

**6. BILL FOR THIRD READING**

**6.1. Climate Change Bill 2020 –  
Third Reading approved**

Mr Boot to move:

*That the Climate Change Bill 2020 be read for a third time.*

**The Speaker:** We then move on to Item 6 on our Order Paper Bills for Third Reading and the Climate Change Bill 2020.

I call on Mr Boot to move.

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**Mr Boot:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

On Tuesday, 21st January 2020 in the other place, Hon. Members unanimously approved the Council of Ministers' Phase 1 Action Plan for Achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2050, as well as Prof. Curran's Isle of Man Programme for Achievement of Climate Targets. The plan identified 65 actions, many of which are now well underway.

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Hon. Members may recall, I mentioned this morning that we were working with consultants to establish an image of ... Oh sorry, I did not because we did not get that Question; it went to written. I apologise, but we are achieving that. We are working with a PIN to undertake the first steps towards the 20 megawatts of electricity generation, but this limit has been identified as incorrect, and we now have a strategy being explored that removes that 20 megawatt ceiling.

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We are working hard on a property efficiency scheme, which we expect to bring forward soon. The Chief Minister planted the first tree of the New Forest last Friday and we have the green light to commence the restoration of the first thousand acres of peatland. Alongside these actions, and notwithstanding the distractions and difficulties presented by COVID and both the associated lockdown periods, this Bill has been drafted, extensively consulted upon and progressed through the Branches to its Third Reading today. In moving so fast to develop such a complex and important piece of politically sensitive legislation, and in light of other demands for legislative drafting resources presented by the Programme for Government and preparations for Brexit, it is perhaps unsurprising that there were some areas of the Bill that required improvement.

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I am most thankful for the way Hon. Members have engaged throughout the process to help evaluate and improve the Bill, both during the consultation and in our recent debates. I believe the Members' amendments have improved many aspects of the Bill. I also want to acknowledge that some of the specific points raised during the recent clauses debate raised areas, which still have scope for further improvement, and I hope those Members will work with myself, my officers and colleagues in the Legislative Council to consider them further.

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The area I would specifically acknowledge is that raised by Mr Hooper regarding the definitions of domestic effort in clause 3. I remain of the view that we must address our own emissions through reductions in production and subsequent removals through sequestration, which is why we have a net emission target.

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I agree with Mr Hooper's point. We should make sure that we are absolutely clear and acknowledge both aspects are part of our domestic effort. I remain clear my view, and was pleased that the House agreed, that we should not seek to encourage international offsetting, which I accept, if allowed, may have enabled us to carry on producing emissions whilst paying other areas of the world to capture emissions on our behalf. I oppose this approach on moral, financial and reputational grounds, as we would be spending money off-Island, rather than investing at home to address our own emissions.

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I was pleased that this House supported the introduction of a statutory obligation to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in line with previous debates. To achieve this through reductions in our own emissions is highly ambitious, though it is achievable in a manner which is embraced by

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3805 our community and respected internationally. A significantly more granular concern came from  
other Members regarding which public service bodies should face a statutory obligation. However,  
if events and hindsight identifies that specific aspects are unreasonable on specific bodies, then  
those details could be addressed through guidance and/or secondary legislation rather than trying  
3810 to second-guess this up front with primary legislation. I anticipate the work on guidance with  
regard to public bodies will commence as soon as possible and seek to ensure the obligations are  
proportionate to the scope and significance of the public bodies. A prompt start will be necessary,  
as such provisions will be required to support the regulations specifying the climate impact  
assessment requirements for such public bodies by the end of 2023.

Another area of debate was the scope to apply legislation with ambulatory effect for technical  
3815 matters and to make legislation to support the implementation of international climate change  
treaties. However, we are a unique Island and as is often the case, we would prefer to consciously  
adopt international norms where relevant, rather than by default.

One clear concern which resonated with the House was regarding the scope and balance of  
enforcement powers in clauses 30 to 32. My officers and the drafters are giving careful  
3820 consideration to these clauses. The challenge we may conceivably face in enforcement is the range  
and scope of application of these powers, including right of access. From the possible inadvertent  
minor acts of a private individual, right through to the possible deliberate acts of a large public or  
corporate body. I am confident that these powers would be used proportionately across a range  
of scenarios by both officers and the courts fully accepting that a power required in dealing with  
3825 the scenario of a conscious digression by a large corporation may be inappropriate when dealing  
with a scenario of an inadvertent or minor issue with an individual.

As highlighted during the clauses debate, the Bill also provides, subject to regulations being  
consulted on and approved by Tynwald, for fixed penalty notices to be imposed instead of criminal  
prosecution where it is suitable to do so. (**Mr Robertshaw:** Hear hear). On balance, the powers  
3830 provide an appropriate range when considered across the spectrum of scenarios they may be  
required to address, although I fully accept it is a challenging balance.

I would now like to step back from the detail and briefly look at the big picture of what this Bill  
introduces for the first time. We will have, for the first time, a statutory obligation to achieve the  
net zero emissions target by 2050, and whilst that date can be brought forward, it cannot be  
3835 deferred. This is a massive and powerful change and commitment, which requires us to act  
responsibly through reducing and removing our own emissions in a way that is internationally  
credible and responsible. It introduces the necessary powers to achieve the reductions through  
regulations regarding how we heat our homes, generate our electricity, travel around the Island  
and enhance our environment. It makes net emissions a key aspect of decision-making throughout  
3840 the public service and private sector. The success or otherwise of our actions and progress will be  
set out in annual and five-yearly reports, moved to be received in the other place, allowing  
scrutiny every year until 2050.

