



The Executive Chairperson
Planning Authority
St. Francis Ravelin
Floriana

Date: 19/01/2026
ERA Ref: EA/00001/26

Dear Sir,

Planning Ref.: PA/05472/24
Description Proposal: Refurbishment works at the quay of Wied iz-Zurrieq and surrounding areas. Redevelopment of ticket booth for Blue Grotto operators. Construction of public toilets and boatyard for local fishermen. Development of parking area and kitting area for scuba divers.
Location: Site at Wied Iz-Zurrieq, Triq Congreve, Qrendi

Reference is made to the Project Description Statement (PDS) submitted for the above application, which the ERA received directly via email on 19th November 2025.

The PDS was reviewed, and the proposed development was screened in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44) and the Water Policy Framework Regulations (S.L. 549.100).

The proposal involves the refurbishing and redevelopment of the ticketing booth, boat storage and quay at Wied Iz-Zurrieq.

1. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46)

The proposal falls within the scope of Schedule I of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46), notably Category II Section 6.3.2.3 *Development on the coast or in the sea, not covered by Category I, with a footprint of 500m² or more*. Screening (Annex I) concluded that the proposed development does not require an EIA in accordance with Regulation 15 of S.L. 549.46.

2. Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44)

The proposal is not expected to have any significant impacts on the integrity of the habitats, species and the Natura 2000 sites as a whole. No further assessment in terms of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2006 (S.L. 549.44) is considered necessary.

3. Water Policy Framework Regulations (S.L. 549.100)

The proposal does not involve any operational discharges to sea and the effects during to the construction phase will be localised and contained through the use of preventive containment measures. In this regard, the project is not expected to result in a modification of the characteristics of the water body or affect the ecological status of water body MTMTC 108 – I-Irdumijiet ta' Malta.



4. Recommendation

ERA does not object to the proposal from an environmental point of view. The conditions annexed with this document (Annex II) are to be included as part of the development permit.

Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Works Method Statement are attached to this correspondence as appendix I to Annex II.

Yours sincerely,

Daryl Saliba
Environment Protection Officer
f/Director Regulatory Affairs

Screening Disclaimer

The above screening results, the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any required changes or updates should the development proposal be eventually modified or should the information/assumptions provided turn out to be incorrect. Any deviations of the proposal from this submission would need to be re-assessed and the merits of this screening would need to be re-opened.