

Addendum to the
Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

Volume 2 - Introductory Chapters

Chapter 3

Legal and Policy Framework



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3. Legal and Policy Framework

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd (NISA, hereafter referred to as ‘the Developer’) has been considering the Request for Further Information (RFI) issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) as well as the third-party submissions received following public consultation. At An Coimisiún Pleanála’s behest, the Developer has also continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the 2024 planning application throughout 2024-2026. The Developer has refined elements of the design to respond to the third-party submissions, the continued public and stakeholder consultation and the RFI. Amendments are therefore required to Chapter 3: Legal and Policy Framework of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2 in the Addendum to the EIAR.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Chapter 3 submitted as part of the 2024 EIAR.

Any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the EIAR unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 EIAR will be clearly labelled as such.

Text in bold is only used throughout this document to indicate where changes are required, and why they are required. Text in italics is text from a section of the 2024 EIAR which is deleted, or quotations from other documents (as explicitly stated). Replacement text is in normal font.

Tables which have been updated from the 2024 EIAR, or entirely new tables, have been included in the Addendum to the EIAR. These tables can be identified by the “A” prefix in the table caption. Any changes within the updated table, in comparison to tables within the 2024 EIAR, are indicated by grey shading in the relevant cell, column or row, as necessary. The exception here is where a table has been replaced in its entirety.

The sections relevant to Chapter 3 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
1 (b)	The scientific information provided as part of the planning application documentation should be based on up-to-date survey reports and data. Accordingly, the applicant is requested to confirm/provide justification/verification that the information submitted in support of the planning application remains relevant and appropriate at the point of submitting further information or to update same as required.	The timeframes associated with the RFI have necessitated a review of the datasets previously used in the 2024 EIAR to ensure any necessary updates are captured. Therefore, a review of legal and policy framework changes that have occurred since the 2024 EIAR submission has been completed to comply with RFI 1 (b). Any relevant changes are included in this report in Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6 and 3.10.
3	...(d). Incorporate the output from a), b) and c) and all other relevant updates made as a result of this request for further information, into a revised assessment of the NMPF policies, particularly Biodiversity Policy 2, Seafloor Integrity Policies 1, 2 and 3, Fisheries Policy 5 and Underwater Noise Policy 1. This revised assessment should fully account for the distinction the NMPF places on ‘important’ species and habitats as defined on page 35 and 36 of the NMPF....	An Coimisiún Pleanála, as part of its decision-making processes authorising marine development, is obliged to consider the consistency of the proposed development with the objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The proposed development’s compliance with the NMPF has been updated in line with RFI Section 3, and this is referenced in this chapter in Section 3.5.
13 (e)	The applicant is requested to review the draft [Flemington] LAP (or adopted LAP, where updated at time of this observation) and update the submitted application documentation accordingly, having regard in particular to potential for visual impacts from the substation on the draft LAP lands, potential traffic implications given the proposed access to the LAP lands directly	This has been considered in terms of local planning policy, and this chapter has been updated accordingly. Any relevant changes are included in this report in Sections 3.8.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
	adjoins the proposed access to the substation, and potential noise implications from the substation on the adjoining residential zoned lands.	

3.1 Introduction

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), a review of relevant policy documentation was undertaken. The change required to this section is the addition of a reference to the Climate Action Plan 2025.

Therefore, the following paragraph from Section 3.1 will be deleted:

“A review of the renewable energy, climate change and marine policy at a European and national level shows that the proposed development not only aligns with these policies at all levels but will be essential in helping achieve some of the actions, objectives and targets set out in these policies. The 2023 Climate Action Plan set a target for 5GW of offshore wind energy with the Climate Action Plan 2024 subsequently establishing a roadmap for how this would be achieved (see Section 3.5.5 for further information on Ireland’s Climate Action Policy). The proposed development will deliver a significant contribution to the national 5GW¹ of offshore wind energy target by connecting to the national electricity grid system before 2030.”

And replaced with:

A review of the renewable energy, climate change and marine policy at a European and national level shows that the proposed development not only aligns with these policies at all levels but will be essential in helping achieve some of the actions, objectives and targets set out in these policies. The 2023 and 2024 Climate Action Plans set a target for 5GW of offshore wind energy, with the Climate Action Plan 2024 subsequently establishing a roadmap for how this would be achieved (see Section 3.5.5 for further information on Ireland’s Climate Action Policy). The Climate Action Plan 2025 strengthens Ireland’s pathway to deploying onshore and offshore wind, reaffirming targets of at least 5 GW offshore by 2030. The proposed development will deliver a significant contribution to the national 5GW² of offshore wind energy target by connecting to the national electricity grid system in 2030.

