



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Policy and Regulation Update

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Atlantic Ireland, 29 October 2019



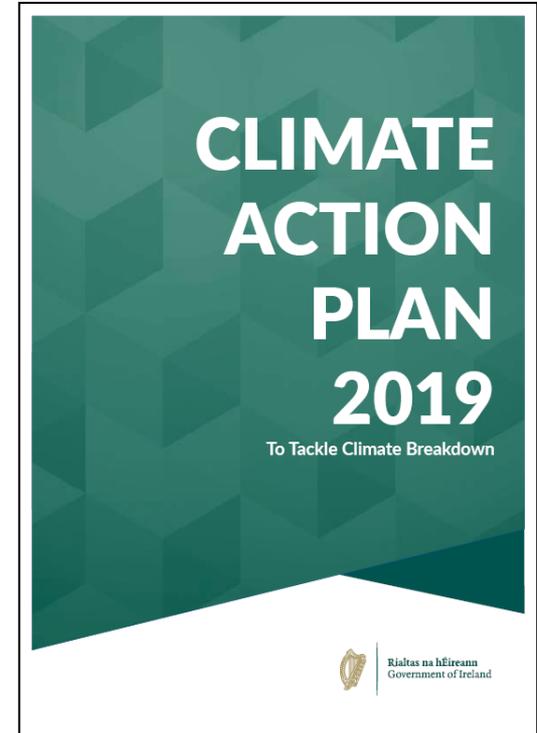
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Policy Developments

Climate Action Plan – June 2019



- Sets 2030 targets for emissions reduction, with a trajectory to net zero by 2050
- 183 actions with clear timelines and owners
- Structures for strong governance and oversight
- Citizen involvement
- Establishes a Just Transition Review Group



International Energy Agency



- In-Depth Review of Ireland’s Energy Policies
- Published April 2019

Chapter 4, Natural Gas

“The government of Ireland should ensure a stable and streamlined regulatory framework, and conduct regular licensing rounds, to encourage exploration activities and, subsequently, develop domestic reserves.”



Energy Transition

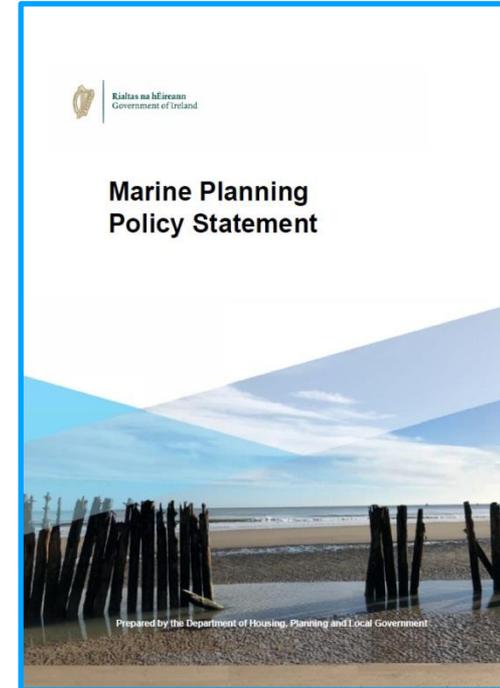


- Taoiseach and Minister Bruton sought Climate Change Advisory Council advice on future exploration and recovery of Ireland's oil and gas resources.
- CCAC advised:
 - *Exploration and recovery of new offshore oil reserves is incompatible with the transition to renewables.*
 - *Recommendation made that exploration for gas should continue during the transition to renewables.*
- At the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September the Taoiseach stated that Ireland would accept this advice.
- Focus now is on establishing the policy principles that will underpin future exploration and production activities in Ireland's Offshore.
- Full policy statement to be delivered soon.