This provides accountability through consistent opportunity for debate regarding that  
progress, so that we can rely on the other place to monitor and ensure appropriate progress is  
3845 made. The Council of Ministers will be required to set an interim emissions target by 1st April 2022  
and then ensure there is a climate change plan in effect at all times that meets the requirements  
set out in this Bill and is replaced every five years. No later than 31st December 2023, the Council  
of Ministers will have been required to introduce regulations to specify the climate impact  
assessment requirements for public bodies and clearly specify the associated duties of those  
3850 public bodies when complying with such assessments, including with regard to matters such as  
sustainable jobs and development.

This Bill provides the powers once agreed in the other place to implement the existing proposal  
to ban many single-use plastics, to ban most new buildings using fossil fuel heating systems from  
2025, and to ban the registration of new fossil fuel cars on the Island from a date to be agreed  
3855 soon.

3860 Finally, the Bill also makes amendments to the Electricity Act 1996 to allow regulatory controls to be introduced, which can enable private sector generation of renewable electricity if appropriate, as we move towards achieving the two targets of having 75% of our energy from renewable sources by 2035 and 100% net zero emissions by 2050. It provides protection to our Island's peatland, which has the scope to contribute significantly to carbon sequestration that we need to achieve the net zero target.

3865 Of course, some climate change actions do not need the legislative powers provided by this Bill. As I mentioned, work is already under way by my Department to plant more trees to remove carbon, which formally started with the Chief Minister planting the symbolic first tree last Friday. Alongside this, we have recently launched a consultation regarding a new woodland grant scheme.

3870 In concluding, Mr Speaker, this Bill will provide a strong statutory basis for our climate change actions and consequential reductions in net emissions, as well as the associated benefits to our environment and investment in our economy. It complements existing legislative powers such as the ability to make schemes under the Financial Provisions and Currency Act 2011 to incentivise climate change action.

3875 Finally, this Bill will bring us into line with other countries around the world in setting statutory targets for emission reductions. We will be among the leaders in the world in not just adopting the target, but introducing a Bill which requires the ambitious and challenging journey to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move the Climate Change Bill 2020 be read for a third time.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Douglas North, Mr Peake.

3880 **Mr Peake:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.  
I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Ramsey, Dr Allinson.

3885 **Dr Allinson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.  
I rise to support this important Third Reading. I would not usually do so, but have had the last week to reflect on some of the speeches and comments made in this Hon. House during the clauses stage. Criticism from Hon. Members then, and previously last November at Second Reading, centred on the urgency in tackling climate change and the need for clearer targets and shorter timeframes.

3890 Hon. Members, although we know that there is an undeniable threat to our planet, this has been gradually accumulating since the industrial revolution. During my lifetime, the rise in emissions has accelerated due to rapid population growth, the spread of rampant consumerism due to globalisation, the spread of liberal capitalist ideologies and a concentration by politicians globally on a never-ending growth in GDP as a surrogate martyr for humanity's progress. But also  
3895 in my lifetime, the scientific battle to recognise the very existence of climate change has been won. We have seen international efforts, which recognise that a threat to one nation is a threat to all, and that the rapid and unpredictable changes to our global climate will affect all of humanity.

3900 The road to the Bill before us is known to all of you. In May 2019, the Chief Minister publicly declared a climate emergency. An independent Report was commissioned, backed by a full public consultation, and Prof. Curran published this in January 2020. The Climate Change Transformation Board has been working behind the scenes to implement the agreed action plan, a citizens' forum is being established, and now we have a short Bill of 37 clauses to bind these commitments for future administrations.

3905 Will our Island's greenhouse gas emissions be net zero in 2050? No. I believe we will achieve this far sooner. Future administrations will accelerate the work in this Bill, not only because it is morally the right thing to do, but because it makes economic sense to drive growth towards a

3910 green economy. People now buy electric vehicles not just because they are cheaper to run, but because they are better cars to drive. People will eat less meat imported from South America, reared on land carved out of rain forests and imported at the expense of our own sustainable farming, not because it is the right thing to do, but because they feel healthier buying local produce. People will heat their homes using electricity because they have been helped to invest in suitable insulation, knowing this is the most economical way of staying warm, but also recognising the increasing evidence of the harms particulates cause to their health.

3915 The Hon. Member for Ramsey Mr Hooper was passionate about reducing the target date to 2035 and likened our efforts to the landing of humans on the moon, quoting President Kennedy. Yet the space race was exactly that: a race to meet a goal born out of rivalry between opposing political ideologies, which led to the Cold War. No individual nation can tackle climate change. We are not in a race with the UK, Norway or Germany to see who can become net carbon zero first.  
3920 We can only achieve our common goal through collective action, through worldwide co-operation, and international assistance. Now is not a race for the stars but a race to save our planet.

