

Fifteenth Schedule

Reasoned Conclusion

The Commission considered, and agreed with the Inspector's reasoned conclusions, that the main significant direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment are as follows:

Population and Human Health

- Positive long-term impacts through facilitation of faster and more reliable public transport services, improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality and noise reduction, improved road/street safety, more social interaction and positive accessibility, and amenity impacts for community areas.
- Adverse short-term impacts from the construction phase in terms of access restrictions, noise, vibration, dust, contaminated material, traffic and visual impact. This will be mitigated through compliance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan and measures outlined in the Land, Soils, Water, Air and Climate and Material Assets sections of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- Adverse impacts from the temporary and permanent acquisition of land. This will be mitigated through provision of amended access arrangements and replacement boundaries.

Biodiversity

- Neutral to slight impacts in terms of direct habitat loss and fragmentation, physical degradation of habitats, disturbance (visual and audible) and displacement of protected faunal species, pollution of surface and groundwater networks, air (dust) pollution, and spread of invasive non-native species. Mitigation will protect water quality through works scheduling, invasive species management, measures to mitigate against the release of suspended solids, fuels and oils, and cements, and measures to minimise disturbance to protected species.

Land, Water, Air and Climate

- **Land:** Adverse impacts through acquisition of properties on a temporary basis, acquisition of properties on a permanent basis, and demolition of structures, including boundary walls / fencing.
- **Water:** Potential impacts during construction from runoff, groundworks and watercourse disturbance. A Surface Water Management Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan have been developed to detail the control and management measures for avoiding, preventing, or reducing any significant adverse impacts on the surface water environment.
- **Air:** Potential impact on quality during the construction phase is from construction dust emissions and nuisance dust deposition. Appropriate construction dust mitigation measures have been outlined for the construction phase in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- **Airborne Noise and Vibration:** Potential for construction and operational impacts. Following mitigation, there will be moderate to significant impacts for brief periods when works are immediately adjacent to sensitive properties.
- **Climate:** Beneficial long term cumulative impact of the proposed Luas Finglas scheme during the operational phase due to the overall reduction in road traffic greenhouse gas emissions.

Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Amenity

- **Material Assets:** Potential for slight to moderate adverse impacts on utilities and infrastructure during the construction phase through diversion/interruption of services that will be mitigated through prior notification given to all the impacted property owners and precautions will be implemented to protect the infrastructure from damage, including localised confirmatory surveys. Potential for significant positive impacts on traffic and transport during the operational phase from improvements for walking, cycling, public transport and people movements, reductions in general traffic, and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Landscape and Visual Amenity:** Potential for moderate to significant impacts through the introduction of an uncharacteristic new element or feature that

would lead to an overall change in landscape character and quality of the Royal Canal and Tolka Valley Park Local Landscape Character Areas. The overall residual impact on landscape character and visual amenities will be positive as the proposed scheme becomes increasingly integrated within its setting.

The Commission completed an environmental impact assessment in relation to the proposed development and concluded that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the effects on the environment of the proposed development, by itself, and in combination with other development in the vicinity, would be acceptable. In doing so, the Commission adopted the report and conclusions of the Inspector.