



Climate Change Advisory Council
McCumiskey House
Richview
Clonskeagh Road
Dublin 14
D14 YR62

Mr Denis Naughten TD
Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Environment
29 – 31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
D02 X285

05 August 2016

RE: Consultation on the development of the National Adaptation Framework

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in response to a communication from Mr Alan Kelly TD, dated 19 April 2016, in connection with the development of Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF). I wish to start by stating that the Climate Change Advisory Council is committed to providing independent advice to help Ireland achieve its national transition objective on adaptation as outlined the National Policy Position (2015).

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you, that the Council has established an Adaptation Committee to assist it in its work on adaptation issues. Our forthcoming reports will provide more detailed advice on appropriate policies and mechanisms on adaptation issues. In order to respond to the original request three initial observations are outlined here in relation to the development of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF).

1. The Council recognises that ownership of certain issues will be shared between responsible authorities. In this context greater clarity on integration and alignment of sectoral adaptation plans within the NAF will be central to implementation of required actions and achievement of national policy. An implementation plan will be required to overcome the risk of divergent or fragmented approaches to adaptation planning across government departments and local authorities, and to provide systems to monitor and assess progress on actions. Therefore the NAF should provide clarity on these issues including the ownership, management and assessment of adaptation actions.
2. The Council is aware that knowledge gaps exist in relation to the economic, environmental and social costs of climate change as well as the costs of adaptation. This is a key challenge in the development of the NAF and particularly for resourcing the transition to resilience. These are complex issues which need to be addressed. Analysis is required to better understand the economic implications of climate change, such as the costs of current and projected extremes and the investments that are necessary to reduce associated vulnerabilities and risks. The NAF should provide clarity on resource issues, including human and financial resources, and commit to



further research in this area aimed at enhancing decision making on adaptation investments.

3. Finally, the Council considers that a key function of the NAF is to set out the adaptation priorities for Ireland. In doing this it should provide a common framework for investment decision making. Taking a 'least cost' approach may not always be appropriate and the longer-term economic, social and environmental benefits of adaptation actions must be reflected in any decision making framework.

We look forward to next stages of NAF process and its finalisation and to further constructive collaboration with your Department in moving to a climate resilient Ireland by 2050.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John FitzGerald".

Prof. John FitzGerald
Chair
Climate Change Advisory Council