPA and DoECLG. The DoECLG submission requested improved presentation of maps. The EPA recommended inclusion of a policy to support the SWRBMP Programme of Measures and requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The submission advocated adequate and appropriate infrastructure should be in place or required to be put in place to service any development during lifetime of the Plan. Policy and objectives INF11, NH4 and Objective NH1 address these issues.

Amendments proposed to the Draft Lismore Local Area Plan including amendments to existing policies and zonings and insertion of additional policies and objectives were screened for SEA. SEA Screening of the amendments did not identify any significant effects arising from the proposed amended policies or proposed zoning changes contained in the Draft Lismore Local Area Plan. The addition of policy NH4 and objective NH1 were considered positive for biodiversity.

Material Amendments and the SEA Screening Report were put on display from November 04th until December 02nd 2013. Four submissions were received on the proposed amendments including one submission on SEA from the EPA. The EPA acknowledged inclusion of many of the points raised in the EPA's previous submission in the proposed amendments and advised on requirements under the SEA Regulations. Submissions on the material amendments related to land use zoning and the Core Strategy.

The Draft Lismore Local Area Plan was presented at the Council meeting of February 10th 2014 and adopted without further amendments.

3. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

Table 1 below details the relevant policy and section in the Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 that addresses the key environmental issues as informed by the consultation process at pre-Draft and Draft Plan Stages.

Table 1. Integration of environmental issues in the Lismore Local Area Plan policies.

Key Environmental Issue		Relevant Plan policy
Water Quality	Protection of Water Quality - Water Framework Directive, incorporation of objectives and measures set out in the SWRBMP, -Surface and ground water protection, -Estuarine water resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries, -Drinking water, -Wastewater treatment, -Water conservation	Policies INF9, INF10, INF11, INF12

	Integration of flood risk assessment into the Plan to ensure appropriateness of land use and inclusion of SUDS technology Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change	Section 5.2.3 Policy INF212
Biodiversity	Protection of Biodiversity- Natura 2000 sites, pNHA's, non-designated habitats, riparian buffer zones, green infrastructure	Policies NH1, NH2, NH3, NH4, NH5, NH6 Obj NH1
	Invasive Species	NH7
Air and Climate	Development of traffic management measures	Obj INF1
	Sustainable modes of transport	Policy INF1, INF4, Obj INF3, INF6, INF7 & INF8
	Consideration of potential impacts of climate change	INF15, Obj INF12
	Promotion of use of renewable energy systems	INF13
Cultural Heritage	Protection of archaeological heritage	BH7, BH8, BH9, BH10, BH11

4. Monitoring Measures

Monitoring of the Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 will be carried out by Waterford County Council at the mid-term implementation review post adoption of the Plan. Data sources that will be used include, NPWS Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports, EPA and local authority water quality data, OPW flood reports, EPA data on carbon emissions and local authority planning data.

5. Conclusion

SEA assessment of the Lismore Local Area Plan policies and zonings and amendments has determined that no significant adverse impacts are predicted from the plan.

The findings of the AA Screening Report were incorporated into the SEA Screening Report.

Positive impacts from the Plan will be realised through proposed policies for water quality (policies INF9-INF12), biodiversity (NH1-NH6), cultural heritage (policies BH7-BH11) and for population (CS2, CS3) and human health (CS4, CS5 7 obj CS2).

Monitoring of the Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 will be carried out by Waterford County Council at the mid-term implementation review post adoption of the Plan and will inform future reviews of the Plan.

List of Persons & Bodies who made Submissions to the Draft Plan
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Ref No	Name	Representation
1	Áine Marie Reilly	Private Individual
2	Michael McCormack	National Roads Authority
3	Nicola Dwyer & Cian O'Mahony	Environmental Protection Agency
4	Yvonne Nolan	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
5	Ann & Eddie Hanley	Private Individuals
6	Cllr. Orla Russell	Elected Member
7	Shirley Crosbie	Office of Public Works
8	Margaret Killeen & Patrick O'Sullivan	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government