

## **Appropriate Assessment Determination under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the Material Alterations to Ballina Local Area Plan 2024-2030**

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of any European site(s), this Appropriate Assessment determination is being made by Mayo County Council relating to the potential for the Material Alterations for the Ballina Local Area Plan 2024-2030 that is being proposed to have likely significant effects on any European Sites.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination, the Council is taking into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

- The AA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the LAP;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

As part of the AA for the Local Area Plan, it was identified that the LAP may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 4 (no.) European sites. The most likely effects of the plan on European sites are related to pressures from new development and implications on surface-water and groundwater quality, recreational impacts from increased tourism, and potential for air pollution. The sensitivity of Qualifying Features was identified across a number of potential hazards including (but not limited to) habitat loss and fragmentation, disturbance effects, changes to water quality and pollution.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Local Area Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse impacts on the integrity of designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Following consultation of the LAP, a number of submissions/observations were received from parties, including state bodies. Changes i.e. Material Alterations that were accepted into the LAP have been assessed as part of the Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Material Alterations. This Appropriate Assessment screening also examined changes to land-use zonings. Following this screening, the mitigation inherent with the LAP was considered sufficient to protect the Natura Sites, and no additional mitigation was required at the Material Alteration Stage.

As such the screening for Appropriate Assessment for the Material Alterations concluded that:  
***“Material Alterations of Ballina LAP are not likely to have significant effects on the Natura 2000 Network, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.”***

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented.

Signed: 

Date: 17/06/2024

Director of Services  
Planning & Corporate Affairs