

████████████████████
Planning Authority
St. Francis Ravelin
Floriana FRN 1230

5th October 2016

Dear ██████████

**Paceville Development Framework: Appropriate Assessment Screening
Regulation 19 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations
of 2006 (S.L. 549.44)**

Reference is made to your request for Appropriate Assessment screening under Regulation 19 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2006 (S.L. 549.44) which ERA received by email on 23rd September 2016.

The Paceville Development Framework area overlaps with the Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - MT105 Zona fil-Bahar fil-Grigal ta' Malta and includes the SAC of National Importance - MALT 150 Wied Harq Hammiem (I-Inhawi). The planning area also lies adjacent to the SAC - MT 0000002 Pembroke Area. Both the Marine SAC and the Pembroke SAC are designated as Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats Directive. ERA notes that the implementation of the plan would result in substantial additional development and various other site interventions across the area, including within or adjacent to these SACs.

ERA has carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening of the Paceville Development Framework as per Regulation 19 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2006 (S.L. 549.44) and concluded that the proposed plan could have significant impacts on the SACs. **Therefore, the Paceville Development Framework should be subjected to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) study under same Regulations. The AA study should be carried out in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached with this letter.**

The Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be coordinated with the SEA process. However, the AA study should be presented as a separate report from the SEA environmental report.

Yours sincerely,



Perit Ruben Abela
Chief Executive Officer
Environment and Resources Authority