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.2 Legal Framework

3.2.1 Introduction

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section is the addition of reference to the Planning and Development Act 2024.

Therefore, the following text will be added at the end of the section:

Following submission of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála on 7 June 2024, the Planning and Development Act 2024 (the "2024 Act") was subsequently signed into law on 17 October 2024.

Part 4 of the 2024 Act which relates to development consents and has not yet been commenced. However, even where Part 4 of the 2024 Act has commenced before An Coimisiún Pleanála makes its determination in respect of this planning application, the transitional provisions of the 2024 Act (section 186) make clear that the relevant provisions under the 2000 Act in which this planning application was originally submitted, will continue to

¹ As per the additional measures described in CAP 2023, at least 5GW of offshore wind is required by 2030 with an additional 2GW of offshore wind for green hydrogen production.

² Climate Action Plan 2025.

apply and have effect, notwithstanding any repeal. Consequently, there have been no relevant changes to the legislative requirements for the preparation of EIARs.

In addition, any reference in this section, and throughout the chapter, to An Bord Pleanála should be replaced with An Coimisiún Pleanála (unless it refers to actions occurring pre-submission in June 2024), in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Part 17, Section 495(3)).

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.2.2 Marine Area Consent (MAC)

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.2.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.2.3 Pre-Application Consultations with An Bord Pleanála

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.2.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.2.4 Development Consent application under Section 291 of the Planning Acts

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.2.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.3 International Policy Context

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.3.1 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.3.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.3.2 Kyoto Protocol

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.3.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.3.3 Paris Agreement

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section is the addition of reference to the Conference of Parties (COP) 29 and 30 which occurred in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Therefore, the following text is added to the penultimate paragraph of Section 3.3.3.

In COP 29 Ireland again committed to meeting its €225m pledge by 2025, while publicly acknowledging the Baku finance package needs to be scaled further. In COP 30 Ireland supported the decision by the European Union to accept the COP30 Presidency text. Although it was acknowledged that it falls short of reducing emissions to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and does not include a roadmap for the phase-out of fossil fuels, the minister indicated that Ireland looks forward to continuing work, outside of the COP process, with the EU and other international partners on shaping a roadmap for the energy transition and the phase-out of fossil fuels.

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.3.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4 European Planning Policy Context

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section is the addition of three new sections (Section 3.4.14, 3.4.15 and 3.4.16).

Therefore, the following text will be deleted:

“These are outlined in the relevant policies in Sections 3.4.1 to 3.4.13.”

And replaced with this text:

These are outlined in the relevant policies in Sections 3.4.1 to 3.4.16.

There are no further changes to this introductory section. Refer to Section 3.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.1 European Marine Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.2 Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.3 Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources Directive (EU) 2018/2001

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.4 Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation (EU) 2018/1999

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.5 The European Green Deal

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.5 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.6 2020 EU Strategy for Offshore Renewable Energy

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.6 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.7 European Climate Law Regulation 2021/1119

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.7 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.8 8th European Environmental Action Programme

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.8 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.9 Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.9 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.10 REPowerEU

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.10 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.11 European Directive 2023/2413

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section is the addition of reference to S.I. No. 274 of 2025 (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025. Therefore, the following text is added to the end of Section 3.4.11.

Note: RED III (EU/2023/2413) has been transposed into Irish legislation by way of European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 274 of 2025) with the majority of the provisions coming into effect on 7 August 2025.

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 3.4.11 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.12 European Wind Power Action Plan

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.12 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.13 European Wind Charter

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.4.13 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.4.14 Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991)

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added:

The Nature Restoration Law (EU 2024/1991) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 24 July 2024. Nature Restoration Law (EU 2024/1991) introduces legally binding targets for restoring degraded ecosystems, including marine environments. It mandates EU member states to implement restoration measures that enhance biodiversity and climate resilience.

In providing a source of renewable energy in an effort to tackle rising global temperatures, the proposed development will indirectly support the objectives of the Nature Restoration Law.

3.4.15 EU Updated Offshore Renewable Energy Ambition

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added:

In December 2024 EU Member States agreed on a new collective ambition for offshore renewable energy deployment across the EU's five sea basins. The updated, non-binding targets include:

- A combined goal of 88 GW of offshore renewable capacity by 2030; and
- A combined goals of 360 GW by 2050.

