

MAC Report	
Application for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) under Section 76 of Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, as amended (the Act)	
Application Details	
MAC Applicant:	Geesala Community Council & Development CLG
MAC Reference No:	MAC250005
Location:	Doolough Beach, Geesala, Co. Mayo
Date Application received:	14 May 2025
Proposed Maritime Usage:	Geesala Community Council & Development CLG have applied for a MAC for horse and greyhound racing on the beach at Doolough, Geesala, Co. Mayo.
Recommendation:	To approve the Granting of the MAC sought with conditions attached.

Document Control			
Prepared by:		Senior Marine Advisor	23/07/2025
		MAC Manager	31/07/2025
Reviewed & Approved by:		Head of Maritime Area Consenting	12/08/2025
Final Report Version 1:		MAC Manager	13/08/2025

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1. Overview

On 1 May 2025 Geesala Community Council & Development CLG, a local community non- profit group, submitted a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application to MARA under section 76 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, as amended (the Act) for Horse & Greyhound Racing on Doolough Beach, Geesala, Co. Mayo.

2. Background

The Geesala Races are an annual beach horse and dog racing event which runs in August each year on Doolough Beach, Geesala, Co. Mayo. The races are organised by a local community group sanctioned by the Irish Horse and Pony Racing Association (IHPRA). The event was previously granted a MAC by MARA in 2024 (MAC240035) and prior to this had been consented annually by a Section 3(3) Foreshore Licence.

The Geesala Festival has been running for circa. 25 years and includes annual horse and greyhound racing on Doolough Beach, Geesala, Co. Mayo. The festival generally takes place in the third weekend of August. During the racing, other activities also occur on the fixed dune areas above the beach, including music, food trucks and tote activities

The applicant was granted a MAC (MAC240022) for the event in 2024 and was previously granted Foreshore Licences under Section 3(3) of the Foreshore Act 1933.

3. Proposed Maritime Usage

The proposed maritime usage is for horse and dog racing on the beach on 16 and 17 August 2025. The proposed total area to be occupied by the MAC is 47.51ha. The applicant indicated that the horse racing is a straight 1 mile 6 furlongs, straight horse racing, and that the dog (greyhound) racing 350 meters (m) in length.

The MAC area sought by the applicant is illustrated in Figure 1.

Vehicles are not permitted onto the beach during the racing. Vehicle parking and spectating is provided for on lands adjacent to the beach area (see Photographs 1 and 2 as submitted by the applicant with their 2024 application detailing the arrangements from previous years events). The applicant states in their safety statement that only a Civil Defence ambulance and steward vehicles will be allowed access the beach during the event. Spectators are restricted to watching the racing from adjacent fields.



Figure 1 – Applicant map of proposed layout of MAC area at Geesala.



Photograph 1 - Arrangements for parking and other ancillary activities outside of the maritime area.



Photograph 2 - Arrangements for spectators.

4. Site Visit

Senior Marine Advisor, [REDACTED] inspected the site on Tuesday 31 July 2024. Doolough Beach is a circa 2km long stretch of tidal strand with low dunes situated above the high water mark (see photographs 3 and 4). The beach runs approximately north-south and is sheltered from Atlantic swells by the Mullet Peninsula to the west. On the day of the inspection, it was warm (circa 20 degrees), sunny and dry. Despite it being high tourist season, fine weather and approximately mid-day, only two other people were observed using the beach during the inspection.

Considering the number of people using the beach at the time of my inspection it is unlikely that a short duration event of this nature would cause a significant disturbance to the general public once pedestrian movements on the beach are adequately managed by the event organisers.



Photograph 3 – Doolough Strand looking south. [REDACTED] 31/07/2024]



Photograph 4 – Doolough Strand looking north. [REDACTED] 31/07/2024]

5. Review of Legislation & Associated Consents

5.1 Applicable Provisions of the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021 as amended (the Act)

Under the Act, MARA has responsibility for granting MACs.

Schedule 3 and Schedule 4 of the Act specifies maritime usages for which a MAC is not required, including where the proposed maritime usage falls under the remit of another enactment, is navigation or fishing, is a licensable activity under schedule 7 or where the activity is to be undertaken on private land. The proposed maritime usage is not considered to fall under those listed under Schedule 3 or 4 of the Act.

