



# Draft Blessington LAP Amendment Stage Submission - Report

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Who are you:    | State Body            |
| Name:           | EPA                   |
| Reference:      | DBLESSLAP-144349      |
| Submission Made | April 1, 2025 2:52 PM |

**Topic**

LAP - Proposed Material Amendments No 1 Submission

**Submission**

We acknowledge your notice dated 21st March 2025 in relation to The Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025-2031.  
Please find attached the EPA's submission on the above.

Regards

Eleanor Ryan

---

**File**

SCP230810.3 EPA SEA submission on Prop Amends Blessington LAP 2025- 2031.pdf, 0.23MB

Ms Sorchá Walsh  
Senior Executive Planner  
Forward Planning Team  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings  
Wicklow Town

01<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Our Ref: SCP230810.3

**Re. Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025-2031**

Dear Ms Walsh,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, in relation to the proposed Material Amendments ('the Amendments') to the Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025- 2031 ('the Plan')

The EPA is one of the 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 plans and programmes and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.

**Proposed SEA Determination**

We note your proposed determination regarding the need for SEA of the Amendments, that SEA is required.

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 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. These should be considered, as appropriate and relevant to the Amendments.

### **Sustainable Development**

In proposing the Amendments, Wicklow County Council should ensure that the Plan as amended, is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service 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.

In considering the Amendments, Wicklow County Council should consider the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.

Wicklow County Council should also ensure that the Amendments are consistent with key relevant higher level plans and programmes.

### **Future Modifications to the Draft Plan.**

Where further changes to the Draft Plan are proposed, these should be screened for likely significant effects in accordance with SEA Regulations. They should be subject to the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Draft Plan.

### **SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”**

Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises the following:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.
- How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan. The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

A copy of the SEA Statement with the above information should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.

Guidance on preparing SEA Statements is available on the EPA website at the following link: [https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EPA\\_Guidance\\_web.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EPA_Guidance_web.pdf)

### **Environmental Authorities**

Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- 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 also be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: [sea@epa.ie](mailto:sea@epa.ie).

Yours Sincerely,

*Eleanor Ryan*

---

Eleanor Ryan  
SEA Section  
*Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring*  
*Environmental Protection Agency*