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5 May 2017

Dear Mr McDonald,

**RE: Climate Change Advisory Council Response to the Consultation on the National Clean Air Strategy**

The Climate Change Advisory Council considered the proposed National Clean Air Strategy (NCAS) at its meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Council view the development of NCAS and the renewed focus on improving air quality to be an important step forward for Ireland.

In its First Report the Council note that the positive impacts of climate action on health, wellbeing, air quality and the environment need to be incorporated into policy and decision-making. The Council welcome the clear outline of the issues and challenges related to addressing air pollution and the rationale for these arising from the impacts on human health and wellbeing, and the environment. The Council note that the combustion of fossil fuels is the main the source of greenhouse gases and air pollutants in our cities and rural towns.

The Council supports the development of synergies between climate and air quality policies and efforts to avoid or eliminate any trade-offs that may exist, as exemplified by the changes in taxation that encouraged increased diesel use in road transport. An integrated and informed approach to addressing these issues is required. In this context the Council welcome Ireland's membership of the international Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) which promotes actions which benefit air quality and climate protection.

Maximising synergies between climate and clean air policy increases their cost-effectiveness. The Council highlighted that the inclusion of the cost of health impacts

from air pollution in official cost benefit analysis of such policies and measures would assist in advancing achievement of climate and air quality objectives.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. John FitzGerald**

Chair

Climate Change Advisory Council