

Attachment 4.9

Consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with achieving the National Climate Objective, as defined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended by the 2021 Act, establishes the National Climate Objective: *to pursue and achieve by no later than 2050 a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy*. It sets a national goal of a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. To support this, local authorities and public bodies must prepare Climate Action Plans and long-term strategies, and ensure their decisions align with these objectives.

The programme of marine and intertidal site investigation surveys proposed in Liscannor Bay (outlined in Attachment 3.1 Description of the Proposed Maritime Usage) is consistent with achieving the National Climate Objective. First, the site investigation surveys are proportionate, temporary and local in scale, relying on a limited number of survey vessels and nearshore equipment. This minimises the overall energy demand and associated greenhouse gas emissions of the activity. The site investigation surveys represent the least intrusive and most fuel-efficient means of establishing the baseline data required to inform project design. By avoiding unnecessary or poorly targeted investigations, the site investigation surveys ensure that emissions from vessel operations are kept to a minimum.

Second, the purpose of the site investigation surveys is to enable the future design of a modern wastewater treatment plant and associated outfall that will significantly improve water quality, protect sensitive habitats, and ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive. By providing the data necessary to design the outfall with optimal siting, construction techniques, and diffuser performance, the site investigation surveys will reduce the risk of environmental degradation, support biodiversity protection, and safeguard ecosystem services that underpin climate resilience.

Third, the surveys will inform the use of trenchless construction techniques for outfall installation where feasible. Trenchless construction is generally more fuel-efficient than open trench methods and significantly reduces seabed disturbance, sediment release, and vessel time at sea. This approach minimises greenhouse gas emissions during construction while also protecting natural sedimentary processes and coastal dynamics, contributing to long-term ecosystem stability in the face of climate change.