The applicant has stated that the proposed maritime usage and the subject of this application does not require development permission. In accordance with Section 76 of the Act, a MAC is required for the occupation of that part of the maritime area for any such usage, where development permission is not required.

Accordingly, the subject of this application is considered to fall under section 76 of the Act.

5.2 Existing Consents & Authorisations

The proposed application area does not overlap with any existing MACs or Maritime Usage Licences (MULs) or applications for the same. No existing foreshore authorization including those for aquaculture, were identified as overlapping the proposed MAC application areas.

5.3 Development Permission

The applicant has sought a Section 5 Declaration from the Local Authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000. Mayo County Council have stated in a letter to the applicant dated 18 June 2025 that the proposed event does not constitute development and does not therefore require planning permission.

The applicant has obtained a Beach Permit for greyhound and horse racing on Doolough Beach on the 16 and 17 August 2025 from the Local Authority in accordance with Mayo County Council's beach by-laws.

Mayo County Council, in their letter dated 18 June 2025, have stated that an independent screening for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken and that the proposed project will not affect the integrity of any European site. Mayo County Council also confirm in this letter that an event licence (under Section 231 of the Planning and Development Act 2000) is not required for any of the Geesala Festival activities.

The applicant has provided a letter from An Garda Síochána dated 3 July 2025 stating that they have no objection to MARA consenting to this event.

5.4 Ownership

A search was undertaken of the Land Registry on 22 July 2025 for any document granting or affecting rights to land in order to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest with the MAC area being applied for as outlined in the proposed MAC Map.

No conflicts of interest affecting the proposed MAC area were identified.

6. Assessment

6.1 Schedule 5

The MAC application was submitted on 1 May 2025 with the appropriate fee waived on 14 May 2025 and reviewed for completeness on 16 July 2025. An incomplete application notification was issued on 26 May 2025; with omitted information received on 15 July 2025. The application was deemed complete by MARA on 16 July 2025.

A request for additional information was issued on 25 July 2025 under section 79(3) of the Act and associated responses received relating to matters for general, technical and financial assessment on 27, and 30 July 2025.

Schedule 5 of the Act sets out the criteria to which MARA must have regard when assessing a MAC application. This report sets out the assessment undertaken pursuant to Section 5 of the Act. The assessment is summarised in *Table 1* below.

Table 1: Synopsis of the assessment of the application with regard to the requirements of Schedule 5			
Schedule 5 Requirements		Synopsis	Assessment
1.	The nature, scope and duration of the occupation of the maritime area concerned for the purposes of the proposed maritime usage.	Details of the proposed maritime usage, including the nature scope and duration are described in Section 3 & 4 above. The term of the MAC is proposed for 2 days. The proposed maritime usage is considered satisfactory, having regard to the nature, scope and duration.	Satisfactory
2.	Whether the proposed maritime usage is in the public interest.	The proposed project is stated to have a strong public interest element as the highlight of the Geesala Festival, which generates significant tourism and income for the locality. The proposed maritime usage is considered satisfactory, having regard to the public interest.	Satisfactory
3.	The location and spatial extent of the occupation of the maritime area concerned for the purposes of the proposed maritime usage.	Details of the location, relevant consents, ownership and development permissions are provided in Sections 2 to 5 above. Based on the searches and site visit undertaken, nothing was identified that would preclude the granting of a MAC in the proposed area. The total area proposed to be occupied by the MAC is 47.51Ha, as illustrated in Figure 2 (Proposed MAC Map) in Section 7. Accordingly, the proposed maritime usage is considered satisfactory, having regard to the location(s) and spatial extent of the occupation.	Satisfactory
4.	Guidelines issued under Section 7 which are relevant to the proposed maritime usage.	No such guidelines have been published to date.	Not applicable
5.	Whether the applicant is a fit and proper person (within the meaning of Schedule 2) to be granted a MAC, both at the time the application is made and at the time that the MAC application concerned is determined by the MARA.	A detailed review and assessment of the information provided by the applicant(s) has been completed. Based on the assessment set out in <i>Table 2</i> below, <i>Section 6.2.1</i> and the Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) as set out in the Ernest Young (EY) report dated 8 August 2025, it is considered that the applicant satisfies the fit and proper person requirements. As required by Schedule 6, Part 2 of the Act, it is a condition of all MACs that the Holder shall continue to be a fit and proper person within the meaning of Schedule 2 of the Act for the Term of the MAC.	Satisfactory

