

Our ref: 3902
SG ref: 01703

If telephoning ask for:

Project Development Co-ordinator
Planning and Regeneration
North Lanarkshire Council

7th February 2022

By email only to: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Dear

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
East Airdrie Link Road scheme - Scoping consultation**

Thank you for your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the East Airdrie link road scheme. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 10 January 2022.

As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, we have considered the document submitted and comment as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER).

The [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage; we have also produced [SEA topic guidance](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. We have used the guidance to inform our detailed scoping response which is attached as an appendix.

On completion, the Environmental Report and the plan to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (SEA_Gateway@gov.scot) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

Should you wish to discuss this scoping consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Planning Unit Manager (SW)
Planning Service

Ecopy: sea.gateway@hes.scot; sea_gateway@nature.scot

Appendix: Comments on the scoping consultation

Subject to the comments below we are generally satisfied with the content of the scoping report.

1. Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)

- 1.1 We recommend mentioning the Flood Risk Management plans for Scotland ([Flood Risk Management Plans | SEPA](#)) and the [River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021-2027](#).

2. Baseline informatio

- 2.1 Table 5.7 Water Receptors refers to data from 2018. Please note a new River Basin Management Plan was published in 2021 and more recent data (2020) is available from SEPA's water hub.
- 2.2 Paragraph 5.7.3 refers to 6 designated AQMA's within North Lanarkshire there are now 4 AQMA's as Harthill and Moodiesburn have been revoked.

3. Environmental problems

- 3.1 We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.

4. Alternatives

- 4.1 We are satisfied with the alternatives outlined. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.

5. Scoping in / out of environmental topics

- 5.1 We agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment.
- 5.2 We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.

6. Wording of SEA objectives

- 6.1 We would recommend that the wording of the water environment objective be expanded to include the protection and enhancement of the water environment as per North Lanarkshire Council's proposed LDP SEA.
- 6.1 We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option.

- 6.2 It is useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation / enhancement measures in the assessment framework.
- 6.3 We would encourage you to be very clear in the Environmental Report about mitigation measures which are proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).
- 6.4 One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA.
- 6.5 Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then it would be extremely helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. The inclusion of a summary table in the Environmental Report such as that presented below will help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.

Issue / Impact Identified in ER	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
Insert effect recorded in ER	Insert mitigation measure to address effect	Insert as appropriate	Insert as appropriate
etc	etc	etc	etc

7. Monitoring

- 7.1 Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. It would be helpful if the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.