

I would like to include a couple of brief observations about the applicant's responses to relevant representations:

In relation to representations about the mental health impact of the project, the applicant's response was as follows:

"While mental health and wellbeing is individual, subjective and experienced through a range of external factors beyond the Applicant's control, the Applicant considers that the approach taken to provide information, engage and consult, clearly and transparently; assess and mitigate significant environmental effects (where practicable); and secure enhancement measures demonstrates that appropriate measures have been taken to address potential effects on mental health and wellbeing."

For the applicant to say that information has been provided clearly and transparently, is laughable. The applicant has published enormous volumes of long and complicated documentation, containing numerous hyperlinks and references to other equally long and complicated documents. It makes it virtually impossible for any individual to navigate or understand in any way the proposed project impact or mitigations and certainly exacerbates a negative impact on mental health just trying to navigate the documentation.

The responses to concerns about noise and visual impact also provide no comfort:

The responses on noise links to various different chapters of the environmental statement which highlight material impacts - however the response then concludes with: "The assessment concludes that the effects from noise and vibration are not significant following adoption of appropriate mitigation measures." On what basis is this concluded?

In relation to visual impact again the environmental statement contains pages and pages whereby low/moderate/significant adverse on high/medium receptors is highlighted, however yet again the conclusion often appears to be that the impact is not significant (I give example wording below)

"The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a moderate adverse effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be not significant. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

These are all just vague words with no substance and certainly provides no comfort as to the likely effects of the project nor do they provide an adequate response to the written representations.