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Senior Planner
Planning Department
Kilkenny County Council
County Hall
Johns Street
Kilkenny

08th January 2018

Our Ref: 171205.1

Re. Proposed Variation 3 to the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014 – 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated the 21st December 2017 re the Proposed Variation 3 to the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014 – 2020, to incorporate the expired Local Area Plan areas of Piltown, Fiddown and Gowran into the County Development Plan and to extend the settlement boundary for Ballyragget, (the Variation).

SEA Determination

We note your position with regards to the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Variation.

Comment on the Variation

The intention to extend the boundary for the Ballyragget settlement, increasing the area by 7.3ha, in order to accommodate additional housing development, is noted. Any proposed development should be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the County Core Strategy and with the principles of sustainable development.

Significant plans currently (and undergoing SEA), which should be considered in implementing the Variation include the following:

- Draft National Planning Framework (DHPLG)
- Draft National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHPLG)

Future Modifications to the Variation

Where changes to the Variation are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in *SEA Regulations Schedule 2A Criteria (S.I. No. 436 of 2004)*.

Infrastructure Planning

In proposing the Variation, and any related amendments, variations etc. of the Plan, and in implementing the Variation, adequate and appropriate infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.

Environmental Authorities


Under the SEA Regulations (*S.I. No. 436 of 2004*), as amended by *S.I. No. 201 of 2011*, notice should also be given to the following:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), and
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

A copy of your decision regarding the determination, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, should be made available for public inspection at your offices, local authority website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours sincerely



David Galvin
Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Evidence and Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
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Inniscarra, County Cork