

Hermann Mallia
Famalco Group
Pitkali Road
Attard

Date: 11/07/2018

Dear Sir,

Planning Ref.: PA 05552/18

Description Proposal: Amendments to PA 1628/15 to include a phasing-out plan for its restoration, i.e. recycling of construction and demolition waste, to a period of 25 years. Application to include meter room.

Location: Site at (Quarry), Ta' Sant' Agata sive Ta' Sgamardi, Tad-Debbiet, Sqaq Ta' Sant Agata, Sqaq Tad-Debbiet, Siggiewi, Malta

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46)

Reference is made to the Project Description Statement (PDS), which was received by the ERA on 15th June 2018.

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. Outline of proposal

- 1.1 PA 05552/18 is a proposal for the conversion of a disused quarry into an inert waste recycling facility. About 11,000 tonnes of waste will be recycled on an annual basis. The quarry will also be gradually infilled with non-hazardous inert waste that cannot be recycled. The site area is approximately 10,000m², with a depth of about 80m, resulting in about 80,000m³ of void space; it is estimated that it will take 4-6 years to completely infill the site.
- 1.2 A number of temporary facilities and equipment will also be installed for the use of the site. These include an office container and sanitary facilities, as well as a crusher and wheel washing facilities.
- 1.3 Furthermore, the surface area will be restored back to agricultural land in order to be compatible with the existing surrounding landscape. This will be done through the levelling of top soil and construction of rubble walls around the perimeter.

2. Site context

- 2.1 The site is a disused quarry located in Ta' Sgamardi, Siggiewi and surrounded by disused quarries and agricultural activity; it has a site area of circa. 10,000m².
- 2.2 The site also lies within a Groundwater Safeguard Zone.



Figure 1. Location of the site (**Source:** PDS)

3. EIA Screening (citations refer to S.L. 549.46, except where otherwise specified):

- 3.1 The PDS was requested given that the proposal falls under Schedule I, Category II, Section 9.0.2.1 (*Restoration and after-use of existing or disused quarries or mines, other than for restoration of the site back to its pristine state*).
- 3.2 A number of impacts, along with their respective mitigation measures were outlined within the PDS. These are summarised below.

Type and characteristics of potential impact/s

- 3.3 The proposal involves the modification of the current land use, namely from a disused quarry to agricultural land after it has been backfilled. Given the nature of the project, the proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. This is also in line with the established policy framework outlined in the South Malta Local Plan (SMLP), which covers quarries through Policies SMIA 11 and SMMW 01.
- 3.4 The impacts with respect to visual amenity and landscape are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment given that the site will be converted to agricultural land following infilling.
- 3.5 Impacts from dust may occur from movement of trucks, and the infilling process itself. Mitigation measures to be employed include good housekeeping, use of on-site reservoir for water-washing facility, and control of vehicle speed. Other emissions from vehicles in the forms of Benzene, NO₂ and PM₁₀ will have a negligible impact on air quality as few vehicles will be accessing the site per day. Furthermore, given that traffic flow is not likely to increase considerably, no significant impacts with regards to traffic congestion are envisaged and hence alternative arrangements in terms of transport are not required.
- 3.6 The likely noise impacts during infilling and operation of the open storage are not envisaged to be significant given the small scale of the project and that no noise sensitive receptors are in the immediate vicinity of the site.

- 3.7 In general, all infilling activity described in the PDS is not expected to have a significant impact as long as it adheres to the provisions in the *Waste management (management of waste from extractive industries and backfilling) Regulations* and the *Waste Regulations, S.L. 549.63*.

4. ERA Conclusion and Recommendation

EIA screening conclusion

- 4.1 Screening in terms of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) has determined that impacts of the development are unlikely to be significant to the point of warranting an EIA, as long as various mitigation measures are duly incorporated through the mainstream development consent mechanism and mitigated by means of conditions and specifications (e.g. approved documents) in the development permit.

ERA recommendation

- 4.2 Given the site location and the lack of significant environmental impacts described above, there is no objection to the proposal from an environmental point of view, subject to the conditions below:
- 5.1 The executable version of this development permit together with the approved plans and the commencement notice shall not be issued until such time that the applicant submits a written acknowledgement from the ERA confirming that an update to the application for an Environmental Permit (EP 044/15) has been submitted and validated by the ERA. The operation of the site shall not commence until such time that the Environmental Permit is granted by ERA.
- 5.2 The development shall not result in any intended or unintended discharge of surface water (other than clean overflow from runoff-collection reservoirs) or wash waters from the development site into the ground or onto any surrounding lands including roads and paths.
- 5.3 Access to the site shall be limited to existing roads and site access. No hard surfacing, widening or modification of access roads and pathways nor the opening or modification of access points, is permitted. Moreover, this permit shall not be interpreted as an approval, sanctioning or commitment in favour of any other access point or route to the site in future, or any additional physical interventions or modifications to the site and its surroundings.
- 5.4 All works are to be carefully managed so as to avoid damage to any adjoining land, natural habitats or features as well as to the landscape. No works, overflows, storage of material/machinery or vehicular trampling/manoeuvring/parking beyond the permitted area are allowed. This applies to both the construction/site preparation phase and the operational use of the site.
- 5.5 All quarry operations including landfilling activities, are subject to the legal provisions of the *Waste Management (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries and Backfilling) Regulations, 2009 (S.L. 549.63)* and the *Waste Regulations, 2011 (S.L. 549.63)*.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Xuereb
Environmental Protection Officer
f/Director Environment & Resources

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.