

Our Ref: LH/SEA00100/sco

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If telephoning ask for:  
Lynne Harkness

5 March 2007

Dear Ms Ross

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AYRSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN REVIEW**

I refer to your Scoping Report consultation under Section 15 of the above Act in respect of the Ayrshire Joint Structure & Transport Committee Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (ALBAP) Review, submitted to SEPA via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway on 29 January 2007.

The content of the Scoping Report for the most part, provides coverage of what will be required for the Environmental Report under Schedule 3 of the Act. However, there are areas which require some further detail these are discussed in detail below. SEPA has used Table 3.2 set out on page 22 of the Scottish Consultation Authorities' publication 'Information for Responsible Authorities' to inform its detailed response. This document provides useful guidance on what to expect from the Consultation Authorities and is available at [www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/consultation/closed/2006/sea/annex\\_b.pdf](http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/consultation/closed/2006/sea/annex_b.pdf). Further advice and guidance can be obtained from the SEA Tool Kit guidance from the Scottish Executive at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45)

### **The Plan**

SEPA are satisfied that the Scoping Report covers the general context of and the legal requirement for the ALBAP Review, although a contents page at the start of the document would have been very useful.

### *Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*

SEPA notes that Appendix A shows the main plans and programmes relevant to the strategy.

### **The Area**

The existing environmental issues have not been made clear. SEPA consider that these would be identified in the Environmental Report.

### **Environmental Baseline Information**

It is important that adequate baseline information is collected and regularly updated to provide a base against which the ALBAP Review's potential effects can be assessed and monitored. SEPA would have expected some facts/figures regarding the Environmental Baseline Information, i.e. the current state of the area, not just in summary. SEPA consider useful information would already be contained in the original LBAP. However, this can be provided, or referred to in the Environmental Report.

**Assessment method***SEA objectives & indicators*

I would refer you to SEPA's response to the previous Scoping Report of 25 October 2006 on these matters, as there appears to be little difference in the stated assessment methods.

**Monitoring**

It is important to recognise that SEA is an ongoing process and keeping the baseline environmental information up to date is essential.

**Consultation**

SEPA is concerned with the proposed consultation period of 4 to 6 weeks for the Environmental Report. As the Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit recommends a consultation period of between 6 to 12 weeks, SEPA would request you revise this proposal.

The comments in this letter are made solely with respect to the SEA and without prejudice to any representations made to consultations on the LBAP Review or any other plans or planning applications in this area.

The Environmental Report should be submitted to the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway who will forward it to the Consultation Authorities. If you wish to discuss any of the above I can be contacted on 01355 574200 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk) .

Yours sincerely

Lynne Harkness  
Planning Officer