

## 4. PLAN CONTEXT

### 4.1 Interaction with Other Relevant Plans or Programmes

As part of the SEA process the context of the Suir Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (CFRMP) must be established with regard to other plans and programmes that have been adopted at the International, European and National Levels. In particular the interaction of the environmental protection objectives and standards included within these plans and programmes with the CFRMP requires consideration.

Appendix C summarises the findings of a review of environmental legislation, plan, policies and programmes adopted at International, European Community or Member State level, which would be expected to influence or be influenced by the CFRMP.

### 4.2 Planning Hierarchy

The planning hierarchy must be considered when placing the CFRMP in the context of other adopted plans and programmes. Within Ireland the Planning and Development Act, 2000 has established a hierarchy in relation to planning as follows:-

- National Development Plan (NDP);
- National Spatial Strategy (NSS);
- Regional Planning Guidelines;
- County, Borough and Urban District Development Plans; and
- Local Area Plans, Integrated Area Plans, Action Area Plans.

A draft Hierarchy of Plans and Programmes in which the CFRMP is placed in context is illustrated in **Figure 4-1**. Details of all Plans, programmes and relevant legislation that will influence the plan or that the Plan will influence are described in detail in Appendix C

Figure 4-1 below shows that the Suir CFRMP falls within the Regional section of the Planning Hierarchy and therefore will be largely influenced by Plans developed at a national and international scale in particular the Water Framework Directive Plan for the South East and the Floods Directive at an international level.

The Suir CFRMP itself will influence county development plans, local area plans and projects (infrastructural plans) as it will act as a governing document for future planning control and development.

### 4.3 Relevant Plans and Legislation

In conjunction with this CFRMP Plan there are a number of other relevant Plans that are undergoing Strategic Environmental Assessment at present and these will be considered during the option assessment stage and the Environmental Assessment Stage over the course of the project.

The plans include:

- South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009-2015;
- Waterford County Development Plan 2009-2015;
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022;
- The Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2008;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment of the River Basin Management Plans (in particular the Eastern RBD); and
- Clodiagh Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Management Plan.

**Figure 4-1: Draft Hierarchy of Plans and Policies**



<b>Local Level</b>	County Development Plans Heritage/ Biodiversity Plans Local Area Plans, Area Action Plans
<b>Project Level</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment Discharge Licences IPPC Licences Planning Permissions

#### **4.4 Suir CFRAMS and Water Framework Directive**

The Draft Eastern River Basin District Management Plan published in December 2008 (due to be finalised in June 2010), sets out a series of objectives and measures for the river, lake, estuarine, coastal and groundwater bodies of the Eastern River Basin District, of which the Suir Catchment forms a part. This plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

This river basin management plan can only be achieved if plans and programmes in other water protection policy areas are coordinated and integrated, including the Suir Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan that is forms part of this Scoping Report.

The relationship between river basin management plans and other water protection plans and programmes is two way. Each must influence the others' objectives. For example the coordinated approach could mean prioritising non structural flood relief mechanisms in areas where this is likely to be an influence on cSACs and SPAs.

The River Basin Management Plans gives us an opportunity to plan a long term programme of water improvement. The River Basin Management Plans have strong links to landuse planning process as many pressures, such as population growth, building in floodplains will increase as our economy continues to grow. In addition there are further implications for climate change and indirect impacts for flooding. The River Basin Management Plan recognises that the river basin plan must be considered in the context of the wider environment to ensure its overall sustainability and in the context of forthcoming plans in particular flood risk management planning. Therefore it is of key importance that in developing the Suir Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan that the objectives of the WFD are taken into consideration. To date RPS have reviewed the WFD objectives and brought them forward for consideration in developing the Suir CFRAMS SEA Objectives, Targets and Indicators which maybe amended following further assessment and consultation.

The study team recognise that the representation from the WFD steering group is key to the successful delivery of a Flood Risk Management Plan that is consistent and priorities the objectives of the River Basin Management Plans. To date RPS have received feedback from the WFD representatives through letters and attendance at the SEA Scoping Workshop which have fed directly in to the scoping report and will be brought forward for consideration during the option assessment stage and the Environmental Report Stage.

As part of the Water Framework Directive Action Plans have been created for the various catchments including three Water Management Unit Action Plans for the Suir, namely the Lower, Main and Upper Suir Catchments WMUs. These plans identify protected areas, water status/impacts, pressures and actions going forward for the three WMUs. A copy of the WMUs are provided in Appendix G and will be used going forward during the impact assessment stage.

#### **4.5 Mitigation**

Mitigation will be required as part of any flood relief proposals to avoid any potential impacts on the key environmental parameters and objectives. Details of mitigation measures will be described during the Assessment of Options stage and the Environmental Report Stage.

#### **4.6 Monitoring**

Monitoring proposals will also be required to ensure there is no negative effects as a consequence of any of the flood relief proposals. Monitoring will be discussed in further detail as part of the Environmental Report and will largely follow the monitoring proposals developed for assessing Objective and Targets and therefore will mainly comprise the “indicators” detailed below in Table 6.1.