Minutes

2nd Meeting of the Adaptation Action Assessment Working Group

10.00-12.00, 4th June 2026

Venue: MS Teams

Attendance: Jillian Mahon (Chairperson and Climate Change Advisory Council and Adaptation Committee Member), Mark Adamson (Office of Public Works), Robert Devoy (Adaptation Committee), Ina Kelly (Adaptation Committee), Carmel Kilcoyne (Climate Action Regional Offices), Sean Mckeown (Adaptation Committee), Seosamh O' Laoi (representing Gráinne Uí Thuama), Darragh O' Neill (Adaptation Committee), Stephen Flood (Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat), Bryn Canniffe (Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat).

Apologies: Lisa Johnson (Ecodiversity Consultant), Keith Lambkin (Adaptation Committee), Gráinne Uí Thuama (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment).

1. Introduction

The Chairperson opened the meeting and thanked each of the members for their attendance.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without amendment.

3. Review and Adoption of Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were adopted as a true reflection of the meeting. It was noted that the minutes and all documentation linked to the meetings of the working group will be published on the Council website at the end of the process, subject to final approval.

4. Amended categories and scope

Bryn Canniffe presented the amendments that were made to the scope and categories for the adaptation action assessment. These were made based on the comments from the previous meeting and subsequent feedback received from the representatives from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and the Office of Public Works. In terms of the scope and categories, several outstanding issues were put to the group for its guidance.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should develop a separate questionnaire for the National Adaptation Framework implementation by DCEE to fit with their coordination and support role to sectors and local authorities. It was suggested for this to focus questions on the role of DCEE in supporting the work of the Adaptation Taskforce, its national dialogue, awareness raising role for adaptation, and its support to local authorities for climate action.

Views were expressed around extending the Adaptation Action Assessment to other departments and public bodies that do not have a sectoral adaptation plan. The Secretariat was requested to consider options around this issue. Reference was made to DHLGH and the Built Environment and Planning sector and engaging with regulators. A possible option would be to make this an evidence gathering exercise subject to a revised set of questions that would not be assessed in the same way at this time as for the other sectors and local authorities. The obligations of public bodies in terms of the Climate Act were also noted.

A number of issues were discussed including the need to strengthen the focus of the Adaptation Action Assessment on communication with stakeholders and communities was raised. This was in the context of the lack of awareness of issues of adaptation and climate resilience at community level. It was further noted that the CAROs are in the process of re-building their website and are actively looking at case studies for climate resilience.

In terms of the revisions to the category of Delivering Adaptation, there were no specific comments on the inclusion of a new sub-category on Just Resilience and community support initiatives. It was suggested to give a clear voice to nature-based approaches. The need to not only include the delivery of new actions but also the maintenance of previous actions was noted.

5. Proposed Questions for the Questionnaire

Stephen Flood presented the draft list of questions for the questionnaire for comments and suggestions from the members.

The following general comments were provided and considered relevant to most questions.

It was suggested that the language used for the questions needs to be simplified and intelligible. Several questions were considered too dense and should be broken down into multiple questions with clear language where possible.

It was suggested to ensure that questions link back to the overall objectives of the Adaptation Action Assessment. It was also noted to only ask for information that is essential and at an appropriate scale. Discussion then considered whether the purpose of the new process is to get feedback and learn about the changes and innovations being done or whether it was for wider learning and for sectors and local authorities to learn from each other through case studies and other sharing of good practice across the categories.

Options, where feasible, to pre-populate answers and to make use of check boxes were suggested for the response template as several of the questions were considered to be broad and unclear in terms of what was being requested.

There was in-depth discussion on the draft list of questions and criteria for evaluation and specific comments were provided by the working group members on each of the questions.

6. Any Other Business and Closing

The need to keep other sectors in the loop with the new Adaptation Action Assessment was noted. It was stated that the working group should first nail down its thinking on the categories, questions and evaluation framework before engaging the other sectors via the National Adaptation Steering Committee or other appropriate channels.

The Chairperson thanked the working group members for their inputs and encouraged all members to provide further comments in writing by close of business on 18th June.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.