Minutes

3rd Meeting of the Adaptation Action Assessment Working Group

3.00-4.30pm, 29th 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), Lisa Johnson (Ecodiversity Consultant), Ina Kelly (Adaptation Committee), Carmel Kilcoyne (Climate Action Regional Offices), Keith Lambkin (Adaptation Committee), Sean Mckeown (Adaptation Committee), Darragh O' Neill (Adaptation Committee), Gráinne Uí Thuama (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment), Stephen Flood, Bryn Canniffe (both Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat).

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.

4. Update since the previous meeting

Stephen Flood presented an update of the main developments since the previous meeting. It was detailed written feedback was received on the questionnaire and was integrated in the draft that was to be presented under item 5. It was noted that the Secretariat would develop a separate questionnaire for the National Adaptation Framework in consultation with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Stephen Flood presented a list of public bodies that were proposed to be sent lighter questionnaires for evidence gathering purposes. These were for public bodies that do not have Sectoral Adaptation Plans. Differing views were raised on engaging with these bodies. While it was considered positive by some members to be inclusive and communicate with other public bodies, some concerns were noted:

- What the motivation would be for these bodies to respond to the questionnaires given that they do not have Sectoral Adaptation Plans;

- Many of the public bodies do not have a lead person for adaptation which could make responses unlikely;
- It was considered that there could be other avenues to reach out to public bodies that do not have Sectoral Adaptation Plans yet are responsible for addressing climate risks such as through the National Adaptation Steering Committee and Adaptation Task Force;
- It was noted that regulators should be or are actively involved in the formulation and implementation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans in multiple sectors.

The Chairperson concluded that it was important from the CCAC perspective to improve transparency and accountability of all public bodies and sectors regarding their adaptation actions. It was noted that the Secretariat would reflect on the issues raised.

5. Amended Adaptation Action Assessment Questions

The Chairperson introduced this item and stated that the primary intention was to get a feel if the main comments received from previous meeting and subsequent written feedback had been adequately incorporated into the amended proposal.

Lisa Johnson provided an overview of the amendments that were made to the questions. She also noted that two sets of guidance notes would be prepared for local authorities and sector lead departments to assist them in responding to the questionnaire.

The main comments expressed on the amended questions were to:

- Try to allow for flexibility in responses and to allow for any changes to EU or national policy guidance over the timeframe of the adaptation action assessment.
- Amend the scope of Governance category so that it is more clearly focused on policies, plans and strategies and to bring in aspects of senior management level engagement on adaptation into the response framework.
- Align the costing/funding question with ongoing work of the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Sector Reform and Digitalisation and that this can become very useful over time.
- Include focus after evaluation on bringing the findings through to other existing policy groups so that systemic challenges can be addressed.
- Provide an option for development plans in the response framework under the governance question.
- Need to identify and assess long term financial investments in addition to annual allocations and expenditure.
- Need to incorporate mapping back into the risk and impacts question to encourage the mapping of risk over time.
- The question on research and pilots should aim to build up of a library of research projects and pilots relevant to resilience.
- Take a longer-term focus to Category B on Delivering Adaptation in terms of the timeframe for the intervention of the adaptation measures.
- Keep the language of the questionnaire as simple and friendly as possible.

Working group members were given until close of business on 6th July to provide any further written feedback on the questionnaire.

6. Initial discussion on evaluation framework

Bryn Canniffe presented the proposed evaluation framework for the adaptation action assessment for comments and suggestions from the working group. Guidance was requested from the working group on whether to weight the different categories for assessment.

The working group members highlighted the importance of the evaluation criteria and marking system and the need to get it right. Several working group members suggested trialling the response framework with a sector to troubleshoot any issues. Most of the working group members recommended to give the categories equal weighting to reduce complexity. Several working group members commented on the usefulness of the annual progress label (improved, maintained or worsened) and it was noted that this could motivate sectors that has been poorly assessed over previous years. The secretariat was recommended to explore whether the first year of the Adaptation Action Assessment could be compared with previous results from the scorecard or whether that would only start from year two of the evaluation. The secretariat was also recommended to explore how best to avoid the assessment becoming a race to the top and to be clear in the evaluation on if and how sectors / local authorities may be marked down on an annual basis.

7. Any Other Business, Next Meeting and Closure

The meeting was adjourned at 4.20pm and the next meeting of the working group is to take place on 20th July.