This renewed ambition reflects the continued importance that Member States place on offshore renewables for EU energy security, decarbonisation, and the clean energy transition.

The proposed development will contribute significantly to the generation of renewable energy, facilitating future success in meeting EU climate targets.

3.4.16 Hamburg Declaration

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added:

In January 2026, Ireland signed the Hamburg Declaration, which commits to a strong pipeline of offshore wind in the North Seas (which includes the Irish Sea), with 100GW to be delivered in the coming years and 300GW by 2050.

Contributing to the ambitions of the Hamburg Declaration is a new key objective of the proposed development.

3.5 National Marine Area Policy

3.5.1 Marine Planning Policy Statement

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.5.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.5.2 National Marine Planning Framework

In response to RFI Section 3, the National Marine Planning Framework Compliance Report has been updated. Therefore, the following text will be deleted:

“An Bord Pleanála, as part of its decision-making processes authorising marine development, is obliged to consider the consistency of the proposed development with the objectives of the NMPF. Further information on the proposed development’s compliance with the NMPF and the embedded policy points is provided in Appendix 3.1 of Volume 8.”

And replaced with:

An Coimisiún Pleanála, as part of its decision-making processes authorising marine development, is obliged to consider the consistency of the proposed development with the objectives of the NMPF. Further information on the proposed development's compliance with the NMPF and the embedded policy points is provided in Appendix A3.1 of Volume 8.

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.5.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6 National Planning Policy and Guidance

3.6.1 Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan

3.6.1.1 *Offshore Renewable Energy Plan 2014*

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.1.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.1.2 *Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan Interim Review May 2018*

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.1.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.2 Climate Action Policy

3.6.2.1 *National Energy and Climate Plan 2021 – 2030*

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section reflects an update to the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021 – 2030 which was revised to align with the Climate Act 2021 and Climate Action Plan 2024 in July 2024. Therefore, Section 3.6.2.1 will be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

It is a requirement of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 for all member states to establish integrated 10-year National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP). This collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets.

The NECP 2021 – 2030 was published in 2019 to comply with the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 to fulfil this obligation and committed Ireland to decarbonising the economy by establishing sectoral roadmaps. A draft update of the NECP was submitted to the European Commission in December 2023.

An updated draft was submitted to the European Commission in July 2024. It outlines the department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. This draft also incorporates the Commission's feedback on the 2023 draft, as well as feedback from two consultations.

The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. Whereas the Climate Action Plan is updated to reflect new policies and measures to increase Ireland's ambitions in pursuing energy and climate targets, the NECP acts more as a collation of existing policies and an analysis of how we are performing relative to EU-wide targets, including projections on how we expect to perform in future years based on current trajectories. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans.

The NECP 2021-2030 indicates that Ireland has established an ambitious and challenging target of increasing the percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources from around 40% to 80% (annual average) by 2030, and a target for offshore renewable energy (ORE) of at least 5GW by 2030.

The proposed development will directly align with the objectives of the NECP 2021-2030 by providing a significant source of renewable energy to meet the Irish targets for offshore renewable energy generation.

3.6.2.2 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Acts 2015 to 2021

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.2.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.2.3 Climate Action Plan 2024 and 2025

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required is the addition of reference to the Climate Action Plan 2025. Therefore, the section heading has been updated, and the following text is added to the end of Section 3.6.2.3:

The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) strengthens Ireland's pathway to deploying onshore and offshore wind, reaffirming targets of 6 GW onshore by 2025, 9 GW by 2030, and at least 5 GW offshore by 2030. CAP25 highlights strong wind generation performance, with wind supplying nearly 40% of electricity in early 2024 and continues support through the Renewable Energy Support Scheme. CAP25 continues to support wind generation through planning reforms, regional renewable capacity allocations, and policies for repowering existing wind farms, and commitment to achieving a minimum 51% reduction of GHG by 2030 compared to 2018 levels. Grid development, system flexibility, and marine planning are presented as essential enablers to accelerate wind deployment and meet national emissions targets.

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 3.6.2.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.2.4 Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.2.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.3 Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required to this section reflects the First Revision of the National Planning Framework which was published in 2025. Therefore, Section 3.6.3 shall be deleted and replaced in its entirety with the following:

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic, and cultural development of the country. Together with the National Development Plan (NDP), the two policies present one vision – Project Ireland 2040, meaning that implementation of the NPF is fully supported by the Government's investment strategy for public capital investment and investment by the State sector in general.

