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7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Minister Ryan

**RE: National Energy and Climate Plan**

We note you are preparing an update to the draft National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and wish to make some comments for your consideration.

1. As the Long Term Climate Action Strategy is a vital foundation for any other short or medium term climate action strategies, the Council repeats its call in our letter of June 2023<sup>1</sup> for the need for a clearer exposition of the national climate objective, the need for a national vision for 2050, and the requirement to develop alternative pathways and scenarios which deliver on the objectives. Council notes that the updated Long Term Strategy has still not been published.
2. In future there should be greater alignment between the National Climate Action Plan and the NECP. As noted in our Annual Review of 2023<sup>2</sup>, Government Departments need to analyse and communicate the expected reductions in emissions in response to the implementation of policy. Trajectories set out in the final National Energy and Climate Plan should aim to demonstrate compliance with Ireland's EU and national obligations and explain what actions will be necessary to close the gap between national emissions projections as published by the EPA and our legal obligations.
3. Developing such trajectories would enable more detailed work to be carried out which examines the consequences of climate action in Ireland for the economy in terms of opportunities for investment and potential borrowing implications, and for communities and households in terms of identifying vulnerabilities. Developing and publishing a clearer explanation of the implications of the achievement of Ireland's short, medium and long term climate objectives will assist in achieving buy-in across society.

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<sup>1</sup> [Response to Minister Ryan on LTS 19.06.2023.pdf \(climatecouncil.ie\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> See recommendation 4.4 of [CCAC-AR-2023-postfinal.pdf \(climatecouncil.ie\)](#)

4. One of your Department's strategic goals is "Being a recognised leader in Climate Action". Delivering strategy in this area in such a way as to be considered an exemplar to the international community is a means to demonstrate that this is much more than a paper commitment. This ultimately requires that Ireland demonstrate a capacity to meet its international obligations on time and in full, with the maximum levels of transparency, and that where possible it goes beyond what is legally required in terms of public consultation, scenario and pathway analysis and decision making.

The Council looks forward to seeing the final draft of the NECP and may return with further commentary at that time.

Kind regards,



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**Marie C. Donnelly**

Chair

Climate Change Advisory Council