The Hon. Member for Middle Mr Shimmins expressed his passion and frustration at the lack of progress. Hon. Members, since the start of this administration progress has been taking place. Manx Utilities are facilitating electric vehicles through an expanding EV charging infrastructure.  
3925 They have promoted the switch to air source heat pumps, helping consumers with financing. They have decommissioned the old diesel-driven power station in Ramsey and use the facility in Peel only as back-up. Investment in Pulrose Power Station has boosted its efficiency, while imports of green electricity through our interconnector have increased. Looking forward, the roll-out of smart meters enables the creation of a truly smart grid, where microgeneration and community energy products can really play a part in powering our nation.  
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We can already see the results of the Active Travel programme with dedicated cycle ways being constructed to facilitate the use of bikes for all. Tax concessions have helped some, but most people just know it is the sensible thing to do. Changes have already been made to agricultural schemes which will promote rewilding, not only to facilitate carbon capture but enriching our biosphere. Further plans are underway for renewable energy schemes.  
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Since I was at school, wave, tidal and nuclear fusion have been promoted as our saviours, but no nation can buy its way out of the climate change emergency. We need ambitious solar farms. Wind farms, both on land and sea, can easily replace our dependence on gas, but we will need careful planning and public engagement. We have seen local communities object to flood defences in Laxey and Ramsey; we need to work with them to ensure we have the right solutions for all our communities.  
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As an Island, we have faced the global pandemic, sometimes alone, but with the benefit of international knowledge, but we have only tackled the health emergency through clear information and by making sure we have the community behind the difficult policies we have had to follow to protect our Island. To meet the challenge of climate change, we must fundamentally alter the way we live. Humanity evolved through the discovery of fire, of burning carbon. Now, we must put that aside and adopt new ways of heating, transportation, farming, eating and living. For this to succeed, it is essential that we as parliamentarians and the laws we pass are clearly understood and supported by the people we serve.  
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Mr Speaker, the Bill before us is not the end of the process, but the beginning of a revolution, because we will need all of us to change together to affect change for our Island. All must benefit and no one should be left behind. This is the start of a new way we should measure progress, a new dawn for public consultation and an exercise in education and engagement never attempted before. This is not an easy task, but the work done so far by this administration, by Tynwald, to establish a roadmap underpinned by primary legislation, is the right start along an inspiring road to our future.  
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Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Douglas East, Mrs Barber.

3960 **Mrs Barber:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I stand today to support the Climate Change Bill 2020 through Third Reading, although I must confess, I nearly did not for fear of it becoming simply a distraction.

3965 I have heard much public debate about the date within the Bill; 2035 or 2050. I previously supported wholeheartedly a 2035 date for our policy on net zero emissions, and that has not changed, but I voted for 2050, so let me explain.

3970 As many Hon. Members highlighted last week, the thing that will achieve change is political will, the Council of Ministers' will and the collective will of every person on our Island; not a date on a bundle of paper. There is very little contained within the Climate Change Bill that could not be achieved without it. However, I accept one of the things that is within the Bill that is certainly only achieved by the Bill is criminalising people – the very people that we need to bring on a journey to carbon neutrality, the very people who may not be able to easily afford the necessary changes.

3975 There are very few people who I have spoken to who do not want to make the world better for our next generations, but they are worried about how they will be able to do this. So to my mind, we need carrots, not sticks. We need grants, not fines. We need action, not bills.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Douglas Central, Mr Thomas.

3980 **Mr Thomas:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

3985 Firstly, I just wanted to express my thanks for the legislative drafter who worked on this Bill because there were some unfortunate comments earlier on, but I always found the legislative drafter to be incredibly professional and helpful. I think something I heard might explain the juxtaposition between my comments and those that were made earlier on today, which is that, basically, I think any drafter can only work with clear political will and clear political drafting instructions. I think I had the benefit of coming there with a definite intention, with a definite idea, well-thought through in terms of the legislation. So I just wanted to put that on record my thanks to the drafter for actually having excelled in terms of understanding a clear political expression.

3990 Moving on for that, I was stimulated by both the previous speakers to make three points. The first one is that Dr Allinson clearly stated that we moved on from climate change denying, even sceptics, but it still jars with me that when we were recruiting for the citizens' forum in this area, there seemed to be an advert to say we wanted 12 people who believed and 12 people who did not believe, which to me was an appeal for sceptics or deniers to come forward. I never quite understood that, but I would quite like an explanation of how that message was intended and how it was communicated and whether it came across properly, because I would like to think that we are now moving into a science-based pathway, informed by the social will and the political will that Mrs Barber has just outlined.

4000 The second point is that I think an important part of the clauses debate was about what exactly does sustainable mean? How exactly are the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, including SDG 13, which makes a clear commitment to climate change action in the context of the Paris Convention numbers? What does all that mean?

4005 I decided to ask that again now, because we have the very helpful *aide memoire* from Prof. Curran, which talked about his assumption that Government and Tynwald and the Manx people were on the higher ambition pathway. Yours truly, I cannot remember that coming to Tynwald. I cannot remember Government actually saying categorically that they were on the higher ambition pathway and they were into taking action. Talking about action is different from the higher ambition pathway and what it means. I thought, my feeling was, that was being put off until the end of phase 1, which happens to coincide with the General Election.

4010 So my second question is: I am looking for a clear statement today from somebody from Government, that their understanding is that we are on the higher ambition pathway and, if not to explain to me why Prof. Curran has made that assumption in his *aide memoire* that we are on

the higher ambition pathway? I do not remember in January or July 2020 – June, perhaps it was – deciding exactly what the ambition of the pathways we were on.

4015 The third point is clarifying exactly how the international commitments and dialogue and consensus applies to the Isle of Man, because it is startling that in this piece of legislation we are committing to the Sustainable Development Goals, but we have not as yet asked with Jersey and Guernsey or the UK, to consider some sort of statement in respect of the Paris Agreement and so on. I think those, to my mind, should have perhaps gone together.