Project Ireland 2040: NPF and the NDP 2018 – 2027 were published in 2018 and together set out a number of National Strategic Outcomes to support the OREDP. In 2021 a revised NDP was published to guide economic growth from 2021-2030. In April 2025, the First Revision of the NPF was published which focuses on resource efficiency and transition to climate neutral economy.

The First Revision NPF has included new policies in relation to renewable energy development. The NPF also acknowledges the clear link between climate action and the potential for investment generation and employment and jobs, including in connection with the offshore wind industry and green technology.

There are ten National Strategic Outcomes (NSO) in the NDP. NSO 8 is the 'Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society'. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act commitments will shape investment choices over the coming decades in line with the National Climate Action Plan 2024 and the National Adaptation Framework. New energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, renewables-focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy to the major sources of demand.

The proposed development will support this NSO as it supports the growth and integration of low carbon and renewable energy.

Offshore renewable energy is specifically addressed in Chapter 7 of the NPF, Realising our Island and Marine Potential:

“Offshore renewable energy represents an emerging sectoral opportunity for coastal regions with the potential to support the delivery of Ireland’s offshore wind ambitions being a particular economic development opportunity”

In addition, National Policy Objective (NPO) 55 states:

“To support, the progressive development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy potential, the sustainable development of enabling onshore and offshore infrastructure including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements, non-grid transmission infrastructure, as well as port infrastructure for the marshalling and assembly of wind turbine components and for the operation and maintenance of offshore renewable energy projects”

National Policy Objective 70 states:

“Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a climate neutral economy by 2050.”

And finally National Policy Objective 71 states:

“Support the development and upgrading of the national electricity grid infrastructure, including supporting the delivery of renewable electricity generating development”.

The proposed development will help to achieve the objectives of the NPF by sustainably capturing a portion of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy potential and supporting the Irish transition to a low carbon energy system.

3.6.4 National Development Plan

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required is to reflect a review to the NDP in 2025. Therefore, and the following text is added after the penultimate paragraph of Section 3.6.4:

The NDP Review 2025, published on 22 July 2025 and builds on the NDP 2021–2030 and aligns with the NPF and Project Ireland 2040, ensuring balanced regional development and sustainable long-term planning. The government has prioritised increased investment levels in water, energy, transport and housing. The updated NDP features annual sectoral capital allocations from 2026 to 2030, and overall capital expenditure ceilings to 2035. This leads to a total investment of €275.4 billion over the period to 2035. Specifically, €3.5 billion in equity funding is being provided to ESB and EirGrid in 2025 to fund enhanced energy grid capacity to support the Government’s housing and competitiveness objectives.

There are no further changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.5 Programme for Government: Securing Ireland’s Future

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required is to reflect the new programme for government published in 2025. Therefore, the title to the section has changed, and Section 3.6.5 shall be deleted and replaced in its entirety with the following:

The current Irish Government, formed in 2025, published its Programme for Government: Securing Ireland’s Future³, which was published in January 2025. The purpose of the Programme for Government is to provide a clear indication of the objectives and policies which the Government proposes to pursue over its 5-year term of office.

The Programme for Government states the commitment to achieving 80% of Ireland’s electricity generation from renewable source. To reach this goal, they will establish a clear regulatory pathway, enable network upgrades, improve port facilities, and ensure a dependable schedule of renewable energy auctions. The

³ [Programme for Government 2025 - Securing Ireland's Future](#), accessed March 2026.

government is focused on ensuring that local communities benefit from Ireland’s renewable potential, with job creation, community ownership, and tangible economic returns.

The Government recognises that delivery of essential infrastructure is a key driver in attracting and retaining investment in Ireland, growing our economy, fostering regional development, delivering on our housing targets and achieving our ambitious climate goals.

The Programme for Government also states that the Government will deliver at least 5GW capacity in offshore wind by 2030. The proposed development will directly contribute towards Ireland meeting its offshore renewable energy targets which directly align with the aims of the Programme for Government.

3.6.6 Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.6 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.7 The National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required is an update to National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the following text is added to the end of Section 3.6.7:

The Irish government has begun the process for Ireland’s third Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan. A public consultation ran from 2 December 2025 to 16 January 2026 to inform the new plan. The Department confirms that implementation of the 2022–2024 National Implementation Plan is ongoing while the third National Implementation Plan is being prepared.