6.	Whether the applicant is tax compliant, both at the time the application is made and at the time that the MAC application concerned is determined by the MARA.	The applicant submitted Tax Registration Number and Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) which was used to view the applicant's tax clearance certificate. Based on the review of the tax clearance certificate, the applicant is considered tax compliant.	Satisfactory
7.	In the case of any maritime usage relating to offshore renewable energy (within the meaning of section 100), the consistency of the MAC application concerned with the development plans of the transmission system operator (within the meaning of section 100).	Not applicable	Not Applicable

8.	The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).	<p>Based on a review of the application, MARA has had regard to the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and it is considered that the proposed project aligns with the overall objectives of the NMPF, including the economic and social objectives set out therein.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed project aligns with the following economic, social and key sectoral policy objectives of the NMPF: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-existence Policy 1 - Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for coexistence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. • Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1 Proposals contributing to access, communications, energy self-sufficiency or sustainability of rural coastal and / or island communities should be supported. Proposals should ideally be inclusive of continual education, skills development and training in marine sectors, thus improving the sustainability, social benefits and economic resilience of rural and island communities. • Tourism Policy 1 Where appropriate, proposals enabling, promoting or facilitating sustainable tourism and recreation activities, particularly where this creates diversification or additional utilisation of related facilities beyond typical usage patterns, should be supported. <p>In the application, the applicant states that the proposed project is consistent with the environmental objectives of the NMPF. Based on the above, MARA is satisfied that the proposed works align with the above overall objectives and policy objectives of the NMPF.</p>	Satisfactory
9.	The extent and nature of the preparatory work already undertaken by the applicant towards ensuring the efficacious undertaking of the proposed maritime usage the subject of the MAC application concerned should the applicant be granted a MAC in respect of such usage.	<p>The applicant has undertaken this activity for circa 25 years previously with Foreshore consent and A MAC. The Geesala Community Council and Development CLG have obtained a Section 5 Declaration from Mayo County Council stating that the event does not require development consent. Furthermore, the applicant has obtained a letter of no objection from An Garda Síochána relating to the event. The applicant has also received a Beach Permit from the Local Authority in accordance with the Mayo County Council Beach By-Laws.</p> <p>The extent of preparatory works undertaken is therefore deemed acceptable for the proposed maritime usage.</p>	Satisfactory

10.	The extent and nature of stakeholder engagement undertaken by the applicant in respect of the proposed maritime usage.	The applicant is a non-profit group, and the Geesala Festival and racing events are held for the benefit of local community stakeholders. The applicant has demonstrated engagement with Mayo County Council, who have granted a beach permit and provide support for the event. They have also engaged with the Gardaí, who have no objection to the event taking place. Local businesses and individuals support the events through sponsorship of the races.	Satisfactory
11.	Where a competitive process referred to in section 93 or 103 is used, the outcome of such process.	Not applicable	Not applicable
12.	Any additional criteria specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 80(2).	Not applicable	Not applicable

6.2 Fit & Proper Person Assessment

Schedule 2(2) of the Act sets out the criteria to which MARA shall have regard in determining whether the relevant person(s) is/are “fit and proper” to be granted and to hold a MAC. The assessment of whether the holder is a fit and proper person within the meaning of Schedule 2(2) is set out in *Table 2* below.

Table 2: Schedule 2(2) Fit & Proper Person

Fit & Proper area for assessment		Synopsis	Assessment
(a)	letters of reference;	The event is supported by Mayo County Council and Gardaí at Belmullet and sponsorship from various commercial entities has been confirmed for 2025. The applicant was granted Foreshore Licences from 2013 to 2022 and a MAC in 2024. MARA is satisfied that these events have been held in accordance with the terms of these Licences.	Satisfactory
(b)	that the relevant person, or any other person concerned, stands convicted of— (i) an indictable offence under this Act or an offence in another state equivalent to an indictable offence, (ii) an indictable offence under an enactment prescribed for the purposes of this clause, or (iii) an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;	As part of the FCA, the Applicant was assessed against these criteria and it was concluded that no information or details were identified which indicate that such offences or disqualifications apply.	Satisfactory

