



[By email to ceann.comhairle@oireachtas.ie]

Seán Ó Fearghaíl T.D., Ceann Comhairle
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

28 March 2018

Re: Oireachtas scrutiny of forthcoming report of Citizens' Assembly on climate change

Dear Ceann Comhairle,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition* in relation to the forthcoming report of the Citizens' Assembly on the subject of '*How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*'.

As you may be aware, the Citizens' Assembly considered this topic over two weekends in September and November 2017, following a major public consultation. In light of consultation submissions, as well as presentations from national and international experts, the Assembly produced 13 recommendations on how Ireland can make progress on climate change.

The Coalition has have been informed that the Assembly's final report will be published and sent to the Oireachtas in April. **We are writing to you in your role as Chair of the Business Committee as we understand that it is the Business Committee that will decide on how the report is treated.** The publication of the report marks the conclusion of the Assembly's consideration of the topic and we consider that the Oireachtas now has the responsibility to ensure that the Assembly's report and recommendations are examined and taken forward as a matter of urgency.

The Assembly's practical proposals merit careful scrutiny by the Oireachtas in particular as Ireland's worsening climate record has been repeatedly raised by authorities at EU and national level in the past year. The Environmental Protection Agency has recently [highlighted](#) that Ireland's emissions are continuing to rise at an alarming rate and has emphasized that our long-term objectives can only be achieved through a transformation of our energy, agriculture and transport systems. Ireland's independent Climate Change Advisory Council has also [concluded](#) that the actions listed in the new Government's climate strategy do not put Ireland on a pathway to meeting our national or EU climate change commitments.

Given this state of affairs, we strongly recommend that the upcoming report receives the same type of detailed scrutiny as occurred in response to the Assembly's recommendations on the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. In line with the constructive approach to recommendations on the Eighth Amendment, **we request that the report is immediately referred to an Oireachtas Committee, which can in turn bring its conclusions to the Houses for debate.**

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition had the privilege to observe the Citizens' Assembly discussions during the dedicated sessions last year; the commitment of Assembly members and the efforts made to comprehensively examine Ireland's response to climate change were indeed striking. It is now imperative that the Oireachtas plays its part and deliberates on the Assembly's recommendations in light of current government policies, particularly as weaknesses in the Government's approach are already well-attested.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and we would be happy to discuss these issues in more detail, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Mac Evilly
On behalf of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition

* Stop Climate Chaos is the civil society coalition campaigning for Ireland to do its fair share to tackle climate change. Our 33 members include overseas aid and development, environmental, youth and faith-based organisations: Afri, BirdWatch Ireland, Christian Aid Ireland, Comhlámh, Community Work Ireland, Concern Worldwide, Cultivate, Cyclist.ie, Dublin Friends of the Earth, Eco Congregation Ireland, ECO UNESCO, Feasta, Fossil Free TCD, Friends of the Earth, Good Energies Alliance Ireland, Gorta-Self Help Africa, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Just Forests, Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Latin America Solidarity Centre (LASC), Liberia Solidarity Group, Methodist Church of Ireland – Council of Social Responsibility, Mountmellick Environmental Group (MEG), National Youth Council of Ireland, Oxfam Ireland, Peoples Climate Ireland, Presentation Ireland, Tearfund Ireland, Trócaire, An Taisce, VITA, V.O.I.C.E., and Young Friends of the Earth