

SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) and Responsible Authority

Title of PP: 2012 Revisions to the 2006 Ta' Qali Action Plan

Responsible Authority: MEPA

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Date: 19th June 2012

Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority: MEPA

Title of PP: 2012 Revisions to the 2006 Ta' Qali Action Plan

Purpose of PP:

The objectives of the plan are:

- (a) to consider the retention of the fairs and exhibition facilities on the site of the existing convention centre (site covered by policies NWTQ 35 and NWTQ 55 of the Action Plan);
- (b) to evaluate, and amend accordingly, in consultation with the relevant entities, policies related to the National Recreation Centre, so as to address those issues that might arise as a result of any changes required to implement objective;
- (c) to consider the possibility of upgrading the environs of the National Stadium in order to address the state of neglect of parts of this area and to facilitate its public enjoyment;
- (d) to revise policy NWTQ 36 of the Action Plan and propose an alternative use that is compatible with the character of the Ta' Qali National Recreational Centre.

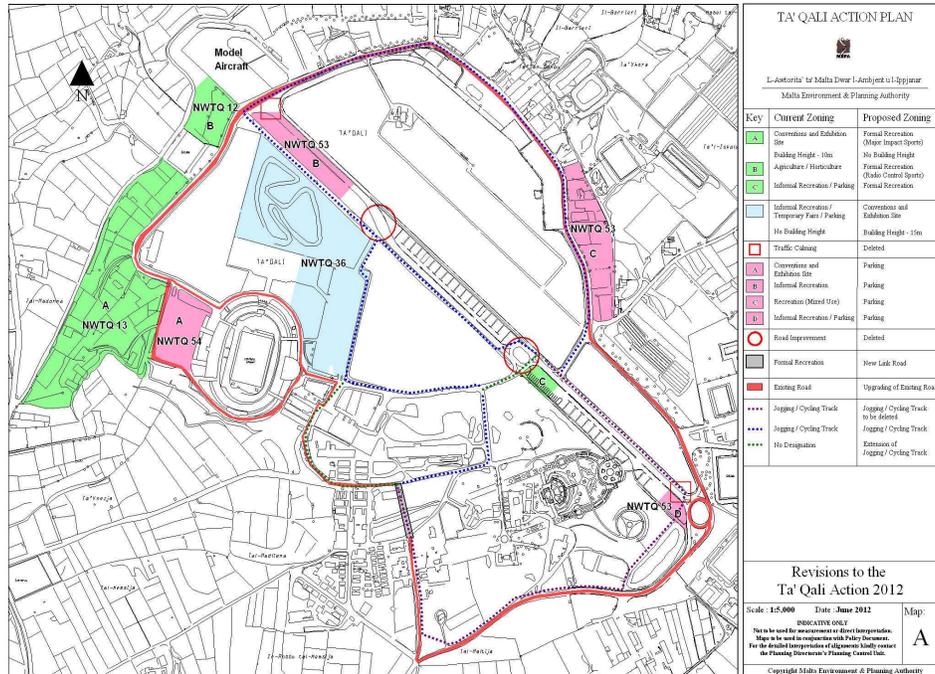
Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?

Revisions to subsidiary plans are covered by the Environment and Development Planning Act 2010.

Period covered by PP: Not applicable

Envisaged Frequency of Updates: Not applicable

Area covered by PP:



Summary of PP content:

The reviewed plan includes a written statement containing revised planning policies, supported by a map at a suitable scale, indicating broad land allocations. The scope of the revision of twelve Action Plan policies is to retain the fairs and exhibition facilities on the site of the existing convention centre with an extension on the site currently occupied by the motor racing facility. Consequently, the motor racing facility has been relocated on part of the site previously designated for the fairs and exhibition facility. Other revisions were a result of submissions received during the period of public consultation on objectives. These revisions include upgrading and extension of recreational facilities, upgrading of exiting roads and allocation of new parking areas.

Part C – SEA Criteria

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
<p>Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority</p> <p>OR</p> <p>prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government (Regulation 3)</p>	Yes	MEPA
<p>Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Regulation 3)</p>	Yes	Amendments to approved subsidiary plans are covered by the Environment and Development Planning Act 2010.
<p>Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use</p> <p>AND</p> <p>does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(a))</p>	Yes	Town and Country Planning and Land Use. The plan sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive.
<p>Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(b))</p>	No	There are no statutory designations under the Habitats Directive in the vicinity.
<p>Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level</p> <p>OR</p> <p>is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Regulation 4(2)(a) (Regulation 4(3))</p>	Yes	The revision is a minor modification to the approved Ta' Qali Action Plan (2006).

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Regulation 4(4))	Yes	The proposed revision, together with other relevant policies in the approved Ta' Qali Action Plan (2006), set the framework for future development in the area.
Is the PP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Regulation 4(5))	No	None of the environmental concerns are of a significant nature.
<p>Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency</p> <p>OR</p> <p>is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Is it a financial or budget PP?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: MEPA

Title of PP: 2012 Revisions to the 2006 Ta' Qali Action Plan

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
the degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The revisions have broadly retained the same land use allocations that were included in the approved Action Plan. It is only shifting the location of the proposed uses onto different sites.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The revisions will not have any major influences on other plans as the Action plan lies low in the hierarchy
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	The revisions to the Action Plan are not proposing any major new uses that were not included in the 2006 Approved Action Plan.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	No	Environmental concerns that have been identified are the displacement of planned and foreseeable land use requirements onto other more rural surroundings, visual impact on the open character of the area, potential land take up for upgrading of road infrastructure and the physical impact of hard surfacing. However, revisions have retained the same land use allocations that were included in the approved Action Plan. Further, mitigation measures will be addressed through MEPA's environmental and permitting mechanisms at project stage.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
the relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	No	No relevance.
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	No environmentally significant effect has been identified and therefore their probability, duration, frequency and reversibility are not relevant.
the cumulative nature of the effects	No	Cumulative impacts have been addressed through policy provisions contained in the revision. Further mitigation measures will be addressed through MEPA's environmental and permitting mechanisms at project stage.
the transboundary nature of the effects	No	There are no transboundary impacts from the revisions as they affect a local area only.
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	The revisions are consolidating provisions for recreational and sports facilities that are deemed as to have a positive impact on human health.
the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The revisions have broadly retained the same land uses allocations that were included in the approved Action Plan. It is only shifting the location of the proposed uses.
the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	No	The revisions have broadly retained the same land uses allocations that were included in the approved Action Plan. It is only shifting the location of the proposed uses.
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a	No	Concerns of visual impact on the Mdina landscape have been

recognised national, Community or international protection status		identified. However as these arise from a specific proposal can be appropriately addressed at development planning application stage. Policy provisions ensure such an assessment.
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Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

None of the identified environmental effects are deemed to have significant environmental effects.

The revisions to the approved Ta' Qali Action Plan make adequate provisions for site-specific and localised environmental issues, including operational issues and mitigation measures, to be addressed through MEPA's environmental assessment and planning mechanisms at project stage, as in the case of other applications.

Part F – Screening Outcome

Screening is required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010). It is our view that:

- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(4) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Joseph Scalpello

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Malta Environment and Planning Authority

Name of Responsible Authority

19th June 2012

Date

Notes to Responsible Authorities:

1. The SEA Focal Point cannot provide any feedback to incomplete Screening Templates
2. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with an original signed copy of each Screening Template prepared
3. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with a copy of the public notification which is obligatory under Regulation 4(7) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010.