

Deputy Steve Luce, Minister for the Environment
Deputy Hilary Jeune, Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

BY EMAIL

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Dear Minister and Deputy Jeune,

Reflections on the Establishment and Resourcing of the Climate Council

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Council to express our sincere thanks for the opportunity to serve as members of Jersey's first Climate Council. It is an honour to contribute to the Island's progress in meeting its climate ambitions, and we recognise the significance of the role entrusted to us. We would also like to commend the Government officers and wider support teams who have assisted the Council to date. Their professionalism, preparedness and constructive engagement have greatly supported our early work, and the Council is grateful for their commitment.

The Council would like to highlight some areas for consideration regarding the provisions made for the Council's operation. The Scrutiny Panel's amendment anticipated that each of the five Council members would contribute six full days of work every four years, two of which are allocated to the orientation days. The Council fully appreciates the intention of ensuring proportionality and minimising overheads. However, based on our initial experience and the scope set out in the Terms of Reference, it is clear that this time allocation is wholly insufficient to enable the Council to scrutinise meaningfully the Island's progress on the Carbon Neutral Roadmap or to undertake the breadth and depth of scientific, technical and policy review that such a complex area requires and deserves.

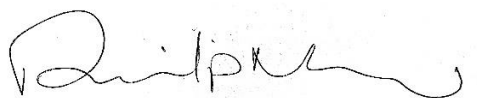
The Roadmap spans issues including energy systems, transport, land use, biodiversity, climate resilience, economic transition, behavioural change, and emissions accounting. Properly evaluating these areas and producing an authoritative, evidence based independent report every four years will necessarily require substantially more time, analytical capacity and specialist input than is currently resourced. For the Council to deliver robust, credible and scientifically rigorous work, the level of support provided must be strengthened, ensuring that the Island's independent scientific advisory body is properly equipped to perform its duties is essential to supporting the climate goals endorsed by the States Assembly.

Accordingly, the Council respectfully urges that the level of funding and operational support allocated to the wider objectives of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap, be reviewed and prioritised.

Given the points outlined above, the Council would also welcome the continued attention of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel in this area. We respectfully request that the Panel maintain these resourcing and governance issues within its work programme and ensure they are passed on as priorities to any future Scrutiny Panel members in the next political term. Sustained scrutiny will be essential to ensuring that the Climate Council is able to function effectively and that the Island's climate governance arrangements remain robust and fit for purpose.

We are confident that with appropriately strengthened provisions, future Councils can deliver the professional scrutiny and strategic insight that the Island requires.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip New', with a stylized, flowing script.

Philip New
Chair, Climate Council