



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 25.10.2021

Start time: 08:30

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Laura Burke (EPA), Professor John FitzGerald, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Professor Peter Thorne, William Walsh (SEAI), Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Dr. Frank O'Mara (Teagasc), Julie Sinnamon, Jillian Mahon, Sinead O'Brien

Agenda Item 2(b): Carr Communications joined for this item.

Apologies: Prof. Morgan Bazilian; Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Ciara Hilliard.

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 14.10.2021

Minutes were accepted with minor amendments.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council further to discussion (see Agenda Item 2a).

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

2. (a) Carbon Budgets – Pre-final Technical Report and Letter

Some concerns were expressed related to the embargoed release of the pre-final draft of the technical report and draft press release to the media ahead of the meeting. The Chair outlined the process of the draft report and draft press release being shared under embargo with a number of selected journalists, on the advice of the communications consultants. The Council regretted this, particularly as the texts were not final and this placed the Council under undue pressure. Members queried whether changes to the Technical Report and press release were still useful at that stage. Further to this discussion, the Chair gave assurance that this was still possible.

The final Technical Report was discussed in detail by Council members and amendments were made including identifying the percentage annual reduction proposed for each carbon budget, the assumption of a 51% reduction in the LULUCF in the period to 2030. It was noted that in advance of the meeting, Prof. Morgan Bazilian and Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer had indicated support for the proposed carbon budgets. The Council formally agreed the carbon budgets, as set out in the final version of the technical report.

Laura Burke and Patricia King left the meeting due to other commitments.

The draft letter of advice on carbon budgets to the Minister was discussed by Council Members and amendments agreed.

The draft press release was discussed by Council members and amendments agreed.

Following discussion by those present, and a vote, it was agreed, with one dissension, to send the letter to the Minister, and immediately thereafter issue the press release and Technical Report later that day at 17.30 (on 25th October). Prof. Fitzgerald, dissenting, believed that it would be better to delay publication till the next day to give time for final consideration of the clean texts, including the changes agreed earlier in the meeting.

2. (b) Carbon Budgets – Communications Strategy and website

Carr Communications joined the Council for this agenda item and advised on the communication strategy.

3. AOB

It was noted that the Council strategy session is provisionally scheduled for the 19th and 20th of January 2022 and will be led by an external facilitator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie L. Dowd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'D'. The background is a light grey rectangular area.

18.11.2021