

## **5 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Information on planning and development, including updated information since publication of the 2001 Offshore EIS, is contained within the Preamble. In addition, the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010 provides updated information on national, regional and local planning policy relevant to the Corrib development.

### **5.2 Existing and Future Natural Gas Network**

Since 2001, gas consumption in Ireland has continued to increase to approximately 5.217 billion cu m (2008 est.), with demand outstripping domestic production ([http://www.indexmundi.com/ireland/natural\\_gas\\_consumption.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/ireland/natural_gas_consumption.html)). Gas imports have been required and the import of electricity through additional interconnector facilities is planned. Further details of the existing energy network and its future development is also contained within the Preamble.

### **5.3 National, Regional and Local Planning Context**

An updated review of the national, regional and local planning policy relevant to the Corrib development is provided in the Preamble and the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010.

### **5.4 Impacts of the Development on Strategic National Planning and Regional Development**

Impacts of the overall Corrib development on current strategic national and regional development are addressed in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010.

### **5.5 Impacts on Land Use**

Potential impacts on use of the Sruwaddacon Bay are addressed in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010. In terms of the landfall, it is acknowledged, that the duration of disturbance is greater than initially anticipated as some works, commenced during 2008, continued in the summer of 2009 and will require works over a further season. It is therefore acknowledged that some construction-related impacts will have a greater duration than that originally envisaged.

There will also be a permanent land take in which the LVI will be constructed. Impacts from this land take are addressed in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010.

As stated in the 2001 Offshore EIS, as the landfall is located in an area where there is a low population density, impacts on land use and human activities will be minimal.