

Our ref: PCS/124114  
SG ref: 00793 screening

Simon Hindson  
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Inverness  
IV3 5NX

If telephoning ask for:  
Susan Haslam

7 January 2013

By email only to: [sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Hindson

## **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act A strategic masterplan for phases 1 & 2, Nairn South Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 19 December 2012.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005, we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Masterplan itself is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for The Highland Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

Please note that although we do not consider that the Masterplan will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it will have some local effects. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals, which should be directed to our local Planning Service team at [planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk).

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed methodology of assessment. We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information about this stage and what to include in scoping consultations can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish SEA Tool Kit available from [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45).



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Should you wish to discuss this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam  
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Planning Service

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