(c)	<p>if the relevant person is a body corporate, whether any of its directors has a declaration under section 819 of the Act of 2014 made against him or her or is deemed to be subject to such a declaration by virtue of Chapter 5 of Part 14 of that Act, or is subject to or deemed to be subject to—</p> <p>(i) a disqualification order, within the meaning of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of the Act of 2014, whether by virtue of that Chapter or any other provision of that Act, or</p> <p>(ii) a disqualification outside the State to like effect which corresponds to a disqualification order within the meaning of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of the Act of 2014;</p>	<p>As part of the FCA, the Applicant was assessed against these criteria and it was concluded that no information or details were identified which indicate that such offences or disqualifications apply.</p>	Satisfactory
(d)	<p>if the relevant person is an individual, whether he or she is adjudicated bankrupt or is subject to proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy or becomes an arranging debtor;</p>	<p>As part of the FCA, the Applicant was assessed against these criteria and it was concluded that no information or details were identified which indicate that such offences or disqualifications apply.</p>	Satisfactory

(e)	<p>if the relevant person is a body corporate, whether it—</p> <p>(i) has commenced a voluntary winding-up or is subject to a winding-up order or is subject to proceedings for such an order,</p> <p>(ii) is subject to the appointment of a receiver or examiner, or</p> <p>(iii) has proposed a compromise or arrangement that is sanctioned under section 453(2) of the Act of 2014 or section 201(3) of the Act of 1963;</p>	<p>As part of the FCA, the Applicant was assessed against these criteria and it was concluded that no information or details were identified which indicate that such offences or disqualifications apply.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>
(f)	<p>if the relevant person is a body corporate incorporated under the law of another state—</p> <p>(i) whether an event which corresponds to an event referred to in clause (c) has occurred in relation to any of its directors, or</p> <p>(ii) whether an event which corresponds to an event referred to in clause (e) has occurred in relation to the body corporate;</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

(g)	whether the relevant person, or a person acting for or on behalf of the relevant person in the relevant person's capacity as such, has (or has access to), or continues to have (or have access to), as the case may be, the requisite technical knowledge or qualifications, or both, to undertake the proposed maritime usage, or continue to undertake the maritime usage, as the case may be;	Assessment of the technical capability of Geesala Community Council and Development CLG to deliver the proposed maritime usage the subject of the MAC application is detailed in <i>Section 6.2.1</i> below. The applicant is considered to have the requisite technical knowledge and qualifications to undertake the proposed maritime usage.	Satisfactory
(h)	<p>whether the relevant person is likely to be in a position to meet, or continue to meet, as the case may be, any financial commitments or obligations that the MARA reasonably considers will be entered into or incurred by the relevant person—</p> <p>(i) in undertaking the proposed maritime usage, or in continuing to undertake the maritime usage, as the case may be, or</p> <p>(ii) in ceasing to undertake the proposed maritime usage or the maritime usage, as the case may be;</p>	<p>A FCA report dated 8 August 2025 has been prepared by external financial consultants, EY, who assessed the applicant's financial capability to carry out the proposed maritime usages. Based on the results from the financial capability tests and the information submitted, it is considered that the Relevant Person is viewed as passing the assessment.</p> <p>Due to the commercial sensitive nature of a company's finances, details of the assessment are not included herein.</p> <p>The applicant is considered likely to be in a position to meet financial commitments associated with the proposed maritime usage and MAC.</p>	Satisfactory
(i)	<p>the previous performance of the relevant person when granted—</p> <p>(i) a MAC,</p> <p>(ii) a development permission,</p> <p>(iii) a licence, or</p> <p>(iv) an authorisation (howsoever described) under the Act of 1933.</p>	MARA has undertaken a review of MACs, maritime usage licences and foreshore authorisations held by the applicant. Based on the review, MARA is not aware of any non-compliances with these consents, there are no enforcement actions pending and there are no outstanding debts owed.	Satisfactory

6.2.1 Technical Capability Assessment (TCA)

All information supplied by the applicant, in relation to Technical Competency relates to the applicant. The applicant has not engaged the services of an agent to assist with this application.

Evidence of Qualifications/Membership of Professional Bodies and Experience in relation to Developments of a Similar Scale and Nature Appendix Tec A

As the maritime usage applied for is a two-day dog and horse racing event, Table (i) in Appendix Tec A is not relevant in this instance and is therefore not required to be completed by the applicant in order to demonstrate technical capability.