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 3.6.7 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.8 Energy Security in Ireland to 2030

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.8 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.9 National Hydrogen Strategy

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.9 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.10 Offshore Renewable Energy Future Framework Policy Statement

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the change required in this section is an update to the Offshore Renewable Energy Future Framework Policy Statement from draft to final. Therefore, the title of the Section 3.6.10 will be updated to remove “draft” and the section will be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

The Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy, published in May 2024, is an over-arching future framework for the development of offshore wind in Ireland’s territorial seawaters and exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This framework aims to deliver 20GW of ORE by 2040 and at least 37 GW in total by 2050.

The Future Framework Policy Statement identifies 21 key actions to facilitate a long term and structured approach for the delivery of the ORE targets, and which maximise the economic benefits to the State. These objectives are crucial for the decarbonisation of Ireland’s economy, the delivery of long-term energy security and the development of green industrial opportunities for offshore renewable energy. As the proposed development is a fixed bottom foundation offshore wind farm which will be operational in 2030, it will facilitate the achievement of the targets in the draft Future Framework Policy Statement and will ensure delivery of offshore wind in 2030, which in turn will support the 37GW target of ORE by 2050.

A component of the Future Framework Policy Statement is a built-in annual review process to ensure consistency with Ireland’s evolving ORE sector and to reaffirm Government’s commitment to energy targets. The Future Framework 2025 Review, published in May 2025 captures ORE sectoral progress in 2024/2025 on each of the 29 actions under the Future Framework as well as an updated action plan for 2026.

3.6.11 Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.6.11 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.6.12 National Adaptation Framework 2024

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added as the National Adaptation Framework was published in June 2024 during the submission:

The National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 was published in June 2024. The NAF aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change. It outlines how various sectors of society and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to climate change's adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The NAF emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning. Government Ministers are required to prepare adaptation plans for sectors that are assigned to them in accordance with their obligations under the Climate Act and this Framework. The NAF imposes obligations on Government Ministers and local authorities to develop a plan for climate change adaptation.

The proposed development aligns with the NAF, as it will have a net significant beneficial impact on climate during its life cycle, assisting Ireland in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

3.6.13 National Energy Demand Strategy

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added as National Energy Demand Strategy was published after the 2024 submission:

The National Energy Demand Strategy (NEDS) was published by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) in July 2024. The Strategy outlines how Ireland will manage rising electricity and gas demand while staying within carbon emissions ceilings and expanding demand flexibility.

The Strategy aims to enable energy users to shift or reduce usage, by creating a more adaptable system that can better integrate variable offshore renewable generation. The Strategy focuses on establishing structured pathways for new large energy connections to support efficient use of future offshore wind capacity. Overall, NEDS underpins Ireland's offshore renewable ambitions by ensuring the energy system can absorb and optimise growing volumes of clean offshore power.

3.6.14 Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce Implementation Plan

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added as the plan was published after the 2024 submission:

The establishment of an Accelerating Renewable Electricity (ARE) Taskforce is a key measure in CAP 23. The role of the ARE Taskforce is to coordinate the fast-tracked and increased deployment of onshore renewable electricity generation and supporting technologies.

The membership of the ARE Taskforce comprise of senior representatives from key Departments and State Bodies with responsibilities related to the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects. They include the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Commission for Regulation of Utilities, EirGrid, ESB Networks, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund and NewERA (investment and financial advice).

The key outputs of the Taskforce include:

- The development of an Accelerating Renewables Programme of Work that identifies priority areas to achieving renewable energy targets that aligns with the actions and KPIs set out in CAP 23 and subsequent CAPs;

- A report on the investment required to support the renewables programme including identification of consumer impacts and cost mitigations as well as the investment outlook for the sector;
- The development of an Annual Summary Report on Progress towards Achieving our Renewables Goals;
- Identification of priority measures and actions, supported by data and modelling for accelerating renewable electricity generation, and related flexibility measures, in the next update of the Climate Action Plan; and
- Effective management of the Accelerating Renewables Programme of Work, support cross-agency and Department delivery, identifying gaps and mitigation measures, as required.

Ireland's Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce Implementation Plan was published in June 2024. The Plan outlines actions designed to increase onshore renewable electricity deployment and support the national target of generating 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. It is structured around three pillars, including:

- Planning and reporting;
- Grid and storage; and
- Route to market.