4020 So for very practical questions, before I sit down for the mover to respond; the first one is that there is still a difference in language in respect of the climate change duty that is taken on by ‘public bodies’ here, but ‘public authorities’ in the Freedom of Information Act 2015 Act Schedule and the discussion we have just had in terms of public authorities, so there was a slight difference at this end of the room about whether or not it made sense to move an amendment, given there was no commencement provision for that amendment, but basically I would like to think, in the  
4025 spirit offered by the Minister, that we can continue dialogue about this. We now need to actually consider how we are going to apply this to public bodies or authorities, or to public services or whatever it is. That still seems to me to be an open question.

The second point I had on my list was about offsetting, and I already heard the commitment to reconsider offsetting because that must be wrapped up in the future of Manx Gas and Manx  
4030 Petroleum, of the MUA, of electricity generation, of how we use our territorial seas, and all of that sort of thing.

The third question is about how all of this interacts with the Competition Bill, because it is amazingly silent on the Competition Bill. Now at the Third Reading stage there is no possibility that can be done. It is actually a good thing that it is silent, because all the things we have now  
4035 just agreed in terms of the Competition Bill have gone through this place and it is good that it is silent because they become relevant.

The fourth point is in terms of planning, because the list of the things that we agreed in the Schedule to this Bill before us in terms of planning are mind-blowing when they come to be seen by the planners. They are all really good if you believe in the climate change duty; the biodiversity,  
4040 the planning gain, all of those sorts of things. I loved putting them all in there during those times and getting them through to this stage, but I do not think it has percolated out there, that they are fully aware, so I do not want any accident to happen without people knowing about it.

Before I sit down, and in the context of planning, I just want to read something out about the possible locations for the erection of wind turbines in the Isle of Man and the position of those  
4045 wind turbines. Would they be ‘in a highland area where the scale of the countryside would reduce the visual impact and wind resources would be maximised, balancing the economic gain against the intrusion’? Or would they be ‘on a coastal site where the ocean backdrop was of lesser significance and where projects involving coastal barrage work could create planning gain’? Or would they be ‘on the Northern Plain where views of the turbines could be distant and local visual  
4050 impact minimised by landscape and existing features’? Or would they be ‘on high level poorer agricultural land in sparsely populated areas where economic diversification and additional income would increase planning gain’? Or would they be ‘in areas where future forestry developments would reduce visual intrusion after tree growth’?

When was that written? If I were to have one of those sort of guessing games, you might say  
4055 five years ago, 10 years ago – but that was written in 2001, in the first draft version of the Strategic Plan. The first Strategic Plan in 2001 was actually already considering the zoning and the use of wind turbines 20 years ago. My source is the MEA Select Committee evidence. Twenty years ago, we had plans for all of this sort of stuff, and I basically think this is another example of how the commitments that were made to us in the context of the Area Plan for the East were redundant  
4060 in one sense because all of this has clearly been part of the planning agenda and consequently, the Government planning agenda fit for decades now. What we are facing are choices that society has to make in the way that Mrs Barber described.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and Hon. Members.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper.

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**Mr Hooper:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

I have heard a lot of rhetoric and something the Minister said, he described this as symbolic. I think actually, he is right, but possibly not in the way he intended. This Bill is symbolic. Actually, it is meaningless.

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I would just like to touch on something that Dr Allinson, my hon. friend said, he said I was passionate about a 2035 date. I am not actually, and I said this in the debate. I am not passionate about the date. The date is irrelevant. What is relevant is demonstrating ambition, it is demonstrating that we are able to see the opportunities that present themselves and to grab them, and nothing in this Bill, nothing in the speech, nothing in the flowery words has made me believe that we are ready to grab these opportunities.

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I will give you a very real example of this. The Department and Government went out to get some interest in developing a renewable energy source in the Isle of Man. They started at 20 megawatts, which at the time a lot of people said, 'What are you playing at? That is mad. That is far too low. You are going to get much more interest than that.' It did not matter – the Government knew best. They went out and did it. They were swamped with interest; people saying 'We can do this, we can do this now. We are interested now. We have resources available now. Help us to help you.' And where are we? Government has panicked: 'Oh no, what are we going to do next? What happens next? We need to plan. We need a strategy. We need another bureaucratic report and a piece of paper telling us what to do next,' because actually, we did not listen at the outset. We did not see there was an opportunity here. We did not appreciate the realities around us and now we are where we are. Delay, delay, delay. That is the reality of where we stand here, and that is what I am seeing in this Bill. That is what I am seeing from Government; lots of promises, but, as has already been alluded to, I have not even heard Government commit to the higher ambition pathway. I have not heard those words come out of any Government Minister, so can we get that today, perhaps?

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Hon. Members, just a commitment. We are not going to commit to an earlier date. We are not going to commit to robust targets. We are not even going to bring in the parts of the Bill that allow for monitoring of our targets; no, that is a last resort, monitoring. If you want to get any fancy ideas about transparency around here, no. But can we at least have a commitment? We will be doing the higher ambition, or the lower ambition, or the middle, or whatever it is you are actually planning on doing, just come out and say it – because I have not heard any of that.

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Two years before we can see regulations for impact assessments. The first interim target will be set by the next administration in April next year. Not by this Government; by the next Government.