For non-schedule 10 maritime usages, the applicant is required to provide details of their involvement in three projects of a similar scale and nature to the project the subject of the MAC application. The applicant has successfully operated this event without issue for over 25 years, the provision of the details of three projects of a similar scale and nature is not deemed necessary for this usage.

In addition to having previously successfully operated this event under MAC authorisation from MARA and foreshore consent from DHLGH, the applicant has provided the following permits/letters of support in relation to running the event in 2025: -

- A letter from Mayo County Council dated 18 June 2025 confirming that a beach permit for greyhound and horse racing on Doolough Beach on the 17 and 18 August 2025 has been obtained by the applicant in accordance with the council's beach by-laws.
- A Section 5 Declaration letter from Mayo County Council, dated 10 July 2025, stating that the event does not constitute development and does not therefore require planning permission.
- A letter from Mayo County Council, dated 18 June 2025, which states that an independent screening for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken and that they have no environmental or other issues with the organising committee of this event. This letter also confirms that an Events Licence (under Section 231 of the Planning and Development Act 2000) is not required for any of the Geesala Festival activities.
- A letter from An Garda Síochána, dated 3 of July 2025, stating that they have no objection to MARA issuing consent for this event.

Capability to Operate, Maintain and Rehabilitate the Maritime Infrastructure - Appendix Tec B

Appendix Tec B requires applicants to provide a preliminary operational and maintenance statement which sets out in broad terms how the operation and maintenance of the proposed infrastructure will be managed over the term of the MAC.

As this proposed maritime usage does not relate to development – operation and maintenance is not relevant. The applicant has however provided a Safety Statement setting out how the racing events will be managed. The applicant has stated the following: -

“Horse Racing: -

- *The racing area will be on the beach with access for competitors, officials and safety personnel only.*
- *A Civil Defence ambulance, doctor and veterinary practitioner will be in attendance.*

- *A first aid area will be operated by the Civil Defence.*
- *All horse boxes will be in a designated area away from the general parking area.*
- *Only owners, riders and festival officials will be permitted in the horse box area.*
- *The parking area will be supervised and away from the spectator/horse box area.*
- *The maritime area will be patrolled by safety officials at all times.*
- *An emergency exit will be established and kept clear at all times.*
- *Irish Horse and Pony Racing Association officials will be in attendance.*
- *Officials and safety personnel will be in constant contact with the designated Safety Officer using two-way radio and or mobile phones.*
- *Fire extinguishers will be available at the horse box and public food vendor areas.*
- *High visibility vests and appropriate boots will be worn by all stewards/volunteers on the day.*
- *Stewards/volunteers will take instruction from the head safety officer.*
- *All stewards and volunteers will be given a Stewards Safety Handbook and new members will have new rules and regulations explained to them at a meeting one month before races.*
- *Separate stewards/volunteers will deal with traffic and public.*
- *Horse racing stewards will deal with horse racing track and maritime safety.*
- *The track will be harrowed before racing and inspected between races.*
- *Signage will be erected showing parking areas, food facilities, notice board, bookies, toilets, emergency exit, weigh in area, starting line and course.*
- *Garda will assist with parking, Traffic and security.*
- *A number of security personnel will be on duty during the day.*

Dog Racing: -

- *The racing area will be on the beach with access for competitors, officials and safety personnel only.*
- *A Civil Defence ambulance, doctor and veterinary practitioner will be in attendance.*
- *A first aid area will be operated by the Civil Defence.*
- *All greyhounds will be in a designated area away from the general parking area and kept on a lead at all times.*
- *The parking area will be supervised and away from the spectators.*
- *Area will be patrolled by safety officials at all times*
- *An emergency exit will be established and kept clear at all times.*
- *Officials and safety personnel will be in constant contact with the designated Safety Officer using two-way radio and or mobile phones.”*

Assessment of Appendix Tec C - Delivery Timelines

The applicant is expected to provide a development programme that satisfies the requirements of key milestone delivery timelines in Appendix Tec C. The applicant has satisfactorily completed Appendix Tec C. Following an assessment of the documentation provided by the applicant, MARA's Assessment, Research and Data Unit (ARD) considers that Geesala Community Council & Development CLG have satisfied all relevant criteria under the Technical Capability Assessment element of the Fit and Proper Test.

