

Our Ref: SEA00110  
SG Ref: SEA00100

Fiona Ross  
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By email: [sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Fiona

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan – Environmental Report**

I refer to your Environmental Report consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 16 January 2008.

SEPA has used its Scoping consultation response of 5 March 2007 to consider the adequacy of the Environmental Report and this is used as the framework for comments which can be found in Appendix 1.

Please note, this response is in regard only to the adequacy and accuracy of the Environmental Report and any comments SEPA may have on the Plan itself will be provided separately.

As the Plan is finalised, the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee as Responsible Authority, will require to take account of the findings of the Environmental Report and of views expressed upon it during this consultation period. As soon as reasonably practical after the adoption of the plan, the Responsible Authority should publish a statement setting out how this has occurred. SEPA normally expects this to be in the form of an "SEA Statement" similar to that advocated in the Scottish Government SEA templates and toolkit which is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/13](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/13). A copy of the SEA statement should be sent to the Consultation Authorities via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on publication.

If you wish to discuss anything in this response please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574 302 via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Lorna Maclean  
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## **Annex 1**

### **General Comments**

In general the ER is a comprehensive and well set out report which takes into consideration a number of the comments made by SEPA in its Scoping consultation. However, a summary of how issues raised in the Scoping Response have been dealt with would have been useful.

It is noted that the plan's Core Theme Action Plans, HAP's & SAP's objectives were assessed in relation to the SEA objectives. SEPA considers that this level of assessment is appropriate for the plan.

It is clear that the positive impacts of the LBAP will be vital in assisting in addressing the current environmental problems in Ayrshire. SEPA would encourage Ayrshire to continue to address these issues at a local level through the LBAP but also at a national level through the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. There are a number of national strategic mechanisms already delivering work for biodiversity that could also assist Ayrshire in taking forward their LBAP. Some of these are River Basin Management Planning, Integrated Habitat Networks to assist in defragmentation and adaptation to climate and the Scottish Working Group for non native species. Further opportunities will likely present themselves via the European Soil Thematic Strategy and Sustainable Flood Management.

