STATES OF JERSEY

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): NINTH AMENDMENT

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Lodged au Greffe on 21st November 2025
by the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2025

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): NINTH AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (b)(xii) –

After the words "Appendix to the accompanying Report", insert the words –

“, except that on page 21, the table entitled “Figure 12 – Economic Wellbeing Risks” should be renamed “Figure 12 – Environmental Wellbeing Risks” and a new line entitled “Climate Emergency” should be inserted as follows –

Climate Emergency	The Budget includes feasibility funding of £1.9 million for the Shoreline Management Plan to alleviate coastal flooding, through the improvement of sea defences. The Budget includes proposals to increase Vehicle Emissions Duty, with the income transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, and to increase Fuel Excise Duty, a portion of which is already transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, to support the implementation of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap.

ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL

Note: After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

(a) In accordance with Article 16 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) to approve an amendment to the Government Plan 2025 – 2028 (entitled “Budget 2025 – 2028”) to a reduction in the 2025 head of expenditure “Grants to States Funds” as included in Table 5(i) Revenue Heads of Expenditure of that Government Plan from £119,821,000 to £69,821,000.

(b) To receive the Government Plan 2026 – 2029 (entitled “Budget 2026-2029”) specified in Article 9(1) of the Law and specifically –

i. to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Consolidated Fund in 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 1 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law.

ii. to refer to their Act dated 24th June 2003 in which they approved that no new ‘user pays’ charges be introduced without any such charge receiving prior in principle approval by the States Assembly and accordingly to approve the introduction of two new charges, to be levied by Health and Care Jersey to promote appropriate use of the Emergency Department and for repeated non-attendance of outpatient appointments, detailed in the section entitled "Departmental Income Sources" as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report.

iii. to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2026, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(c) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts.

iv. to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2026 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law.

v. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Stabilisation Fund in 2026 of up to £50 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on the availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of the estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026.

vi. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Agricultural Loans Fund in 2026 of up to £5 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026;

vii. to approve each major project that is to be started or continued in 2026 and the total cost of each such project and any amendments to the proposed total cost of a major project under a previously approved Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(d), (e) and (f) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 4 to the Report.

viii. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for 2026, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(g), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 5(i) and (ii) of the Report.

ix. to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its trading fund in 2026 in line with Article 9(2)(h) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 to the Report.

x. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation's trading fund for 2026 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report.

xi. to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report.

xii. to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Government Plan 2026-2029, as set in the Appendix to the accompanying Report, except that on page 21, the table entitled "Figure 12 – Economic Wellbeing Risks" should be renamed "Figure 12 – Environmental Wellbeing Risks" and a new line entitled "Climate Emergency" should be inserted as follows –

Climate Emergency	The Budget includes feasibility funding of £1.9 million for the Shoreline Management Plan to alleviate coastal flooding, through the improvement of sea defences. The Budget includes proposals to increase Vehicle Emissions Duty, with the income transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, and to increase Fuel Excise Duty, a portion of which is already transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, to support the implementation of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap.

Re-issue Note

This amendment has been re-issued to correct an error in the wording of the amendment. The line "The Budget includes proposals to increase Fuel Excise Duty and Vehicle Emissions Duty, with the income transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund to support the implementation of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap." has been replaced with "The Budget includes proposals to increase Vehicle Emissions Duty, with the income transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, and to increase Fuel Excise Duty, a portion of which is already transferred to the Climate Emergency Fund, to support the implementation of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap."

REPORT

This amendment seeks to re-insert the Climate Emergency as an Environmental Wellbeing Risk within the Sustainable Wellbeing Risks section of the *Proposed Budget (Government Plan) 2026–2029* (P.70/2025) (the 'Budget 2026-2029'), as was included in the *Proposed Budget (Government Plan) 2025–2028* (P.51/2024). It also corrects the title of Figure 12, which is mislabelled as "Economic Wellbeing Risks", so that it accurately reflects the heading of Environmental Wellbeing.

The Panel sought clarification from the Minister for the Environment during a Public Hearing on 5th November 2025, as to why the Climate Emergency risk had been omitted. The explanation offered was that climate impacts were not considered "imminent" enough to justify inclusion in the Budget 2026-2029. However, both the Minister and the Chief Officer confirmed that climate-related risks "have not gone away", that "we are seeing increasing risks related to the climate" and that they remain an "absolute top priority" within the Infrastructure and Environment Department.

The Panel also notes that the mitigation measures set out in the *Proposed Budget (Government Plan) 2025–2028* (P.51/2024) are still ongoing, with £1.9 million feasibility funding for the Shoreline Management Plan continuing until 2029, and the transfer of income from increased Fuel Excise Duty and increased Vehicle Emissions Duty to the Climate Emergency Fund in support of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap continuing within the Budget 2026-2029.

In light of the continued presence of climate-related risks, the Government's acknowledgement that the Climate Emergency remains a top departmental priority, and the continuing mitigation work funded through the Budget 2026-2029, the Panel considers the removal of this risk from the Environmental Wellbeing section to be inappropriate and misleading. Reinstating the Climate Emergency as an identified risk ensures that the Budget accurately reflects both the Island's long-term environmental vulnerabilities, the work underway to address them and ensures that the significance of the environmental risks that Government must continue to manage is clearly recognised within the Budget 2026-2029.

Financial and staffing implications

There are no anticipated financial or staffing implications as a result of this amendment.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

It is considered that this proposition (amendment) has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Conventions Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.