Based on the outcome of the Technical Capability Assessment, MARA considers that Geesala Community Council & Development CLG has the requisite competence to undertake the proposed maritime usage.

6.3 Rehabilitation Schedule

Under section 96(1) of the Act, it is required that the holder of a MAC shall, before the expiration of the MAC, rehabilitate that part of the maritime area the subject of the MAC. As this application falls for submission under Section 76 of the Act, it is required that a rehabilitation schedule be attached to the MAC.

Section 96(4) of the Act specifies the particulars that should be included in a Rehabilitation Schedule that specify how the applicant will discharge their obligations under section 96(1).

The applicant in this instance has not submitted a Rehabilitation Schedule with their application. It is recommended that the following is appended to the MAC as the Rehabilitation Schedule.

Rehabilitation Schedule

“Rehabilitation of the maritime area the subject of this consent shall be in accordance with Section 96(2)(f) of the Act which shall include the removal of any deposited or waste material. In accordance with Section 96(4) of the Act, the rehabilitation Schedule is as follows:

Section 96(4)(a) - Programme of Rehabilitation:

The Holder shall remove all equipment and items relating the permitted maritime usage from the maritime area immediately after conclusion of the event in advance of the high tide.

The holder shall provide adequate litter collection facilities. These facilities shall be removed immediately after the event to a suitably licensed waste disposal site.

On completion of the permitted maritime usage, the Holder shall ensure that all parts of the maritime area, affected by the usage, have been restored to their original condition.

Section 96(4)(b) – Proposed Date programme to be implemented: 17 August 2025

Section 96(4)(c) - Estimated Costs:

The costs of rehabilitation are deemed negligible and are deemed to be included in the overall costs associated with the management of the event.

Section 96(4)(d) - Timelines for obtaining other authorisations:

It is not envisaged that any additional authorisations are required to discharge the holder's rehabilitation obligations.”

MARA considers the above Rehabilitation Schedule satisfactory having regard to Section 96 of the Act.

Section 83 – Nature of Use

Section 83(1) of the Act requires MARA in the granting of a MAC to specify whether the specific part of the maritime area the subject of that MAC is for exclusive use or not. Section 83(1) provides MARA discretion and flexibility to specify the nature of the use (i.e. exclusive, non-exclusive or may/may not be exclusive). Having regard to the nature of the proposed maritime usage the subject of this application, it is reasonably foreseeable that Geesala Community Council & Development CLG may be required to exclude access to parts of the MAC area on a temporary basis. For example, during beach racing for health and safety reasons. Such temporary/ short-term exclusions may be mandated by other authorities or legislation for specific purposes and durations. In this instance, it is considered that granting of exclusive use for the full term of the MAC is not merited, particularly having regard to co-existence and co-operation objectives of the NMPF. It is considered that exclusive use should only be permitted where use on an exclusive basis is required and provided for under another authorisation or enactment. Accordingly, it is recommended that the MAC is granted on a “may or may not be exclusive” basis contingent on circumstances that may arise after the granting of the MAC” in accordance with Section 83(1)(c) of the Act.

7. Proposed MAC Map (for illustration purposes only)



Figure 2 – Proposed MAC Map

8. Levy

An annual MAC levy has been calculated based on the project type and proposed MAC area in accordance with MARA's MAC levy framework, as set out below.

MAPA Levy Framework Part:	A: Nearshore
Category/Class:	<i>Development (Non – Commercial)</i>
Tier:	Tier 5
Applicable Rate:	Base annual charge of €208.46 plus an add on of €0.1954 per sqm for areas in excess of 100sqm
Area:	47.51Ha
Calculation:	$\text{€}208.46 + ((475,100\text{m}^2 - 100\text{ m}^2) * 0.1954) / 365 \text{ days} \times 2\text{days}$
Levy due:	€509.72

The MAC levy has been calculated as €509.72 per annum. All levies are indexed to the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), applied on an annual basis.

