



Notification of intent to draft a strategic environmental assessment for the National Programme for Rural Areas

(Date of publication: Wednesday 15 March 2023)

From Thursday 16 March up to and including Wednesday 26 April 2023, everyone will have the opportunity to give a response to the Memorandum on Scope and Details, which is the first step towards a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the National Programme for Rural Areas. This notification explains how you can submit your views.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The National Programme for Rural Areas (NPLG) unites the efforts of central government and the provincial authorities to achieve goals concerning nature restoration, climate and water quality on a region by region basis, so that the Netherlands' rural areas will be fit for the future.

The NPLG is a joint programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The programme was announced in the National Strategy on Spatial Planning and the Environment and in the fourth Rutte government's coalition agreement. The term 'rural areas' encompasses all of the Netherlands except for urban areas and major bodies of water.

ABOUT THE MEMORANDUM ON SCOPE AND DETAILS (NRD)

The measures to be taken under the NPLG will have consequences for the environment. Central government has initiated a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure that will result in a report on the environmental implications of the proposed programme. The first step towards a SEA is the drafting of a Memorandum on Scope and Details (NRD), outlining the content of the SEA, what effects will be assessed and at what level of detail, what possible alternatives will be considered, and how. Everyone can submit their views on the NRD as of today.

In the second stage of the SEA procedure for the NPLG, a report will be drawn up describing the effects on the environment of the 'structuring choices' which specify how nature, water and climate goals could be achieved in the regions, allowing for their particular characteristics. These structuring choices inform spatial planning and take account of the carrying capacity of soil and water.

STUDYING THE DOCUMENTS

From Thursday 16 March 2023, you can find all the relevant information and accompanying documents on www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalprogrammalandelijkgebied.

Paper copies of the documents will be available for inspection during office hours from **Thursday 16 March to Wednesday 26 April 2023** at: Participation Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Rijnstraat 8, The Hague, tel. +31 (0)70 456 9607 (by appointment only).



SUBMITTING YOUR VIEWS

You can submit your views from **Thursday 16 March to Wednesday 26 April 2023**. You can do this in three ways.

By email

This is the preferred option.

Send your views to info@platformparticipatie.nl

In person

If you wish to give your response orally, you can make an appointment for an interview by calling +31 (0)70 456 9607 (during office hours).

By post

Participation Directorate
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
National Programme for Rural Areas
P.O. Box 20901
2500 EX Den Haag

In your response, please give us your views on the following:

- *Does the draft Memorandum on Scope and Details contain any errors, and does it address all the important points?*
- *What point of concern for the strategic environmental assessment is missing?*
- *In what way would you like to be involved in the participation procedure for the National Programme for Rural Areas?*

WHO CAN GIVE THEIR VIEWS

During the period given above, everyone is welcome to submit their views on the draft Memorandum on Scope and Details. Later on in the procedure, everyone will also be able to submit their views on the strategic environmental assessment.

FOLLOW-UP

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality will read and evaluate all the views received. The relevant administrative authorities, statutory advisers and the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment will also be asked to give their advice on the desired scope and level of detail of the strategic environmental assessment. The Ministry will then give its response to these views and advisory opinions in a memorandum of response, which will be published together with the final Memorandum on Scope and Details in autumn 2023. Everyone who submitted their views will be notified of this.

The SEA will then be carried out and the draft National Programme for Rural Areas will be drawn up. The draft NPLG will be made available for inspection at the same time as the SEA, so that views can be submitted on both.

GETTING HELP FROM A DIGITAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POINT

Digital government information points are for people who find it difficult to use online services and have questions about their dealings with government authorities. The information points are located at public libraries and are therefore readily accessible. They can help you with questions about government websites, such as how to consult online documents relating to this project or how to submit your views online. Ask at your local library what the options are. For more information go to www.informatiepuntdigitaleoverheid.nl.



FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find more information about the project (in Dutch) on

www.rijksoverheid.nl or

www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalprogrammalandelijkgebied.

If you have any questions about the SEA or the National Programme for Rural Areas, please email nplq@minlnv.nl.

If you have any questions about the procedure, please call the Participation Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, tel. +31 (0)70 456