

Transport Malta's decision to carry out an SEA of the National Transport Strategy and the National Transport Master Plan is noted. MEPA will provide additional comments during the next stages of the SEA consultation process.

At present, there is no concrete information on the strategic options, alternatives, proposals and/or projects that will be considered during the plan-making process. Therefore, in order to advise you whether the emerging strategy and master plan require a plan-level Appropriate Assessment, in line with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2006 (as amended), MEPA would need to be consulted as the drafting of the strategy and master plan evolves. With respect to Appropriate Assessment, MEPA is particularly interested in those aspects of the emerging strategy and master plan, including strategic options, alternatives, specific projects, etc. that could affect, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs).