

## Respondent Information Form



### Tackling the Nature Emergency - Consultation on Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email Address

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (without name)
- Do not publish response

#### Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

No

# Tackling the Nature Emergency: Consultation on Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity

## Questions

We are inviting responses to this consultation by **14 December 2023**.

You are not required to answer every question in the consultation. The consultation is set out in sections to help you identify matters in which you may have a particular interest.

Please note that Section 1 of the consultation document does not contain any questions, so question numbering starts from Section 2.

## Section 2 – Scottish Biodiversity Delivery Plan

**Question 2a: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: accelerate restoration and regeneration?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- We are extremely supportive of the delivery plan and the need to accelerate restoration and regeneration.
- A concern would be how to ensure areas outwith the six large landscape projects are equally catered for and resourced.

**Question 2b: Are the key actions, to support the objective: accelerate restoration and regeneration, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- As delivery partners/leads are not identified at this point it is difficult to see where accountability and responsibility will lie and how this will actually be delivered.
- The Local Authority is a key player in delivering the key actions through a coordinated approach, via the Local Development Plan and Regional Spatial Strategy. While it is recognised that this specific delivery plan aims to enhance biodiversity across Scotland, there are a multitude of other benefits from the enhancement of land associated with enhanced biodiversity. I.e. access to open space, physical and mental health wellbeing etc. However, the

successful delivery of these benefits must be supported through proper resourcing for Local Authorities, both financial and people.

- We appreciate the funding received through the Nature Restoration Fund and recognise that there are a number of other funding streams available to both the Local Authority, landowners and other stakeholders. However, to successfully utilise the various funding streams and ensure a joined-up approach, there is a clear need to develop a comprehensive plan for delivery to achieve the outcomes.
- In terms of delivery, the biggest barrier we see is resourcing; financial and people, including delivering with landowners. Furthermore, staff within Local Authorities and the wider public sector require upskilling to ensure outcomes are met. i.e. Scotland is not meeting its tree planting target at the current time, additional targets will be hard to meet because investment in skills development is not sufficient.
- On the ground delivery at current rate not enough to end biodiversity loss by 2030 as a result of resourcing etc.

**Question 2c: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

Statutory targets. Good guidance and strategies have been available for many years, but biodiversity continues to be lost, therefore it is critical that we have statutory targets.

**Question 2d: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: protect nature on land and at sea across and beyond protected areas?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- The flexibility and positive approach to the expansion or development of new NNR + new management plans is encouraging.
- It is good to recognise support for local authorities in land use decision making, but implementation is important.
- Again, good to recognise that building skills and capacity across planning system is critical. Can national program of training for NPF4 and biodiversity metric be held regularly for planners and developers?
- The recognition for long term maintenance plans to be submitted regularly (and supporting finance) is welcomed. However this should include a plan for monitoring as well.

- Amenity grassland management – good to highlight the importance of this but resources in landscape teams a significant issue and public engagement needs targeted resourcing for this as it is a dividing issue within communities.
- ‘Explore options for developing a biodiversity metric’ not strong enough language. Suggest a metric be implemented by 2025 to ensure all developers in Scotland can use it across any LA. Interim measure could be use, for example English BNG as adapted in [Aberdeenshire guidance](#).
- ‘Consistent approach... Standardised monitoring by 2030’ - Again, not soon enough.
- The successful delivery of these actions will be reliant on significant, consistent funding streams being made available for a wide range of stakeholders. The development of an overall picture should ensure that funding is targeted and all biodiversity enhancements contribute to the objectives in a timeous manner.

**Question 2e: Are the key actions, to support the objective: protect nature on land and at sea across and beyond protected areas, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Lots of good actions but resources, across a number of stakeholders will be required to deliver and ensure the outcomes are met.

**Question 2f: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

Identify, expand and enhance Nature Networks and ecological connectivity...  
Incorporating and embedding Nature Networks into policy e.g. Local Development Plan will mainstream biodiversity action

**Question 2g: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: embed nature positive farming, fishing and forestry?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- AECS needs to be part of the Nature Networks to ensure a joined up approach between all stakeholders.

- More emphasis on increasing woodland cover – landowners including public sector need to be involved
- Could be requirement that new woodlands include areas that will be included within Nature Networks and managed to benefit biodiversity

**Question 2h: Are the key actions, to support the objective: embed nature positive farming, fishing and forestry, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

If a long term, consistent funding mechanism is delivered to support these actions and good communication to support communities and landowners with change, then some of these actions could help to reverse biodiversity loss.

**Question 2i: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

Ensure that forests and woodlands deliver increased biodiversity and habitat connectivity alongside timber and carbon outcomes

Introduce an agricultural support framework which delivers for nature restoration and biodiversity alongside climate and food production outcomes

**Question 2j: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 2k: Are the key actions, to support the objective: protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 2l: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 2m: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: invest in nature?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- Biodiversity Investment Plan is definitely needed. There needs to be a big picture for delivery of this with identified funding streams and co-ordinated approach across multiple areas through planning policy and community led regeneration etc.
- No mention of local investment through the planning system –developer contributions, offsetting, community benefit etc. Lots of potential here for bringing things together.
- Skills development really important and welcomed. Also a role for skills development: agencies like DWP here. Linking land management and future skills to curriculum and targeting young people from early years right through to entering workforce– mechanisms already there but not being utilised strongly enough yet. Would help retain young people in rural areas.

**Question 2n: Are the key actions, to support the objective: invest in nature, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- The Nature Restoration Fund has been extremely valuable and could continue to achieve much if longer timescales provided. However what happens after the £65 million NRF is over? There is a concern that this is not guaranteed. Long term funding (not just annual grants allocated within that financial year) needs to be guaranteed that enables long term planning, project delivery and monitoring.
- Funding so far has provided a number of benefits, therefore continued and increased delivery of co-benefits to maximise return on investment should be supported
- It will be very difficult to achieve the above objective by 2030 unless significant investment is made to support delivery including increasing staff resources across the public sector.

**Question 2o: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 2p: Have we captured the key actions needed to deliver the objective: take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- Very pleased to see the addition of this action on the indirect drivers and recognition of the importance of connecting people with nature for long lasting change to be possible.
- Mainstream biodiversity through the national planning framework and Nature Networks, Climate Adaptation Programme etc is welcomed. A need for engagement with elected members and the public and to make full use of the co-design process. Also needs resourcing to be meaningful.
- ‘Engage and strengthen the connection between people and communities with nature’ should include provision for local level: Fund rangers in every LA area (not all areas currently provide this service) – make this a statutory role



to deliver key actions within this objective and some of those that directly improve biodiversity.

- ‘Explore opportunities to further develop Curriculum for Excellence...’ a very important action and is worded too weakly. Need for Scotland wide program to adapt school grounds for climate change and biodiversity to provide safe places for children to connect with nature on their own as well as when guided within a class. Upskill all teachers so outdoor learning delivery is as widespread as possible.

**Question 2q: Are the key actions, to support the objective: take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, sufficient to put Scotland on track to ending the loss of biodiversity by 2030?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Greater regulatory and fiscal controls required to ‘Address unsustainable supply and demand to reduce biodiversity impacts’

**Question 2r: Which actions do you think will have most impact?**

Please state the actions and explain the reasons for your response:

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### **Section Three – Nature Networks Policy Framework**

**Question 3a:** Do you have any comments on the Nature Networks Framework?

Please provide any comments:

- Pleased to have this further guidance but many questions about delivery and resourcing.
- How will Nature Networks be protected through policy and planning levers? Will this restriction on management of land discourage landowners from wanting to contribute to Nature Networks?
- Where will the public finance come from? Big picture, co-ordinated approach that combines multiple benefits and outcomes is required – Framework

doesn't give enough detail or evidence enough joined up thinking that includes the income generation through planning etc.

- Truly bottom up approach resource intensive and a risk that funding and capacity not sufficient. E.g. additional NRF grant for nature networks this year very welcome but completely unrealistic that it could be spent within 9 months, especially given no advance notice to plan for it.
- How will monitoring of sites be funded – no resource for that at local authority level.

## Section Four – 30 by 30 Policy Framework

**Question 4a:** Do you have any comments on the 30 by 30 Framework?

Please provide any comments:

- It is noted that the emphasis is on priority funding for 30 x 30 sites – this is welcomed, but will this curtail finance for the wider NN.
- In terms of site selection – no mention of landowners, these are critical stakeholders to identify further sites and ensure a full 30 x 30 framework is delivered.
- It is important to recognise dynamic changes in terms of changes to the 30 x 30 network over the long term.

## Section Five – Impact Assessments – Part A

**Question 5a:** What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the environmental baseline set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 5b:** What are your views on the predicted environmental effects as set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 5c:** What are your views on the reasonable alternatives as set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 5d:** What are your views on the proposals for mitigation and monitoring of the environmental effects set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 5e:** Do you think that any of the provisions in the SBS or Delivery Plan will have any adverse effects on business?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5f:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the Delivery Plan to benefit business?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5g:** Do you think that any of the provisions in the SBS or Delivery Plan will have any adverse effects on socio-economic equality?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5h:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the Delivery Plan to benefit socio-economic equality?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5i:** Do you think that any of the provisions in the SBS or Delivery Plan, will have any adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5j:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the Delivery Plan to benefit people with protected characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5k:** Do you think that any of the provisions in the SBS or Delivery Plan, will have any adverse impacts on island communities?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5l:** Are there any additional actions, or changes to existing actions, which can be taken through the Delivery Plan to ensure that there are no adverse effects for Island communities?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5m:** Do you think that any of the provisions in the SBS or Delivery Plan, will have any adverse impacts on child rights and wellbeing?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 5n:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the Delivery Plan to benefit child rights and wellbeing?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

Use this Delivery plan to strengthen curriculum links and outdoor learning – funding to improve outdoor learning environments

### Section Six – Statutory Targets for Nature Restoration

**Question 6a:** Do you agree with this approach to placing targets on a statutory footing?

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- Very much welcome this approach and agree need for targets to drive action, however significant additional resources would be required at local government level for staffing and delivery.
- There needs to be legislative footing to ensure long term success.
- Investment and accountability are key for deliverability, this can be assured through statutory targets
- Also a need for more urgency in the interim as 2030 extremely close (for example still no metric for biodiversity enhancement) so vital years will be lost during this crucial decade.

**Question 6b: Do you agree with the criteria set out for the selection of targets?**

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Alignment across policy areas essential, as is improving the understanding and application of multiple or co-benefits that are wider. Health and education are key areas that could have synergistic targets.

**Question 6c: Do you agree statutory targets should include a combination of outcome targets and output targets?**

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

- Input targets have been a challenge on local authority level – extremely short timescales for Nature Restoration Funding have limited quality outcomes. So presume a combination would help resolve this issue, but would need to be combined with greatly extended and more flexible grant terms so that projects can be planned and based on evidence rather than whatever can be done in a short timescale during the particular season available.
- A positive example of how this could work is the Town centre improvement funding which brings longer term funding certainty with a split between revenue and capital (25%/75%) over 10 year period.

**Question 6d: Is the list of potential target topics sufficiently comprehensive in terms of the focus of proposed target areas and overall scope?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response. If you answered “No”, please provide details of any target topics which you think are missing from the list.

Good list, covers broad measures but public awareness, education etc also need targets -

‘Engage and strengthen the connection between people and communities and nature’ and ‘Embed biodiversity and nature in curriculum development’ could be harder to quantify but it’s important these have targets and are supported by

legislation with a system to monitor. Contribution of school playgrounds to the other target topics, and link to nature based skills sector and employment/ training statistics could work?

