

## Chapter 17 Addendum: Climate



# ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT

## Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Addendum Chapter 17 Addendum: Climate

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## 17 CHAPTER 17 ADDENDUM: CLIMATE

### 17.1 Introduction

This Addendum provides supplementary information to section 17.2 of chapter 17 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (2024). It has been prepared in response to a Request for Further Information (RFI) from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (formerly An Bord Pleanála) regarding the planning application (case reference ABP-319799-24) for the Oriel Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as “the Project”). No specific information relating to climate was requested in the RFI, however the Applicant has provided this Addendum in light of the publication of updated policy. Such updates in policy outlined in this Addendum do not change the assessment provided in EIAR chapter 17: Climate, volume 2C.

### 17.2 Policy context

#### 17.2.1 National legislation and policy

The Applicant would like to note that since the submission of the planning application in May 2024, several pieces of national policy have been updated. These policy updates are described below.

##### 17.2.1.1 National Adaptation Framework

Ireland's second statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) was published in June 2024 and replaces the first iteration of the framework which was published in 2018. The 2024 NAF introduces a broader set of guiding principles, emphasising the urgency for more intelligent, rapid, and far-reaching adaptation strategies. It advocates for a pathway planning approach, which considers a variety of potential future warming and impact scenarios, to ensure flexible and effective adaptation measures. The 2024 NAF moves towards an outcomes-based strategy to better monitor and evaluate progress in enhancing the resilience of infrastructure, ecosystems, and society at large against climate change. It should be noted that the updated Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs) for Electricity and Gas Networks is due to be updated in line with the 2024 NAF.

##### 17.2.1.2 Climate Action Plan 2025

The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the fifth iteration of Ireland's Climate Action Plan (CAP) under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and builds upon CAP24. CAP25 was published in April 2025.

CAP25 reiterates the commitment for Ireland to achieve a minimum 51% reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 compared to 2018 levels, with net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This is enforced by an improved legally-binding carbon budget framework containing carbon budgets for 2025, 2027, and 2030. The framework is aligned with both national and EU-level legislation and provides support for the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity, the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies and coal, and an increase in the electrification of heat and transportation.

Renewable energy development, including the generation, storage and transmission of such energy, is a key component of CAP25. Offshore wind capacity is targeted for 5 GW total by 2030, consistent with CAP24. Coordination between agencies such as the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), ACP, Local Authorities and other relevant bodies is increased to speed up consultations, licensing processes (MACs and MULs), and decision periods for offshore energy projects. EIA and AA processes also benefit from this increased coordination while receiving new tailored processes specific to offshore energy projects.

The national targets for renewable energy (including offshore) set in order to meet Ireland's climate commitments have remained the same as those outlined in Table 17-2 of EIAR chapter 17: Climate (i.e. that by 2030, offshore wind will produce at least 5 GW of electricity).

##### 17.2.1.3 Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy

The Future Framework Policy Statement for Offshore Renewable Energy outlines the national long-term ambitions with regard to offshore renewable energy of 20 GW by 2040 and 37 GW by 2050 and it lays down

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a roadmap of how they will be achieved. The Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy includes 29 no. key actions including 7 no. priority actions, to develop Ireland's long-term, plan-led approach to offshore wind. It was initially published in 2024 and the first annual review was published in 2025. The purpose of the review is to provide an update of progress to date across sectors and per actions and renew Government's commitment to the Future Framework action plan by outlined future actions.

### **17.2.1.4 National Energy and Climate Policy**

The National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 was updated in July 2024 to align with energy and emissions targets contained within the updated Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (as amended) and Climate Action Plan 2025. This includes the targets of a reduction of GHG emissions by 51% by 2030 compared to 2018 levels, and an increase in the renewable energy share to 43% of the totally energy consumption by 2030, from the previous 40% target.

The Project will continue to deliver renewable energy, supporting the reduced use of fossil fuels and Ireland's 2030 targets for GHG emissions in a manner that is consistent with the trajectory to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

## 17.3 References

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Climate Action Plan 2024 (DECC, 2024).

Climate Action Plan 2025 (DECC, 2025).

Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy 2025 Review (DECC, 2025).

National Adaptation Framework (DECC, 2024).

National Energy and Climate Policy 2021-2030 (DECC, 2024)