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The Minister talked about consultation. Dr Allinson talked about a new way of engaging with the public. We still have not had the full public consultation published. The response, we have had a summarised version published. This was brought up during clauses and again, we have not seen that still. Something that I think is getting lost in all of this fancy rhetoric around, 'We need to save the world; we need to do our part.' I do not disagree with that.

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The reality is the Isle of Man will be dragged along by the market. We are not replacing our electricity meters with smart meters because we want to, because we think it is a fantastic idea. We are doing it because the market says you cannot buy the old ones anymore, you need the new ones. We are not going to be replacing gas boilers and oil boilers on the Isle of Man in 10 years because we think it is the right thing to do; we will be doing it because they will stop making them.

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We are not to be buying electric cars on the Isle of Man in 10 years because we want to; we will be doing it because the car companies will not be making petrol cars and diesel cars. The market will make a lot of these decisions for us and my worry with this Bill, with the approach the Government has outlined, is that we will simply be getting dragged along behind this. We will not be getting in front of some of these opportunities and saying, 'Actually, how do we capitalise on some of this stuff? How do we make the best for the Isle of Man? How do we get the most out of

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this?' We will simply be saying, like we always do, 'Uh-oh, something unexpected has happened, which was entirely predictable, and now we have to act; or more, we have to react.'

4120 So I will be supporting this Bill, because actually, it is symbolic. It does not achieve anything in and of itself, but I do think it is time that Government started talking about what it is doing and showing us what it is doing. Instead of just saying, 'This is what we are *going* to do, this is what I *plan* to do, this is what is going to come *next* year,' I think we need to see what is happening now, and that is something I am not seeing, Hon. Members.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Douglas East, Mr Robertshaw.

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**Mr Robertshaw:** Thank you very much.

4130 I am very pleased, Mr Speaker, to follow the previous Hon. Member's contribution. I just wanted to address one particular thing to start with that he came up with. He said, 'It will not be us that does this and it will not be us that does that because the market will do it.' Well, wrong. The market will react to it; it is because it will be what people want. The previous speaker seems to be indicating it is all down to Government – well, it is *not* all down to Government. It is all down to us.

4135 Just as we started this debate, I turned to the Hon. Member for Douglas North and said, 'Yes, okay. We have this target, this net neutral position in 2050, but who produces that data?' And apparently it is not us.

4140 From there comes the thought, in a very pragmatic and practical sense, how do we relate all this to people so as that everybody contributes to it? I hope it is not too long before we know what the car emissions element of this is and what individual families can do to make a difference and to have some methodology of getting a positive feedback process going so that the people of the Isle of Man who desperately want to do the right thing can feel themselves involved in it, so it is no longer 'rhetoric in this room', or 'up to Government'. Undoubtedly, it will be, but also it is owned by everybody because we all know, don't we, from this COVID crisis, what a fabulous community we have on the Isle of Man that the first day of the latest lockdown everybody did the right thing? And at the end of it they did the right thing again and came out of it.

4145 This is an enormous opportunity to bring people along, not to have it just words in here, so I do hope as time goes on that this feedback process can become positive and that the market will react to the people of the Isle of Man and their wish to do the right thing.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4150 **Mr Thomas:** Hear, hear.

**The Speaker:** I call on the Hon. Member for Middle, Mr Shimmins.

**Mr Shimmins:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4155 I was not going to speak this afternoon, but I thought I had to after listening to the Minister. He highlighted a number of things: first of all the planting of the trees. It was good to see the Chief Minister and also the Environment Minister plant a tree on Friday.

4160 Some people contacted me about that and they were a bit cynical about it. There were saying, 'There you go, he planted a tree' ... That is symbolic for them about how little had been done, and I said to them, 'No, hang on a minute, this is the first of many trees. There is going to be a new forest in Santon'. I said, 'The People's Forest is going to be great!'

And they said, 'Yes, but hang on a minute, Bill, there are only 85,000 trees going to be in that forest.' And I said, 'Yes, that's still a lot of trees.' And they said, 'Yes, but remember we talked about ash dieback?' And that is getting worse, Hon. Members.

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**Mr Robertshaw:** Yes, it is.



**Mr Shimmins:** It is spreading more quickly and more lethally in the United Kingdom.

4170 So their point was actually you are going to have to replace about 300,000 trees in the next five years, so actually aiming to plant five forests even just to catch up. So the photo op for the Ministers was kind of indicative for them that we need to get a grip of this. I was trying to reassure them to say, 'Listen, action will be taken.' But I was struggling to find examples which I could show people in the street that actually this is being taken seriously and it is not just, 'Well, we've got a plan, but we don't actually have any hard plans in terms of numbers. We don't want to set that, we'll leave that to the next parliament ...'

4175 I found myself struggling to really convince the constituents that we were taking this seriously. What I have just heard really is just excuses after excuses. (*Interjection*) I do not want to appear uncharitable, but when I think about DEFA I think about the Department of Endless Faffing About – that is what it stands for, to me.

4180 So Minister, what I would say to you is that there is a lot of expectation out there. There is a lot of demand for things to happen. Please stop faffing about. There is a *massive* opportunity here for the Island. There is a massive opportunity for our economy, for our people, for jobs.

Please grasp that opportunity. Take action.

Thank you.

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**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Glenfaba and Peel, Mr Harmer.

