

Environmental Impact Assessment

Schedule III

(Screening according to S.L. 549.46)

ERA Reference no.: EA 00063/18
PA Reference no.: PA 3854/18
Project Title: Extension to approved/existing scrap yard, relocation of recycle compartments construction of class 4 shop and garage
Location: Site at Trihills Heavy Industries Ltd, Triq Tal-Barrani, Ghaxaq, Malta.
Screening date: December 2018

1. Description of Proposal

1.1 Outline of project

The proposal involves an extension to an existing scrap yard which has been in operation since the 1980s. The site has a valid trading licence to operate as a scrap metal facility, however the use of the site as an end-of-life vehicles (ELV) facility was established by means of development permit PA 4103/06 which also allowed for the construction of additional structures to service the industrial activity. The submitted drawings indicate that the proposed extension is to be concreted and will accommodate several parking bays and recycle compartments (vide figs. 1-3).

The facilities on site are proposed be updated to be in line with the relevant Waste Management Regulations. In fact, the Project Description Statement (PDS), submitted for the development application under review, presents a holistic industrial setup for the entire site including the proposed new later extension. The PDS indicates that the facility will be treating around 2,300 ELVs per year translating to around 7-9 vehicles per day. In this regard, the daily volume of hazardous waste received by the site will be less than 50 tonnes. In addition, the expected increase in the flow of heavy goods vehicles will amount to an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 120 vehicles.

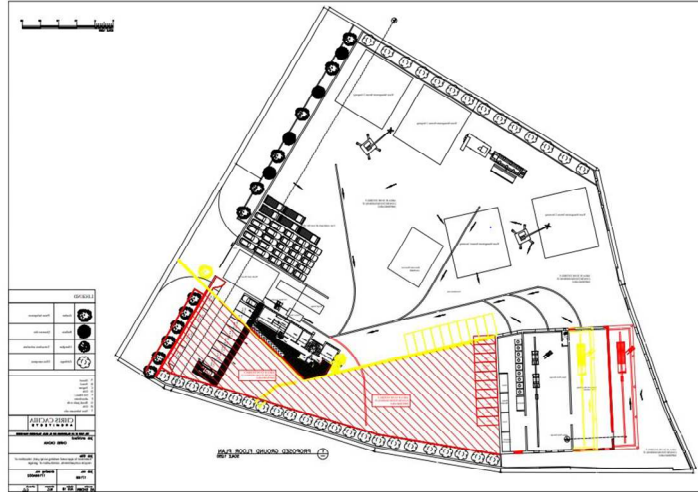


Figure 1: Proposed block plan showing proposed extension (red hatching). Source: PA 3854/18/36f

