

The Executive Chairperson
Planning Authority
St. Francis Ravelin,
Floriana

Date: 15/07/2019
ERA Ref: EA 00021/14

Dear Sir,

Planning Application PA/02926/16
Description Proposal: Re-development of disused quarry for motorsport use.
Location: 'Barriera ta' L-Ahrax', Barriera Ta' L-Ahrax, Mellieha, Malta.

Reference is made to the Site Report and Traffic Study Report, which was referred to the ERA on 16th January 2019 and 5th June 2019, respectively.

ERA's recommendation and representation on the said development proposal are being lodged in its capacity as an external consultee and an interested party in accordance with the Development Planning Act and the Development Planning (Procedure for Applications and their Determination) Regulations, 2016 (Legal Notice 162 of 2016).

1. Screening in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46)
 - 1.1) The proposed development falls under the scope of Schedule I Category II Section 1.0.2.1 (*Development with a site area of 2ha or more*); 7.2.2.2 (*Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles*); and 9.0.2.3 (*Restoration and after-use of existing or disused quarries or mines, other than for restoration of the site back to its pristine state*) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46).
 - 1.2) A Site Report, to be read in conjunction with the PDS, submitted by the applicant has been reviewed and it has been determined that impacts of the development are unlikely to be significant to the point of warranting an EIA, in accordance with Regulation 15(3b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 (S.L. 549.46), as long as various mitigation measures are duly addressed directly through the mainstream development consent mechanism, as per section 2 below.
2. Screening in terms of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, (S.L. 549.44)
 - 2.1) The site lies close to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Żona fil-Baħar bejn Il-Ponta ta' San Dimitri (Għawdex) u Il-Qaliet (MT0000105) and the Special Protected Area (SPA) Żona fil-Baħar madwar Għawdex (MT0000112) scheduled under GN 1311/2016; and the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Area (SPA) Ramla Tat-Torri / Rđum Tal-Madonna Area (MT000009) scheduled under GN 112/2007 and GN 1379/2016. In view of the location of the proposal close to the three aforementioned Natura 2000 sites, the proposal has been screened in terms of Regulation 19 of S.L. 549.44.

- 2.2) However taking into account the considerations mentioned in Annex I, the proposal as submitted is not expected to have any significant impacts on the integrity of the habitats, species, and the Natura 2000 sites as a whole. Thus, no further assessment as per Regulation 19 of S.L. 549.44 is considered necessary.
3. *Recommended Way Forward*
- 3.1) In view of the environmental concerns outlined in Annex I, revised plans should be submitted reflecting effective downscaling by reducing the site area of the development particularly by excluding the southeast portion of the site from the proposed development.
- 3.2) ERA requests that an operational and traffic noise study are carried out to provide a more comprehensive approach to the overall increase in noise levels from the proposed development. Kindly refer to the Terms of Reference in Annex III.
- 3.3) ERA requests that the conditions annexed with this consultation reply (Annex II) are duly included as an approved document in the permit.

Yours faithfully,

Ryan Busuttil

Assistant Environmental Protection Officer
f/Director Environment & Resources