**Mr Harmer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4190 I rise really because I do actually think that this Bill is a cause for celebration and of real positivity, and I really want to reflect on the mood and actually say we need to be a lot more positive. Because it is a big deal. It does make a big change. I can see some of the sentiment and some of the disappointment, but in actual fact it changes some fundamental things.

4195 The Bill changes some fundamental things – fundamental structural things. One of the key ones is the electricity bill. The issue that in the past those who wanted to put *in* electricity into the grid were basically dissuaded from doing so, and could not do so. *Massive*, massive change; and a fundamental structural change which will change things forever.

Fossil fuels and new homes: banned from 2025. The date for fossil-fuel cars will be announced, but this Bill provides the ability to do that.

4200 I always remember back five years ago when we did have an action plan that came from DEFA, and whilst there was well meaning behind it, actually because it did not have an ambition for net zero and because it was not cross-Government, I believe it could not fulfil its true potential. This time it is a cross-Government Transformation Board, that has money from the Treasury, has Infrastructure, has DEFA, has Cabinet Office, DFE and has all of the Government pulling together.

4205 I appreciate there is a desperation to get things now, now, now, now; but if you do not plan, you plan to fail. The most important part of any phase in terms of delivering climate and real carbon reductions is planning, and planning properly. It is the same with the energy strategy, it is not good enough to just put in wind farms that were talked about 20 years ago, because there is solar energy, there is all sorts of energy, biomass energy. That energy strategy, if you just flood the grid, it is going to break unless you put proper infrastructure and develop it and actually put that planning together. We are not going to solve that in three months, but if you do the planning right, which is what is happening now, you will be able to plan to succeed.

4210 If we talk about some of the other things that will come up with the peatlands restoration with energy grants and all of those things, there was already an action plan for delivery that was in July Tynwald, in another place. Those actions are coming forward and you will be able to see real delivery over the next three or four months.

4215 So you need both the Climate Change Bill and the Action Plan. The Climate Change Bill does something fundamentally: it puts that in law, it puts in that action plan and that structure. Prof. Curran was very clear in fact that just monitoring every five minutes, other things can be a factor – the weather, a hot year, a cold year, you have to build in a whole overall factor about it.

4220 I disagree with some of the comments around about the market and I think the Member from  
Douglas East actually explained it very well. Some of those things in here have direct impact on  
the market because people will be changing their behaviours. That is why the Bill is so  
fundamental. I just come back to the fundamental issue with this Bill that actually, it is a big step  
4225 forward. I think its significance is perhaps being underplayed here, and I only really rise to my feet  
because I think it is good for us all to celebrate the biodiversity net gain and all of those issues  
around environmental policies that become part of that Bill, and not to talk about negativity  
because I do not believe in it and I do not agree with it. This is actually a massive step forward. It  
actually is probably more significant than people realise

So with that, Mr Speaker, I support the motion and the Third Reading.

4230

**The Speaker:** I call on the Hon. Member for Douglas North, Mr Peake.

**Mr Peake:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4235 I think Mr Harmer is right actually, I think we do need both. We need the legislation, but we  
also need the action. We need the implementation of the action plan and, as Mr Robertshaw said,  
we are very pleased to get that letter from Prof. Curran and the last little comment there he thinks:

... the 2050 target, pursuing the higher-ambition pathway, is appropriate – being both credible and internationally  
responsible.

4240 And that is that higher-ambition pathway, which I know Mr Hooper and Mr Thomas have called  
on that to be confirmed today. But that really is the only way, isn't it? That is what we have got to  
actually work by. So if there is any doubt left, then I just hope that people actually do make sure  
that it is clear and that is the high-ambition pathway that we are following.

4245 That is really down to us. What Mr Harmer means by the legislation is, it means that the  
Departments have to then follow the legislation. It means that all of us in here who are Members  
of Departments can then start putting some pressure on the Departments and hold them to  
account and remind them of that legislation, so we can then actually call on the Departments to  
stop buying vehicles with internal combustion engines.

It means that you can ask the Departments then to stop spending money on buildings which  
have got fossil-fuel central heating in. These are the things that we can actually do. We can start  
influencing Government from the inside to actually make sure that we start leading by example.

4250 I also picked up one of the points that Mr Robertshaw said, which I think is very good, that  
actually everybody needs to contribute. Everybody *feels* as though they need to contribute. Is now  
the time that we can show how they can contribute? How we can then offer that sort of carrot, if  
you like, how they can get on board and start doing that. That is about learning together. It is  
about education and learning together.

4255 I must admit I have been very pleased to do a lot of work with Dr Dave Quirk, who has done a  
few presentations here in the Isle of Man and he has come up with this idea of having a learning  
centre, the Energy and Sustainability Centre here in the Isle of Man. We are going to offer some  
courses that will be online and that is so we can learn together, and so the public can learn  
together with Government workers if they want. With people who are interested. Then you can  
start to understand how you can contribute. I think your point there is really well made.

4260 So I do think a commitment to net-zero carbon is a momentous decision which will change  
Manx society. We should be rightly proud of this historic step we are taking and a 30-year time  
frame is prudent and achievable.

4265 As of now our Island is wholly reliant on gas and liquid petroleum to power our lives and run  
our economy. To deliver the electricity, heat, jobs, transport and food that we expect, whilst  
reducing our emissions from 7,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year to zero, goes beyond any  
previous project the Island has undertaken.

