

SEA & HDA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is concerned with the environmental impacts of implementing the County Development Plan. It is a process that aims to ensure that any potential for significant environmental effects are identified, considered and taken into account prior to the adoption of the plan. Each step in the process must be made publicly available allowing for concerns to be raised and resolved at policy level. SEA has the effect of increasing certainty for people proposing to invest in development in Kerry thereby reducing the potential for delays in project proposals.

Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA)

Appropriate Assessment relates to an assessment of the likely significant effects on Nature Conservation Sites considered to be Important at a European Level, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's). These sites have been determined through the implementation of European Directives (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC and Habitats Directive 92/43/ EEC) dating from 1979 and 1992.

The process also takes account of Natura 2000 sites in adjoining counties. The report on AA of plans is called a Natura Impact Report. This Natura Impact Report should have the effect of facilitating investment/ development proposals, by means of resolving issues with SAC's and SPA's at policy level.

Integration of SEA (including Flood Risk Assessment) and the HDA in the plan making process

STAGES IN PLAN MAKING PROCESS	PLAN	SEA (including Flood Risk Assessment)	HDA
Pre-review	Preparation of Working Papers on key issues	If SEA is not mandatory, screen for possible significant environmental effects	-
Initial public consultation	Publication of (a) statutory notice of intention to make or review plan, and (b) Issues Paper	Scoping of the Environmental Report, in consultation with environmental authorities	Notify consultees that a HDA will also be undertaken
Preparation of Documentation	Preparation of draft plan	Preparation of Environmental Report. The process will be iterative, amendments will be made to the plan by SEA (including FRA), where required, and record made of same	HDA will be drafted in parallel with SEA and Plan. The process will be iterative, amendments will be made to the plan by HDA, where required, and record made of same
Public consultation	Public display of draft plan and consideration of submissions	Public display of Environmental Report and consideration of submissions	Public display of HDA and consideration of submissions
2nd public display (if required)	Display of any material amendment(s) to draft plan	Identify any significant environmental effects resulting from material amendments	Identify any likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites resulting from material amendments
Completion of process	Adoption of plan	Making specified information available in the form of a SEA Statement	Provide information on the HDA determination
Post-plan	Implementation	Monitoring of significant environmental effects	Monitoring, if required/appropriate

