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Dear Minister,

I am writing to you to raise some concerns arising from the preparation of the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), which may impact upon the work of the Climate Change Advisory Council. As you know a principal function of the Council is the provision of advice and recommendations in relation to the NMP. For various reasons, including the formation of the new Department, the NMP preparation process has been significantly delayed. These delays limit the time available for the Council to consider the draft NMP and, therefore, to provide meaningful advice to you as Minister with responsibility for the Plan, and to other Ministers who are responsible for key sectoral mitigation plans.

The Council welcomes the publication of the NMP Briefing Document on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. While it is recognised that the Briefing Document is not the NMP, or a draft of the NMP, it also gives rise to additional questions about how well the NMP will address a number of issues, including those highlighted in the First Report provided by the Council in November 2016.

In this context I wish to outline the view of the Council that the first NMP should:

- Address the achievement of the 2050 national transition objective in a substantive manner, as outlined in the guidance provided in the Council's First Report.

Also, while the catalogue of policies provided in the Briefing Document is useful and of interest, the Council would expect to see further and more detailed analysis of policies in the draft NMP including:

- Analysis of costs and benefits of historic, current and planned policies; analysis of barriers to implementation; and analysis of projections for how far away Ireland is from meeting agreed emissions targets as a result of current and new actions under the NMP.

It is the Council's view that the NMP will play a central role in determining and guiding the achievement of the 2050 national transition objective and in meeting shorter term targets, by enabling a coherent cross-government planning and

implementation process. The NMP should also describe the methodology or the evaluation framework used to prioritise or select policies and measures.

In summary the NMP should provide an operational framework for proactive development and management of the national transition process and shape wider national planning and investment processes.

As it has been some time since we have discussed these issues, I would welcome the opportunity to meet again in the near future. I look forward to talking with you further.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. John FitzGerald  
Chair  
**Climate Change Advisory Council**