



<b>Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting -MINUTES</b>
<b>Date:</b> 26.03.2026
<b>Start time:</b> 09:30
<b>Venue:</b> MS Teams
<b>Present:</b> Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair), Dr. Ina Kelly, Prof. Robert Devoy (until 12pm), Dr. Helen Hoyle (from 10:52), Keith Lambkin, Kieran Craven (sitting in for Dr. Darragh O'Neill), Dr. Julie Clarke, Jillian Mahon (from 11:00 am), David Joyce (until 9.55 am), Mark Adamson, Prof. Conor Murphy, John Spink.
<b>Secretariat:</b> George Hussey, Dr. Stephen Flood, Marta Carrasco, Ciara Hilliard, Meabh Gallagher, Claire Camilleri, and Jodie Colgan.
<b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Ali Sheridan, Dr. Walther Cámaro
<b>Apologies:</b> Sean McKeown

## **1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)**

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

### **a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved.

### **b. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

### **c. Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **2. Council Update (09.32)**

The Secretariat informed the Committee on the appointment of Alex White as the new Council Chair, and the reappointment of Prof. Peter Thorne, Dr. Cara Augustenborg and Jillian Mahon as Council members.

The Chairperson provided an update on the main outcomes from the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### **3. Secretariat Update (09.45)**

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main activities that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting. The main items covered were:

- The National Adaptation Steering Committee meeting, which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Preparation for the Adaptation Committee Workshop 2026
- Research updates
- Climate damage register research project inception next steps
- Sectoral Adaptation Plan Built Environment and Planning scoping document engagement
- Central Bank note on Building Resilience Rating
- OECD IMPACT survey and report
- Engagement with Port of Cork, which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> March

### **4. Presentation on Annual Review – Built Environment and Agriculture recommendations for Annual Review 2026 (10:03)**

Initial drafts of the resilience-related recommendations for the 2026 Annual Review chapters on Agriculture and Built Environment were presented to the Committee for comments. Specific comments were provided relating to the scoping exercise for the built environment and planning sector, the cross-sectoral perspective of built environment risks, and resilience building standards. Comments were also provided on the effectiveness of NBS in flood control, the focus of the agriculture recommendations, and agricultural catchment programmes. The recommendations were also circulated in written form for comment.

### **5. Presentation Electricity Annual Review 2026 (10:38)**

The final draft of the Electricity Annual Review 2026 was presented to the Committee for comments. Specific comments were provided on the wording of some of the recommendations. The Committee approved for the report to be submitted to the Council for publication. The draft was also circulated for written comment.

## **6. Nature Restoration Regulation Factsheet (10:51)**

The Nature Restoration Regulation factsheet was presented to the Committee for information and comment.

## **7. Options to advance flood response policy (11:10)**

The Adaptation Committee discussed options to advance flood response policy, as outlined at previous Council meetings, and recommended a strong focus on this issue in the 2026 Annual Review on Adaptation. It was also recommended that the Secretariat undertake consultations with relevant Committee representatives from the Office of Public Works, Met Éireann, Local Government, and the research community to inform the evidence base for new recommendations on this matter.

## **8. Presentation of research on spatial vulnerability in a climate context (11:23)**

Dr. Walther Cámaro, post-doctoral researcher from University College Cork provided a presentation on work being undertaken on spatial vulnerability in a climate context. Ali Sheridan, Chair of the Just Transition Commission provided a response on how issues of vulnerability and resilience are being considered by the Commission. This was followed by a discussion involving all Committee members.

## **9. TOR Adaptation Action Assessment (12:18)**

The terms of reference of the Adaptation Action Assessment were presented and approved. The Committee was informed that a working group has been established with representatives from the Adaptation Committee, Secretariat and relevant scorecard stakeholders to progress recommendations included in the report and design the new Adaptation Action Assessment to be introduced in late 2026.

## **9. Any Other Business, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting (12:24)**

### **a) Any Other Business**

The Secretariat provided a run through of the agenda for the May Adaptation Committee meeting in Kerry.

### **b) Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in person in Kerry on 7-8<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

The meeting closed at 12:28.

P.W. 

Signed electronically on 07.05.2026