**Question 6e: Do you have any other comments on the list of potential target topics?**

- Yes
- No

If you answered “Yes”, please provide your comments below.

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**Question 6f: Do you agree with the proposal to have the smallest feasible number of targets which reflects the complexity of nature restoration?**

- Yes
- ~~• No~~
- ~~• Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 6g: Do you agree statutory targets should align with the 2030 and 2045 timescales set out in the Strategy?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Agree with approach, but there is a need for urgency to address biodiversity decline, especially through planning and other complex delivery mechanisms.



**Question 6h: Do you agree the Bill should allow for the review of statutory targets?**

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

The bill should include flexibility to ensure targets are reviewed and updated, when required. This needs to be driven by science constantly improving and changing

**Question 6i: Do you agree that reporting on targets should align with existing Biodiversity reporting requirements?**

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Public bodies are key to delivering much of the delivery plan and targets will help ensure that biodiversity duties are fulfilled consistently and contribute to delivering the national strategy provided sufficient funding is made available to local authorities for this purpose.

**Question 6j: Do you agree that an Independent Review Body is needed to report on Government's progress in meeting the statutory targets?**

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Section Seven – National Parks**

**Question 7a: Do you agree that the purpose of National Park authorities should be amended in order to emphasise the important leadership role that National Park authorities need to play in restoring nature and in mitigating and adapting to climate change?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7b: Do you agree with these suggested changes to the first National Park aim?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7c: do you agree with the suggested change to the second National Park aim?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7d: Do you agree with the suggested change to the third National Park aim?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7e: Do you agree with the suggested change to the fourth National Park aim?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7f: Do you agree that the National Park 'principle' set out in section 9(6) of the 2000 Act should be retained? This would mean that, if there is a conflict between the National Park aims, greater weight should be given to the first aim which would seek to protect, restore and enhance the natural assets, biodiversity and ecosystems within the National Park.**

- Agree
- Partially agree

- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7g: Do you agree that public bodies operating within the National Park should have regard to the proposed National Park aims?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7h: Do you agree that public bodies operating within the National Park should have regard to the National Park principle?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7i: Do you agree that the duty on public bodies operating within National Parks should be strengthened so they have an obligation to support and contribute to the implementation of National Park Plans rather than having regard to these plans?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7j: Do you agree with the proposal that National Park Authorities should be able to enforce byelaw breaches within National Parks by issuing fixed penalty notices rather than referring them to local Procurators Fiscal?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7k: Do you think that any other changes should be made to the general powers of National Park authorities?**

- Agree
- Partially agree

- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7l: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the governance of National Parks?**

- Agree
- Partially agree
- Partially disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response:

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**Question 7m: Do you have any other comments that you would like to make about the aims, powers and governance of National Parks?**

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**Section Eight – Impact Assessments – Part B**

**Question 8a:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B, will have any adverse impacts on human rights?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8b:** Are there any additional actions, or changes to existing actions, which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to ensure that there are no adverse effects for people’s human rights?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8c:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B, will have any adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8d:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to benefit people with protected characteristics?

- Yes

- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8e:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B will have any adverse effects on socio-economic equality?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8f:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to benefit socio-economic equality?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8g:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B, will have any adverse impacts on island communities?

- Yes
- No



- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8h:** Are there any additional actions, or changes to existing actions, which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to ensure that there are no adverse effects for Island communities?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8i:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B, will have any adverse impacts on child rights and wellbeing?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8j:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to benefit child rights and wellbeing?

- Yes
- No

- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8k:** Do you think that any of the proposals in Part B will have any adverse effects on business?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8l:** Are there any additional actions or changes to existing actions which can be taken through the proposals in Part B to benefit business?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please provide any comments:

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**Question 8m:** What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the environmental baseline set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 8n:** What are your views on the predicted environmental effects as set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 8o:** What are your views on the reasonable alternatives as set out in the environmental report?

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**Question 8p:** What are your views on the proposals for mitigation and monitoring of the environmental effects set out in the environmental report?

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