

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
**of the**  
**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**Proposition P.2019/40**

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by: Deputy H L de Sausmarez

Seconded by: Deputy A Dudley-Owen

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**POLICY & RESOURCE PLAN – 2018 REVIEW AND 2019 UPDATE**

In Proposition 1(e) to add immediately after the words “May 2020”:

“, recognising that climate change has reached a critical point and that Guernsey must urgently address the climate and ecological crisis at both local and international levels, and recognising that, as well as addressing environmental issues, social and economic factors will be integral to this priority policy area, which may include:

- local action to mitigate climate change and environmental degradation,
- local policies to stimulate the 'green' and 'blue' economy and promote environmentally sustainable economic development,
- international action through overseas aid focused on climate resilience, and
- international action through our role as a Green and Sustainable Finance Centre;”

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This amendment adds more detail to Proposition 1(e).

The additional text explicitly recognises the seriousness of the global situation with regards to climate change and acknowledges Guernsey’s role, both locally and internationally, in urgently addressing it.

The nature and extent of the problem<sup>1</sup> is well-documented in a huge body of scientific work spanning decades, and although there is a range of scientific opinion on various

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<sup>1</sup> The Royal Society has a useful summary of the basics of climate change that can be found at [https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAn4PkBRCDARIsAGHmH3c-DWI29STgE8KzaXlxEAsQjojxlsMooFZ2d8sUeHJIBiWXe24ZMjQaArCQEALw\\_wcB](https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAn4PkBRCDARIsAGHmH3c-DWI29STgE8KzaXlxEAsQjojxlsMooFZ2d8sUeHJIBiWXe24ZMjQaArCQEALw_wcB)

details, there is a clear and very strong scientific consensus<sup>2</sup> of more than 97% of climate scientists that: the earth's climate has warmed significantly since the late 1800s; that human activities (primarily greenhouse gas emissions) are the primary cause; that continuing emissions will increase the likelihood and severity of global effects; and that people and nations can act individually and collectively to slow the pace of global warming, whilst also taking action to reduce the vulnerability of social and biological systems to its effects.

The global average temperature has risen by close to 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and we are already seeing the consequences of that warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other things. Many of the effects of climate change, such as species extinctions<sup>3</sup>, are irreversible. Citing more than 6000 scientific references and authored by a large international team of relevant experts, a recent IPCC report<sup>4</sup> concludes that making significant emissions reductions in the next ten years in particular will be crucial in limiting further warming to more manageable levels. Our decisions about the next decade will, therefore, fundamentally affect all decades that follow, so it is accurate to describe the current situation as a crisis, which is defined as a stage in a sequence of events at which the trend of all future events is determined – or put more simply, a turning point.

Climate change will have far-reaching and profound social and economic impacts. Research<sup>5</sup> shows that acting quickly to mitigate climate change within the next decade in particular will deliver many social and economic benefits compared with the problems associated with the higher levels of warming probable if swift action is not taken. This amendment makes clear that these social and economic factors will be integral to the climate change policy and Climate Change Action Plan.

Guernsey has myriad opportunities to address climate change at both local and international levels. Local action focusing on meaningful reductions of carbon

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<sup>2</sup> There have been various studies testing and evidencing the veracity and strength of this consensus, probably the most useful of which is Consensus on Consensus: a Synthesis of Consensus Estimates on Human-Caused Global Warming, Cook et al, Environmental Research Letters, Volume 11, Issue 4, article id. 048002 (2016).

<sup>3</sup> Climate change is a key factor in the largescale species, ecosystem and genetic diversity loss evidenced in the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5c, IPCC, 2018 (summary for policy makers at <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>)

<sup>5</sup> There are many pieces of research that draw similar conclusions, but useful papers include Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, IPCC, 2014 (summary for policy makers at [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar5\\_wgII\\_spm\\_en.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar5_wgII_spm_en.pdf)), Large Potential Reduction in Economic Damages Under UN Mitigation Targets, M. Burke, W.M. Davis and N.S. Diffenbaugh, Nature 557, 2018, and Social Dimensions of Climate Change, United Nations Task Team on Social Dimensions of Climate Change, 2011.

emissions and climate change adaptations will obviously be key in minimising the island's contribution to the problem and coping with its effects, working where appropriate with other islands in the Bailiwick and with Jersey. However, we can look further beyond our own shores in order to maximise Guernsey's contribution to the solution. For example, by positioning ourselves as a Green and Sustainable Finance Centre we can facilitate the global transition from the brown economy to the green economy, and through our overseas aid and development work we can help developing nations strengthen their resilience to climate change. Through such international action, Guernsey has the potential to make a disproportionately large and a disproportionately positive impact relative to our size, which aside from its direct benefits would also enhance our reputation and identity as a mature and responsible jurisdiction.