

██████████
Chief Executive Officer
The Energy and Water Agency

04th February 2019

Dear ██████████

**Malta's National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030: SEA Screening
Consultation in terms of Regulation 4(6) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010)**

Reference is made to the SEA Screening consultation on Malta's National Energy and Climate Plan (January 2019), which the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) received by email on 21st January 2019.

The Energy and Water Agency has already identified that the National Energy and Climate Plan could have potential significant effects on the environment and therefore, intends to carry out an SEA on such plan. ERA agrees with such approach.

ERA has reviewed the information provided with this SEA screening consultation and notes the positive effect that the plan is intended to have on particular aspects of the environment, such as climate change. However, the plan also envisages coordination of considerable physical development and infrastructure related to energy. At this stage, ERA considers that the impacts of the plan on the natural/rural environment and the landscape cannot be excluded and therefore, require further assessment.

Particular proposals in the plan are linked to other plans, programmes or current projects, which in turn could also have environment impacts. For example, ERA had already advised on the strategic environmental concerns of the Solar Farms Policy and is currently engaged in the environmental processing of other energy-related projects mentioned in the plan. Therefore, it is important that ERA's environmental input into such processes be duly taken into consideration in the next stages of the SEA process for the National Energy and Climate Plan.

I look forward to your consultation at the SEA Scoping stage.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Victor Axiak
Chairman
Environment and Resources Authority