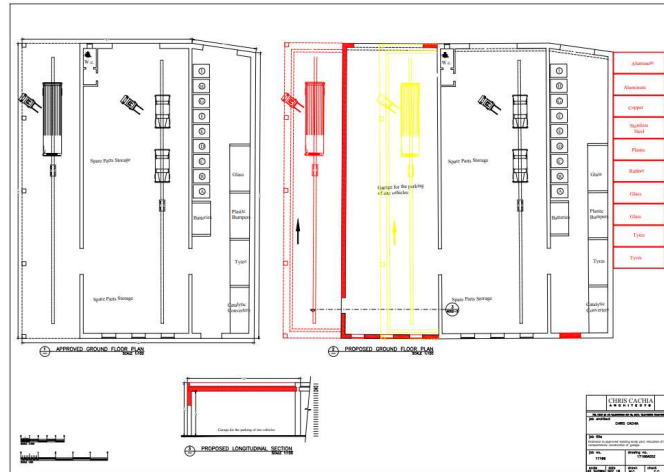


Figure 2: Proposed ground floor. Source: PA 3854/18/48a

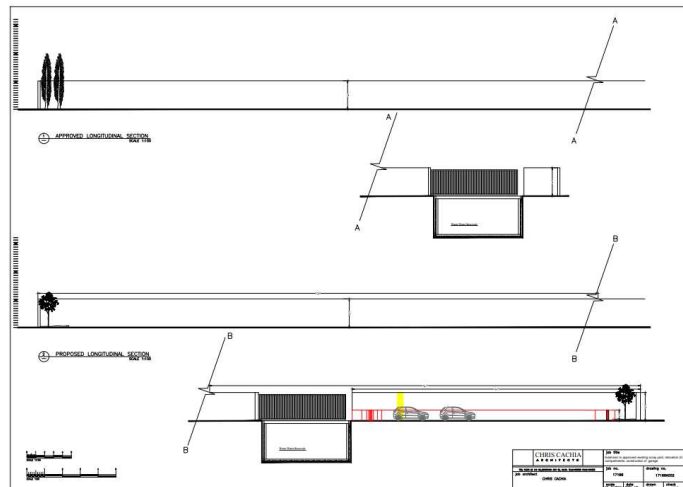


Figure 3: Proposed longitudinal section. Source: PA 3854/18/48b

1.2 Site description and related considerations

The site is located outside the development zone to the northeast of Ghaxaq and has frontage on the Tal-Barrani arterial road. The entire site, including the extension has an area of c. 11,500sqm and the extension on its own will occupy c. 2,500sqm of undeveloped land. The entire site lies within a designated Area of Containment with the immediate, surrounding environs characterised by various third party industrial uses. In addition, the west of the site borders a designated industrial area (vide photo 1).



Photo 1: 2016 aerial image of entire site outlined in blue including the proposed extension. *Source:* PA Geoserver

1.3 Site history

The existing development is covered by an approved PAPB permit/police license (PAPB No. 1098/83/4680/82 and Registration No. 737/89) and recently by development permit PA 4710/06 - *To upgrade existing scrap yard and ancillary facilities as well as to sanction existing building and additional use of workshop.*

A separate development application for the installation of photovoltaic panels has been submitted on site and is being processed by the Planning Authority (PA 2228/18).

2. EIA-relevant history

2.1 Relevant EIA/screening criteria: (citations refer to EIA Regulations, 2017 (S.L 549.46), except where otherwise specified):

The proposed development falls within the scope of Schedule I, Category II, Section 5.0.2.3 – *Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles* - of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46).

2.2 Documents used for screening:

- ERA responses dated 1st June 2018 and 27th September 2018 in PA 3854/18/doc33a/43a.
- Project Description Statement (PDS), referred to ERA on 7th November 2018.
- ERA response dated 21st March 2018 in PA 4710/06/doc150a.
- AADT report referred to ERA on 30th November 2018.

3. Environmental Assessment

ERA notes that the proposed extension would serve an existing scrapyards permitted to operate as an ELV facility within a designated Area of Containment. Therefore, given the immediate site context (industrial) and site designation, the impacts of the proposed 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). This is without prejudice to the adoption of the required environmental operational requirements. In this regard, the applicant has applied for an Environmental Permit (EP 011/17) for which additional information requested by ERA has not yet been submitted. The applicant has also submitted a PDS during the Environmental Permitting Process which does not tally with the version of the PDS submitted for this development application and which has been reviewed for the scope of EIA screening in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46). The PDS dated January 2017 clearly states that the proposed amount of waste shall not surpass the IPPC thresholds mentioned in this PA process whereas the PDS dated October 2018 still makes reference to thresholds which may lead to the requirement of an IPPC permit. ERA is therefore seeking a clarification with respect to the two versions of the PDS and also requesting that the PDS submitted for the scope of environmental operational requirements is to be duly superseded by the updated version.

In addition, from photos uploaded on e-Apps and photo 1 in the PDS, it appears that the whole scrap yard site does not have an impermeable flooring. In this respect, the nature of the excavated material (i.e. whether it is hazardous or not) is to be adequately determined prior to its management and disposal.

Screening Disclaimer

The above screening results, the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any required changes or updates should the development proposal be eventually modified or should the information/assumptions provided turn out to be incorrect. Any deviations of the proposal from this submission would need to be re-assessed and the merits of this screening would need to be re-opened.