



Press Release

Climate Change Advisory Council hold workshop on the risks of climate change for Ireland's coasts and coastal communities

Today (15th September 2021) the Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee is hosting a workshop to discuss preparing our coasts for the impacts of climate change. The workshop will hear about adaptation approaches in the Netherlands and the UK, as well as work underway in Ireland through the Dublin Bay PREDICT (Prediction of Irish Coastal Transformation) project and locally led efforts by the Maharees Conservation Association on the Dingle Peninsula. Workshop participants will include Advisory Council members, researchers, policy makers and representatives of coastal community groups.

Coastal adaptation to climate change is of particular importance to Ireland due to the large percentage of the population living on the country's coasts. 1.9 million people live within 5 kilometres of the coast, representing 40% of the population, while 40,000 people live less than 100 metres from the coast. This underlines the need to prepare for the risks of climate change and sea level rise, including storm surges, coastal flooding and erosion.

The Advisory Council has previously emphasised the need to clarify responsibilities regarding coastal change across government, and the potential for local adaptation responses.

Discussing the workshop, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, Marie Donnelly, said "Ireland, alongside the rest of the world, is already experiencing climate change. The IPCC's recent report confirms that our coasts are vulnerable to long-term sea level rise, flooding and erosion, as well as the potential for storm surges. Large storms such as Storms Ophelia (2017) and Lorenzo (2019), highlight the fragility of Ireland's coastline and its vulnerability to significant erosion, flooding and damage."

"Though much of our population and infrastructure is located along our coast and despite some progress at central government level, Ireland does not yet have a coherent coastal adaptation policy with responsibility for protecting our coastline spread across departments, local government and agencies. More action is required to ensure that our coastal environment, cities and towns and the infrastructure that serves all of us – including roads, rail lines and ports - are resilient to the impacts of climate change."

This adaptation workshop, the first in an annual series, aims to facilitate the Advisory Council and Adaptation Committee in developing an informed position on the key issues involved in addressing coastal resilience and any barriers to action to enable the provision of appropriate advice to government on policy and measures, investment requirements and other supports.

Ends

For further information please contact:

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Editor Notes

About the Climate Change Advisory Council and Adaptation Committee

The Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) was established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

The Climate Change Advisory Council is an independent advisory body tasked with assessing and advising on how Ireland can achieve the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

At its meeting on the 6th April 2016, the Climate Change Advisory Council established an Adaptation Committee to consider matters relating to climate change adaptation. Now, under the 2021 Climate Amendment Act, it is specified that the Council shall have such a committee in place to assist and advise it in relation to adaptation.

About the Workshop

The workshop will hear from Tittje Nauta of the Deltares institute in the Netherlands, Dr. Brian Kelleher of the Dublin Bay PREDICT project, Prof. Robert Nicholls, Director of the Tyndall Centre in the UK, and Martha Farrell, Muireann Kelliher and Eugene Farrell of the Maharees Conservation Association, based on the Dingle Peninsula.

- Tittje Nauta of the Deltares institute in the Netherlands, an independent institute for applied research which works on smart solutions and innovations to water-related problems such as sea-level rise and coastal erosion.
- Dr. Brian Kelleher of the Dublin Bay PREDICT (Prediction of Irish Coastal Transformation) project, which integrates mathematical modelling, remote and in-situ sensing, physical and chemical oceanography and seabed mapping in order to assess and predict coastal vulnerabilities.
- Prof. Robert Nicholls, Director of the Tyndall Centre in the UK, a partnership of universities bringing together experts in climate science and environmental policy in order to inform society's transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient future.
- Martha Farrell, Muireann Kelliher and Eugene Farrell represent the Maharees Conservation Association, based on the Dingle Peninsula, and formed to address the adverse impacts of coastal erosion by putting in place practical measures and a comprehensive management plan to ensure the future of the coastline.