

## Ballyvourney-Ballymakeera Agglomeration – Operational Discharges Preliminary EIA Screening

	<b>Comment:</b>	<b>Yes/No/ Uncertain:</b>
<p><b>Nature of the Activity</b> <i>Is the nature of the proposed activity exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Will the activity result in the production of any significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>	<p>The design of the new WwTP is for 2,600 p.e (design horizon to 2046). The loads generated in agglomeration however will not exceed 2,000 p.e for the duration of the reviewed licence. At the time of submitting this WWDL review application, based on existing loads (2020), the projected 10-year load is 968 p.e. which is significantly below the 10,000 p.e mandatory threshold for EIA.</p> <p>The source of the wastewater in the agglomeration is largely domestic in nature. There are no significant IPC or waste licensed activities discharging to the agglomeration or to the Sullane River upstream or downstream of the agglomeration.</p> <p>Based on effluent discharge standards (as per D0299-01 ELVs) and WAC calculations carried out for same, and the design of the overflows, it is considered that the operational discharges from the Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera agglomeration would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	No
<p><b>Size of the Activity:</b> <i>Is the size of the activity (i.e., operational discharges) exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</i></p>	<p>The Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera agglomeration is currently serving a peak weekly collected load of ca. 754 p.e. (2020 AER) with a projected 10-year load of 968 p.e.</p> <p>It is considered due to the size of the agglomeration and the associated proposed operational discharges that there would be no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	No
<p><b>Location:</b> <i>Is the activity located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?<sup>1</sup></i></p> <p><i>Does the activity have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</i></p>	<p>There are no European sites immediately downstream of the operational discharges. The nearest European site downstream is the Cork Harbour SPA which is located ca. 68 km downstream of the agglomeration. Due the distance of this site from the operational discharges, and the large dilution capacity of downstream waterbodies, it is considered that there is no likelihood of significant effects from the operation discharges on the Qualifying Interests of this sites (including <i>ex-situ</i> species).</p> <p>St Gobnet's Wood SAC (Site Code: 000106) and Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004162) are located ca. 1.5km to the northwest, and ca. 1.3 northeast of the discharge points</p>	No

<sup>1</sup> Sensitive locations or features includes European sites, NHA/pNHA, Designated Nature Reserves, land designated as a refuge for flora and fauna, and any other ecological site which is the objective of a CDP/LAP (including draft plans).

respectively. The operational discharges have no hydrological connectivity with these two sites.

The Mullaghanish Bog SAC is located ca. 5.3 km north of the operational discharges. However, there is no hydrological connectivity between the discharges and this site.

The Gearagh SAC and SPA are both ca. 9.8 km away from the operational discharges. They are located on the River Lee, but upstream of the confluence with the River Sullane.

The Blackwater River SAC and Killarney National Park, Maggilycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC are ca. 11.9 km and 8.5 km north of the operational discharges, respectively. These sites are not hydrologically connected to the Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera operational discharges.

There are 9 pNHAs and 1 NHA within 15 km of the WwTP, the closest of which is St. Gobnet's Wood (ca. 1.5 km north-east of the WwTP). The St. Gobnet's Wood pNHA comprises terrestrial woodland habitat that is located on the Sullane River upstream from the discharge and as such there is no pathway for potential impacts. No potential ecological pathway exists by which any other NHA or pNHA could be affected by the operational discharges.

The Sullane River is not designated a salmonid waterway. The Sullane River (below the agglomeration discharge point) has achieved Q4-5 (High, Unpolluted) status since 1990 and there is no indication that the water quality of the Lee River/Reservoir is negatively impacted by the input from the Sullane River.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) have been noted upstream and downstream of the WwTP discharge point (Moorkens, 2007). The Pearl Mussel is listed under Annex II and V of the Habitats Directive (92:43: EEC). It is legally protected in Ireland under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act (1976 (Protection of Wild Animals) (Statutory Instrument No. 112, 1990) and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations (Statutory Instrument No. 94, 1997). This part of the Sullane River is not a designated Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat under the Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, S.I. No. 296 of 2009. There is no Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Management Plan for the Sullane River catchment, however, NPWS have indicated that it is an important population. Accordingly, the ELVs set for the WwTP primary discharge are based on the High status standards as laid down in the European Union Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) (Amendment). Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 77 of 2019).

	<p>It is considered based on the WAC of the Sullane River and the effluent standards and the design and operation of the Storm Water Overflows in compliance with the definition of 'Storm Water Overflow' as per Regulation 3 of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007, as amended and the criteria as set out in the DoEHLG 'Procedures and Criteria in Relation to Storm Water Overflows', 1995, that no indirect impacts, <i>via</i> water quality impacts, on aquatic ecology or environmental sensitivities are anticipated from the Ballyvourney-Ballymakeera agglomeration operational discharges.</p> <p>In terms of location, based on the above, it is considered that the operational discharges from the Ballyvourney-Ballymakeera agglomeration would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	
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**Preliminary EIA Screening Conclusion:**

Based on a preliminary EIA screening examination of the **nature, size, or location** of the operational discharges: *(Tick as appropriate)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>no real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>EIA is not required.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>real likelihood of</b> significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An <b>EIAR is required.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>significant and realistic doubt</b> regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the <b>Information specified in Schedule 7A</b> for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>
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**Preliminary EIA Screening Summary**

The subject matter of this application (*i.e.*, operational discharges from the Ballyvourney-Ballymakeera agglomeration) falls well below the threshold of Regulation 17 (i) of S.I No. 214 of 2020 and is not a WwTP specified in accordance with paragraph (6)(c) or (8)(b)(ii) of Regulation 18 or paragraph (3)(c) or (5)(b)(ii) of Regulation 25.

Based on the above, it can be confidently concluded that the subject matter of this application, due to its size, scale, location, and nature, would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, and therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not required to support this application.