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Planning Department  
Kilkenny County Council  
County Hall  
John Street  
Kilkenny

19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Our Ref: SCP190203.1

**Re. SEA Scoping for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Callan Local Area Plan**

Dear Mr Malone,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, in relation to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Callan Local Area Plan (the 'Alterations').

The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Alterations and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the Alterations. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.

As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document '*SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources*'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Alterations and SEA.

**Specific Comments on the Alterations**

You should consider including a commitment that, where the removal of buffer zone surrounding the river is considered, a construction environmental management plan is



required, to ensure the appropriate mitigation measures and associated monitoring are adequately implemented.

### **Available Guidance**

Our website contains SEA resources and guidance, including:

- SEA process guidance and checklists
- list of relevant spatial datasets
- topic specific SEA guidance, such as how to integrate climate change into SEA or consideration of alternatives in SEA.

You can access these resources at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>

### **State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016**

In preparing the Alterations and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our most recent State of the Environment Report [Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016](#) (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Alterations.

### **Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society**

You should ensure that the Alterations align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.

### **EPA SEA Search and Reporting Tool**

This tool allows public authorities to explore, interrogate and produce high level environmental summary reports. It is intended to assist in screening and scoping exercises. The tool is available through EDEN [www.edenireland.ie](http://www.edenireland.ie)

### **EPA WFD Application**

Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN <https://wfd.edenireland.ie/> and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the [Catchments.ie](http://Catchments.ie) website.

### **Environmental Authorities**

Under the SEA Regulations, you should also consult with:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears 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 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.

If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: [sea@epa.ie](mailto:sea@epa.ie).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cian O'Mahony'.

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Cian O'Mahony  
*SEA Section*  
*Office of Evidence and Assessment*  
*Environmental Protection Agency*