The Plan defines nine specialised working groups divided evenly between the three pillars, comprising representatives from government departments, state agencies, semi-state bodies, regulatory bodies, amongst others. It is the responsibility of the working groups to ensure coordinated delivery of the implementation plan across government and state agencies. Actions include planning and permitting reforms aligned with EU directives, updated wind energy guidelines, land identification for renewable deployment, accelerated grid development, streamlined grid connection processes, and the rollout of a national electricity storage policy framework.

Broader objectives of the plan include removing barriers to early project delivery, reducing electricity costs, ensuring energy security, and strengthening market signals for renewable investment through competitive auctions and diversified routes to market.

3.6.15 National Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy Proposal

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this new section has been added as this plan was published after the 2024 submission:

A proposal for the development of a National Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for ORE was published in September 2025. This is a national level spatial planning policy framework intended to designate sufficient maritime area to deliver 20GW of offshore renewable energy by 2040, in accordance with Part 2 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021.

The DMAP will provide policy objectives, some of which will be unique to the specific classes of ORE and will include spatial designations where relevant. The National ORE DMAP will be prepared over 2025–2027, with completion of strategic environmental assessment, appropriate assessment and public consultation. The National DMAP will apply the extensive policy framework provided for in the NMPF and will take into account existing, permitted or planned ORE taking place in the maritime area. In this way, the National DMAP will enable an alignment of existing energy policy and activities with forward spatial planning.

The South Coast DMAP (SC-DMAP) was made by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications on 24 October 2024. The Plan identifies four Maritime Areas in the Irish part of the Celtic Sea within which proposed future ORE projects may be located. One of these four Maritime Areas, known as Tonn Nua or Maritime Area A, is identified to be developed by the winner of Ireland's second offshore wind auction, and will aim for deployment by 2030 or as soon as feasible thereafter. The SC-DMAP does not cover the Irish Sea.

3.7 Regional Planning Policy and Guidance

3.7.1 EMRA Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.7.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8 Local Planning Policy and Guidance

3.8.1 County Development Plans

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.1.1 Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.1.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.1.2 Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.1.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.1.3 Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.1.3 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.1.4 Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.1.4 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.2 Local Area Plans

There are no changes to the introductory text in this section. Refer to Section 3.8.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.2.1 Lissenhall East Local Area Plan 2022

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.2.1 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.2.2 Kinsaley Local Area Plan

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.8.2.2 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.8.2.3 Flemington Local Area Plan

In response to RFI Section 13 (e), this new section has been added:

The Flemington Local Area Plan was adopted by Fingal County Council in December 2024. The lands included within the LAP are adjacent to the grid facility boundaries along the southern extents.

The LAP is based off Flemington Lane in north Balbriggan, comprising agricultural lands measuring a total area of c.17.2 hectares. The Flemington Local Area Plan provides the land use framework to guide development on the lands. Within the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029, the identified lands are situated within the Balbriggan development boundary and are subject to the ‘Residential Area’ (RA) zoning objective.

The Vision Statement for the LAP is as follows:

“The shared vision for Flemington is to promote the sustainable development of the LAP lands at a level that is appropriate for the existing local context through the delivery of a new residential neighbourhood that will offer a variety of new homes and a quality place to live. The new residential neighbourhood will be supported by community facilities, high quality public open space and active travel measures that will meet the needs of the future population in the area and generate a strong sense of community.”

The LAP includes environmental and sustainability objectives built on low carbon energy, including renewable energy. The proposed development aligns with the objectives of the LAP by providing a large source of low carbon energy to the region.

3.9 Conclusion

There are no changes to the section. Refer to Section 3.9 of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

3.10 References

The change required to this section is the addition of the references used in the updating of Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.

Therefore, the following references are added:

Commission for Regulation of Utilities (2024) National Energy Demand Strategy

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) Climate Action Plan 2024

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2025) Climate Action Plan 2025

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) Offshore renewable energy (ORE) Future Framework Policy Statement

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2025) Offshore Wind Energy Programme, Annual Review for 2024 and Key Actions for 2025

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2025) National Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) National Adaptation Framework 2024

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce Implementation Plan

European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025

Government of Ireland (2025), National Development Plan Review

Nature Restoration Law (EU 2024/1991)

The North Sea Summit (2026), Hamburg Declaration

In addition, the following references are deleted:

“Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2020) Ireland’s National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

Programme for Government (June 2020): Our Shared Future.”

And replaced with:

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024) Ireland’s Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

Programme for Government (2025): Securing Ireland’s Future

There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 3.10 in Chapter 3 of the 2024 EIAR.