

[REDACTED]
Planning Authority
St. Francis Ravelin
Floriana, FRN 1230

14th December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

**Partial Review of the Ta' Qali Action Plan, Final Draft (October 2020)
Consultation in terms of Regulation 4(6) of S.L. 549.61 (Strategic Environmental
Assessment Regulations)**

Reference is made to the Planning Authority's (PA) SEA screening consultation on the Partial Review of the Ta' Qali Action Plan, Final Draft (October 2020), which the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) received by email on 12th November 2020.

ERA has reviewed the information provided with this SEA screening consultation and considers that, strategically, the final draft of the Ta' Qali Action Plan is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, as long as suitable measures are adopted for addressing air quality and noise issues within the designated area. ERA's previous comments on the draft policy, dated 6th October 2020, are still valid and are being reiterated in Annex 1.

Moreover, further to ERA's previous concerns in relation to air quality and noise, it is recommended that additional environmental considerations could be implemented at project stage, such as: (i) the establishment of a small bus terminus on an already committed developed area together with an increase in buses servicing the area; (ii) the use of collective transport and car sharing; (iii) the provision of cycling parking and cycling infrastructure in existing parking areas; and (iv) a number of parking spaces with charging points, within the proposed designated parking area, to be allocated for electric vehicles. These considerations are important in order to ensure that foreseen environmental impacts resulting from future development at this site are reduced and mitigated as much as possible, without any additional take-up of undeveloped land.

Depending on the nature, scale and context, proposed projects emerging from the Plan may also require further environmental assessment, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening procedure in terms of S.L. 549.46 (EIA Regulations, 2017). Site-specific environmental issues will be assessed further at development application stage when more detailed information about the proposed project is available.

Yours sincerely,



Perit Michelle Piccinino
Chief Executive Officer
Environment and Resources Authority