9. Discussion

Based on the assessments undertaken contained herein, it is considered that the proposed MAC application complies with all the necessary requirements of Schedule 5 of the Act, where relevant and appropriate, subject to the following recommended terms and conditions:

a. Terms

MAC Term:	2 days
Consent Area:	That part of the maritime area marked red on the MAC Map.
MAC Map Title:	Maritime Area Consent Map MAC250005, Drawing Number: MAC250005-001, dated 22 July 2025
Permitted Maritime Usage:	Horse and greyhound racing on the beach at Doolough, Geesala, Co. Mayo.
Nature of Usage:	May or May Not be Exclusive

Date by which application for Development Permission must be submitted (subject to Phasing Schedule where applicable):	The MAC holder shall hold a Section 5 Declaration for the event from the relevant Local Authority under the Planning and Development Act of 2000 (as amended).
The minimum number of days in which the MAC Holder shall provide the Grantor advance notice in writing of the Holder's intention to commence the Permitted Maritime Usage.	Not Applicable – the MAC is for specified dates.

b. Conditions and Reasons for Conditions

Section 82 of the Act specifies that MARA may attach to a MAC one or more conditions which fall within the types of conditions specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Act. All conditions contained in Schedule 6; Part 2 are deemed to be attached to a MAC.

The standard suite of MARA conditions reflecting the contractual and statutory relationship that will exist with a grant of consent are also recommended. Reasons for these conditions are set out in the enclosed Section 81(7)(b) Minded to Notice.

Following assessment of this MAC application, a number of additional specific conditions and the reasons for these conditions to be attached to the MAC, are recommended below:.

19. SANCTION

- 19.1 The Holder shall run the event under sanction from, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Irish Horse and Pony Racing Association.
- 19.2 The Holder shall hold a valid Beach Permit for the event under Mayo County Council's Beach By-Laws.
- 19.3 The Holder shall comply with all matters/conditions as set out by An Garda Siochana.

20. SAFETY

- 20.1 The Holder shall prepare a site specific Safety Plan and all necessary precautions shall be taken in conjunction with Mayo County Council and the Garda Siochana to ensure the safety of the participants and the general public.

- 20.2 The Holder shall ensure that no vehicles are allowed onto the Maritime Area except for emergency vehicles in accordance with the site specific Safety Statement.
- 20.3 The Holder shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that members of the public not connected to the organisation of the event, do not come in direct contact with animals. All dogs shall be muzzled when off-lead.
- 20.4 The Holder shall ensure that all dog racing and handling is conducted in accordance with all relevant legislation including the but not limited to the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 (as amended) and is under the supervision of a qualified veterinary practitioner.
- 20.5 5. The Holder shall ensure that the area to be used for the horse/greyhound racing event is fully and appropriately cordoned off to ensure the safety of the participants and the general public. The cordon shall be erected and removed on the day of the event.
- 20.6 The Holder shall erect temporary signs at the main access points to the beach notifying the general public of the event and any restrictions which apply to the Maritime Area. All signs shall be removed after the cordons are removed on the day of the event.
- 20.7 The Holder shall comply with all directions as by An Garda Síochána.
- 20.8 The Holder shall ensure that all volunteers and contractors, are made aware of all conditions and project specific requirements and they are required to have briefings on these to ensure all parties are fully aware of these requirements.

21. RESTORATION

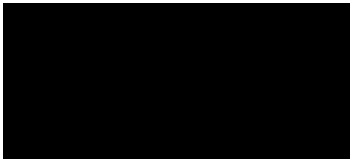
- 21.1 The Holder shall provide adequate litter collection facilities. These facilities shall be removed immediately after the event to a suitably licensed waste disposal site.
- 21.2 On completion of the Permitted Maritime Usage, the Holder shall ensure that the Maritime Area has been restored to the typical natural condition of the surrounding area.


It is considered that the application for a MAC complies with all the requirements of Part 4 of the Act, with particular regard to Schedule 5 criteria. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposed MAC is granted with conditions.

10. Conclusion & Recommendation

Following a detailed assessment of all information on file, it is considered that the proposal complies with all the necessary requirements. Accordingly, it is recommended to issue a Section 81(7)(b) Minded to Notice, as enclosed, informing the applicant(s) that MARA is minded to grant a Maritime Area Consent subject to the proposed conditions attached to the MAC. It is recommended to allow the applicant(s) 21 days from the date of issue of the Minded to Notice to submit supplementary material in relation to the reasons for the conditions as per Section 81(7)(b)(ii).

Once a final determination is made by MARA, the applicant(s) will be notified, and MARA will publish a notice on its website as soon as practicable thereafter.

Signed:  Position: Manager, MACU

Signed:  Position: Senior Engineer, ARDU