



Procedures: Careful preparation

The decision-making process surrounding a project of Maasvlakte 2's scale is informed by numerous legal requirements and mandatory procedures. These procedures are in place to ensure that all parties involved have the opportunity to communicate their interests, so that these can be taken into account.

The Maasvlakte 2 project consists of two components: the offshore construction of a new port and industrial area and the corresponding environmental compensation. The latter is intended to compensate for the loss of nature and habitat as a result of the construction and utilisation of Maasvlakte 2. The compensatory measures comprise protection of the local sea bed, the establishment of bird resting areas in the Voordelta and the development of a new dune area near Hoek van Holland. Work on both the environmental compensation projects and the land reclamation project will start in 2008.

SHORT RECAP

Part of the decision-making process has presently been rounded off. The procedure started in 1998 with the publication of the initial memorandum Key Planning Decision Plus (PKB+). After numerous studies and research projects, part 4 of PKB+ was published in 2003. In 2005, the Council of State judged that certain issues had not been studied in sufficient depth. Additional research was required. This resulted in a new PKB, which included an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment of the expected consequences for protected nature. This PKB, which was established by the Dutch cabinet in 2006, defines

among other things the future site of Maasvlakte 2 and the conditions for its development. It was followed by two concrete Environmental Impact Assessment (MER) reports and an Appropriate Assessment. These documents were published in 2007, after which it was possible to start the public inquiry procedure.

The Rotterdam Council has presently approved the preliminary design for the Maasvlakte 2 Zoning Plan. This forms the first step towards a definite zoning plan that establishes the area's eventual arrangement and utilisation.

LICENCES AND PERMISSIONS

In the course of 2007, the Port of Rotterdam Authority applied for a number of permits, requests for planning decisions and permissions, so that construction of Maasvlakte 2 can start in 2008. Likewise, the environmental compensation measures also require to make planning decisions and request permits. When it comes to decision-making and development, the environmental compensation projects are dealt with in conjunction with Maasvlakte 2. For a current overview of the permit applications and planning decisions, please visit www.maasvlakte2.com.

Careful preparation

PUBLIC INQUIRY, OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

All procedures offer consecutive opportunities for the public to submit its comments, views, objections and appeals.

- 1 The government starts by drawing up draft planning decisions (the preliminary designs), accompanied by the Environmental Impact Assessment (MER) reports and Appropriate Assessments (Passende Beoordelingen). Interested parties can use these documents as a basis for providing comment and communicating their views and interests. In the case of Maasvlakte 2 and the environmental compensation projects, this phase took place in the spring of 2007. The results of this opportunity for public comment were dealt with in a summary report (Nota van Antwoord), in which the government indicated how it would use this information in its decision-making process.
- 2 The government subsequently develops draft decisions which take the responses gathered during the consultation procedure into account. Interested parties can submit an outlook (objection) vis-à-vis these draft decisions. If no outlooks are submitted, the decision will be finalised without any additional changes or further explanation. If the government does receive views from the public, it is required to indicate in its final decision in what ways it has taken account of these responses. According to expectations, the draft decisions for Maasvlakte 2 will be published in late 2007, after which the public will have the opportunity to submit its views.
- 3 It is also possible to appeal a decision after the government has finalised it. Interested parties may only appeal such decisions if they have already submitted a view at an earlier stage. The court has the final ruling in these disputes.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The special PMR Procedure Guide can provide you with further information on the occasions that have been arranged for you to submit your views and lodge appeals. The PMR Procedure Guide can be downloaded via www.mainport-pmr.nl (under 'Publicaties'). For further information regarding current public inquiry procedures, contact Inspraakpunt at +31 (0)70 3519 600, or check www.inspraakpunt.nl or www.maasvlakte2.com.

Maasvlakte 2

Noordzee



The Netherlands

Rotterdam
port area



Europe

The Netherlands



ROTTERDAM MAINPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The construction of the new port area, Maasvlakte 2, forms part of the Rotterdam Mainport Development Project (PMR). This project also includes compensation to the natural world, the creation of a 750 ha area for nature and recreation and improvements to the Existing Rotterdam Area. PMR is a partnership between national and regional government and the Port of Rotterdam Authority. For further information, please visit www.mainport-pmr.nl.

MORE INFORMATION?

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