4270 There are many options to decarbonise our activities but it is critical to choose the right path rather than taking the first thing offered in the hope that it will deliver. There is no quick fix but it will come with planning and building an entirely new energy system. No one has yet developed all the solutions to decarbonise a nation. Some of the questions for the Isle of Man include: which renewable energies should we choose? A list which includes offshore wind, onshore wind, solar energy, biomass and tidal energy.

4275 How best to meet peak electricity demand with renewable energies which are intermittent in nature? You have this problem with storage, so these are things that we are going to have to learn and actually come up with solutions for. Do we use batteries, hydrogen or something else to store that power? Which transport solutions should we develop? Every choice will be critical and represents an investment not just for us but for future generations.

4280 This is truly a turning point for the Isle of Man. But at the same time much of the world is starting out on the same journey so we will be part of a global endeavour, learning from each other as we advance to a sustainable future. So that is the opportunity for us to learn together, how we can create a cleaner, healthier, happier future using energy without emissions.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4285 **Mr Robertshaw:** Hear, hear.

**The Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Ayre and Michael, Mr Baker.

**Mr Baker:** Thank very much, Mr Speaker.

4290 I really was not intending to speak but I think there has been a lot said in this Hon. House so far. A lot of it very sensible and appropriate; some a little bit less so. But just a couple of observations from me.

4295 I think Dr Allinson's comments really brought home for me that when you reflect on what has actually been done over the past few years, there is momentum building and there are real actions happening out there. I think one of the opportunities that arise from that is there needs to be some overall kind of association between the concept of climate change and this Bill, and the actions that are happening within different parts of the Island, within Government and elsewhere.

4300 In my mind I am drawn to the way that the Biosphere has worked, where it has become almost a brand and lots of things have attached themselves to that – organisations have attached themselves to that and actions have attached themselves to that, and everybody sees the Biosphere. They might not quite understand what the Biosphere actually is, but they know that it relates to good things and positive things and there are a lot of things happening.

4305 I think there is an opportunity for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture – which is what I think DEFA stands for – (*Laughter*) to actually perhaps take the lessons from what they have done on Biosphere and apply them in this context. And whether it is an accreditation scheme or a partner scheme, or just some branding, so that people do become more conscious of the things that are already happening. Of course there is an awful lot more to be done.

4310 I was particularly drawn by Mr Shimmins' comments where he highlights the opportunity to take action. He is absolutely right, there is an opportunity to take action, but this morning most Hon. Members heard Mr Shimmins tell us that, on another subject of real excitement and importance, we need to be patient and take the long-term view, not to expect instant results. Now, Mr Shimmins, you cannot have it both ways. You seem to want, when it suits you, you want it urgent; and when it does not suit you, you want to take the long-term view.

4315 So you have got to actually take a sensible, balanced approach here. We are talking of something which is going to define this 21st century and we need a considered approach to it. We need to be embracing the concept and grappling with the issues and working out what does this mean for the Isle of Man? But the concept of just charging at it, getting on with it without any sort of plan or coherent approaches would be madness, absolute madness. I understand the impetuosity of youth from my hon. friend from Ramsey across there. I wish I still had his energy

4320 and enthusiasm, but the opportunity to make an absolute mess of this Island if we get this wrong is huge, Hon Members.

This is also connected to all the other topics that are at the heart of what we have spent the last four and a bit years grappling with: intergenerational fairness, poverty, inclusion, economic prospects for the Island. Where is the Island going to be in 25 or 30 years down the line? Climate change fits with that, but we have got to get this right. We have got to be considered about it and we have got to take everyone with us, Hon. Members.

4325 We could very easily have charged at the generation opportunity that the PIN flushed out, and it was great to see that level of interest. But those opportunities that come out of that all need evaluation. We need to understand what effect they have and what they need to make them work. The potential to undermine, for example, the stability of our electricity supply on this Island, which is at the heart of our attraction to the e-gaming sector, for example. (A Member: Hear, hear.) We have to be really careful not to mess with this. We have to be really careful to ensure that we are not saying to people, 'Sorry, if you haven't got the money to fund an electric car, then you can't have a car.' Or, 'If you can't afford the right heating solutions, I'm sorry, you are going have to be cold, or put another jumper on.'

4335 We have to be dealing with these real issues that come out of how we respond to this. This is not an academic exercise. This is something which is going to define the outcomes for our Island and our people over many years. It is not a one-dimensional issue. One-dimensional issues are easy, you just focus on those and fix them. However, when it is interconnected to so many other issues, then you have to be *really* careful and considered. Yes, that might appear as though we are being slow, but fools rush in – and we have to be considered. We absolutely do have to be ambitious and bold, but we have to be balanced.

4340 Hon. Members, when I was a political Member in the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture previously, I was part of the process around the initial consultation around climate change and I remember the big message that came from that consultation exercise, everybody wanted to see progress on this. Everybody wanted for the Island to become more climate friendly. Everybody wanted Government to do it and nobody wanted the downside in terms of cost or inconvenience.

4345 Hon. Members, that does not stack up. As the Hon. Member for Douglas East said earlier, this is not about Government doing this, this is about Government creating the environment (A Member: Hear, hear.) and the people taking ownership for this. We can have the best legislation in the world, we can have the best strategy; the best glossy documents or PowerPoint presentations. But if the people in Arbory or Andreas, Peel or Pulrose do not buy into this, then we are going to miss the mark. We are not going to take them with us and we are not going to achieve anything.

