

2.6 Deputy J. Renouf of St. Brelade of the Minister for the Environment regarding the Climate Council's work (OQ.39/2026):

Will the Minister advise, in relation to phase 1 of the Climate Council's work, whether he has received a copy of its report, and, if so, advise when it will be published and what consideration, if any, the Council has given to how the proposed policies regarding the importation of petrol and diesel vehicles will affect the drive to net zero emissions by 2050?

Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin (The Minister for the Environment):

I am pleased to confirm that I have received a copy of the Climate Council's report and will be making a statement, as Members may have noticed, on this document later in the sitting; in fact, later this afternoon. The Council's report has now been lodged as R.37/2026, and has been published on the States report section of the Government website in line with the requirement for it to be published by the end of Q1. The Climate Council undertook their review between October 2025 and the end of January this year before finalising their report. The recent consultation on the phase out of petrol and diesel vehicles ran from 6th November until 30th January, and as such, the Council have not had access to any of the data gathered through the consultation process.

2.6.1 Deputy J. Renouf:

The report talks about the need for clear, consistent and firm commitments to phase out internal combustion engine vehicle purchases. Why is he doing the exact opposite of that?

Deputy S.G. Luce:

The first thing I would say, that making a decision not to do something is actually still making a decision. But I did come back recently from a meeting with other Environment Ministers in the U.K. with 2 words in my mind, and that was "just transition". As with all things, when it comes to saving carbon, and many other things as well, we have to consider how everyone on this Island will be able to afford to do their bit. It was made very clear to me that by banning used vehicles from being imported on to the Island after 2030 we were taking away the ability of some of us, who are less well-off, to be able to change their vehicle. For that and many other reasons I decided, very clearly in my mind - it was not indecision - I made a decision not to follow that path that was put into place by the roadmap some years ago.