Marine Policy Developments



- **EU Directive - Marine Spatial Plan to be in place Q1 2021**
 - *“Process by which the relevant Member State’s authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives”*
- **Marine Planning Policy Statement**
 - Outlines a vision for Ireland’s marine planning system
 - Will shortly be published
- **Draft National Marine Planning Framework**
 - Will set out long term planning objectives and priorities for our marine areas over a 20 year horizon
 - Consultation period to commence within weeks



International Developments



Offshore Safety Directive

- European Commission review of Offshore Safety Directive delayed beyond scheduled July 2019.
 - Understand Report likely in first half 2020
 - Not expecting legislative proposal at that point

OSPAR Convention

- OSPAR, a convention for protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic, is developing a new strategy for the period 2020 to 2030
 - Brent decommissioning consultative meeting
 - Ireland has no derogation applicable facilities

Enhancing our Knowledge Base



The ObSERVE Programme was established to increase the level of baseline data available on protected species in frontier areas.

- Phase 1:
 - Primarily funded by PIP
 - NPWS also a partner
 - Data is now publically available
- Phase 2 scoping is currently underway
 - Expanding to additional partners
 - Building on findings from Phase 1





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Legislative Updates

Environmental Impact Assessments



Legislative Developments

- EU Directive 2014
- New Statutory Instrument providing for EIA Screening and independent environmental assessments introduced in February 2019
- Legislation in progress for full transposition of the EIA Directive

Process Changes 2019

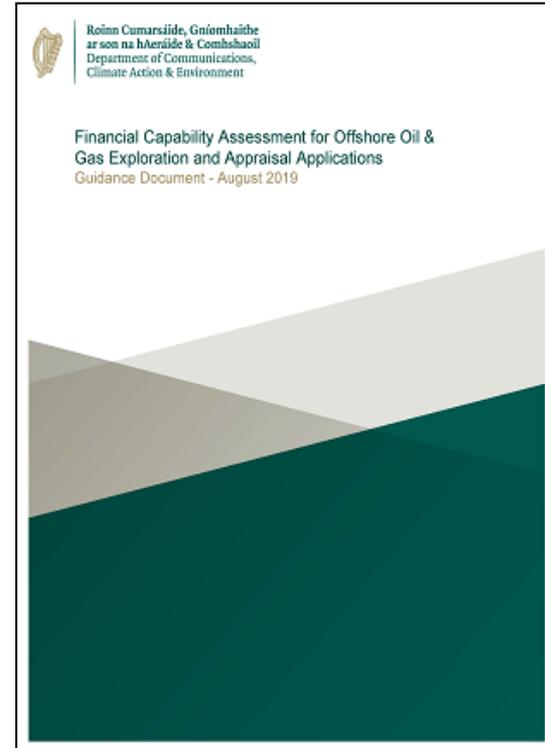
- Independent review of environmental assessments of activities is required in accordance with the EIA, Birds & Habitats Directives.
- Environmental Assessment Unit established.
- Public consultation is a core part of the process.

Financial Capacity Assessment Guidelines



Developed to provide clarity and set expectations

- Cost of work programmes to be submitted
- Viability check
 - Going Concern
 - Net Assets
 - Current Ratio
 - Gearing
- Financial Capacity Assessment
 - Investment Cover
 - Cash Cover
- Sets out various funding arrangements for extenuating circumstances



Marine Planning Legislation



- *Marine Planning and Development Management Bill*
 - Intention is to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of development and activities in the marine space.
 - Opportunity to establish a streamlined consent process to apply to all activities in Ireland's offshore areas.
- Drafting has been initiated
- Complex legislation, involves many sectors
- Led by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Significant area of focus for DCCAE

To Close – Key Points



- Recognise the challenge of uncertainty – actively working to address that in very near term
- Policy Principles for exploration activities in the context of the Climate Action Plan are in development
- Environmental Impact Assessments
 - Comprehensive, independent, environmental assessment involving public consultation are now in place
 - Focus is on streamlining the processes and providing clarity on expectations
- Strategic Focus on the Marine Spatial Plan and associated legislation



Thank You