

Mr. Richard Bilocca
Wasteserv Malta Ltd
EKO Centre
Triq il-Latmija
Marsacala

Date: 21/07/2022
ERA Ref: EA/00019/22

Dear Mr Bilocca,

Planning Ref.: Pre-Submission
Description Proposal: Construction of an Organic Processing Plant in Malta
Location: ECOHIVE Complex, Naxxar.

**Environmental Impact Assessment
Screening according to Schedule III of S.L. 549.46**

**Appropriate Assessment
Screening according to S.L. 549.44**

Reference is made to the Project Description Statement (PDS) that was referred directly to ERA via email on 20th July 2022.

1. Introduction

This project seeks the construction of an Organic Processing Plant (OPP) for the treatment of organic waste mainly collected from household and commercial entities all over the Maltese Islands. The project therefore aims at improving waste management in Malta by reducing the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to achieve the targets set by the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) by 2035.

The PDS was reviewed and the proposed development was screened in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46); and the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44).

2. Screening in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46)

(Refer to Section 6 of Annex I)

The proposed development falls within the scope of Schedule I, Category II, Section 1.0.2.1 and 13.0.2.1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46). Screening determined that the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required to address impacts in terms of Land use; Geo-environment; Cultural heritage; Terrestrial Ecology; Landscape and Visual Amenity; Waste Management; Air Quality, Noise Emissions and Light pollution; Pollution and Risk to Population and Human Health and the surrounding environment; and Cumulative impacts.

3. Screening in terms of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44)

(Refer to Section 7 of Annex I)

The proposal also requires the submission of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) as per Regulation 19(1) of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44), given that the project may cause significant impacts on the following:

- Terrestrial environment:
 - MT0000007- *Is-Salini* designated as a Special Area of Conservation via Government Notice 1379 of 2016; and
 - MT0000008 - *L-Għadira s-Safra u l-Iskoll tal-Għallis* designated as Special Area of Conservation via Government Notice 1522 of 2019, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L.549.44).
- Marine environment:
 - MT0000105 *Żona fil-Baħar bejn il-Ponta ta' San Dimitri (Għawdex) u Il-Qaliet* designated as a Special Area of Conservation of International Importance via Government Notice 682 of 2018; and
 - MT0000112 *Żona fil-Baħar ta' madwar Għawdex* – Special Protected Area via Government Notice 1311 of 2016.

4. Conclusion and way forward

The above screenings have concluded that the proposed development requires further assessment, both in terms of EIA and AA, by virtue of Regulation 15 of S.L. 549.46 and Regulation 19(1) of S.L. 549.44, respectively.

Full details of the EIA process should be obtained from the EIA Regulations, a copy of which can be downloaded from the following links: <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.46/eng/pdf>
<https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/EIAreg.aspx>

In accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), you are requested to confirm in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, whether you wish to carry out the EIA and when you estimate it will be completed. This confirmation should also cover the environmental assessment requested through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44).

You may wish to note that ERA considers the eventual EIA and AA reports as public documents and will be made available for consultation purposes.

ERA reserves the right to issue its final position and recommended way-forward, including any environmental conditions, following the outcome of the required assessments.

Yours sincerely,

Leonora D'Amato
Senior Environment Protection Officer
f/Director of Environment and Resources
Environment & Resources Authority

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.