4355 So Hon. Members, this is a significant step. We are early on the journey. We have got an awful long way to go. We have got to be ambitious. We have got to be bold. But we also must be wise and considered.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4360 **The Speaker:** The Chief Minister, Mr Quayle.

**Mr Quayle:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4365 I was not going to talk on this, but I felt I should. It has been something that has been key to me going forward. It seems a lifetime ago, since Brexit and COVID, that the climate change emergency was declared.

I do not know if it was Confucius, but they said that the hardest part of any journey is the first step. Well, this is the first step in our journey going forward. Now, 37 clauses does not sound a lot of clauses, but it is 37 clauses of the Climate Change Bill 2020 that provides a legislative framework.

4370 You build a house. You have to get good foundations in first. If you rush it, you build it on sand, it will all come tumbling down. I think the one thing that we are all united in here is that we want this to work. We want a future for our children. We want a future for our grandchildren and subsequent generations, but we have got to get it right.

4375 We are not into gimmicks; this has to work. It is the future and we play a very small part when you look at our population, but we play our part with the rest of the world joining together to unite to ensure that we can pass on a future to our young people where they see trees, where they see wildlife, where they can breathe clean air, and our beautiful night skies policy that we have scattered around the Island.

4380 So I think we all want the same thing. I know some people would like it done tomorrow and in a way, who wouldn't? But when you sit down and you go through everything, and we have got Mr Peake and Minister Boot and others sitting on the committees, they realise then you have got to take people with you. You have got to follow the ripples, the consequences of what you are doing. How are you going to fund it? How are you going to get people on board to move with you, because there are deniers out there? You have got to move forward. We have got to make sure  
4385 that we have set big enough targets to ensure that the next administration and those of you that stand again and are fortunate to be re-elected – I challenge *you* to push this forward to make sure it goes forward.

A couple of little things which I just wanted to touch on. The definition of DEFA was  
(**A Member:** Lovely!) lovely, but if I had the initials 'BS' I might keep quiet! (*Laughter*)

4390 But the Hon. Member did raise a very valid point with the ash dieback and the numerous sad illnesses to our trees that is being experienced here and further afield. We do need to plant considerably more than the 85,000. The People's Forest is 85,000. That is representing one person on the Island, to get them to focus on it somewhere. It is not just about climate change, it is mental health too – getting out into a plantation, a forest, walking with the family – one you have  
4395 designed that disabled people are able to enjoy as much as able-bodied people was important to me.

But I want to reassure all Hon. Members, including my colleague for Middle, that hundreds of thousands of trees will have to be planted. I know DEFA plan to plant nearly 100,000 a year going forward to cover the trees that are sadly having to be chopped down because they have died with  
4400 the numerous illnesses. So we are doing our best, and I appreciate that for some it is not quick enough; for others maybe they might see that these are genuine attempts to get it right, to move forward.

It is open. It is transparent. I have brought people in that do not always necessarily agree with me, but I knew they were passionate about climate change and I wanted them to have an input  
4405 to take it forward, because that was something they were passionate in.

So I hope Hon. Members will see that, yes, we have got a disagreement on – maybe some of the steps. We have brought in Prof. Curran, who has given us very good advice. I think we would be foolish to disagree with some of that advice. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) Take it on board. Let's  
4410 work together. Learn from other people's mistakes was always my motto – do not learn from your mistakes, learn from other people's mistakes is even better, isn't it?

Prof. Curran has showed us where maybe other jurisdictions have gone wrong. For a small jurisdiction like us, we cannot afford to make too many mistakes. We need to get it right, as quickly as possible.

4415 So I give you my commitment that for the remainder of this administration, we will do our utmost to move this forward but with sound, firm foundations going forward and a genuine commitment that I give to you all. I think we are all together on this. There is no real big split here. Just maybe different ways of how we go on the journey, but we all want to arrive on the journey as quickly as possible, but properly; with no gimmicks that we have reached early, but we are spending £5 million a year off in some rainforest, and we are not spending that money in our  
4420 infrastructure on the Island driving down our carbon emissions. That is so important.

So with that, I thank you all and look forward to the summing up.

**The Speaker:** I call the Hon. Member for Douglas South, Mr Quine.

**Mr Quine:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4425 I would just like to try and broaden it out a little bit just whilst I have something to say on this issue. I obviously agree with the sentiment and what has been put so eloquently before me, because we have to be seen to be doing our part. We cannot afford to miss the bus on this – obviously a nice environmental, electrically driven bus or perhaps hydrogen, but the bus nonetheless.

4430 I think it was the great and very much lamented Johnny Cash who sang about *40 Shades of Green*, and I think during the course of the debate we have probably seen people with different outlooks on this topic. But as the Chief Minister has just alluded to, all wanting to get ultimately to the same destination. I feel that while we do need to go about things in the right way, we must use what influence we have to bring other jurisdictions with us.

4435 Mr Speaker, it is fine talking about planting 85,000 trees. That is again something that I very much welcome, but we have to use what influence we have to address the issues in the Amazon. After COVID, we will be looking out to the world to attract inward investment. Brazil will be hopefully growing an economy. But those companies who wish to come and do business here have to satisfy ourselves that they have their responsibilities to the environment; that they are  
4440 not negligent and they do not have some slapdash approach. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

Like other Members of this Hon. House, I am lucky enough to have travelled quite widely and one place that I have visited is India, a place with the most beautiful scenery and the most rich culture and heritage. But this was blighted by the sight of the water from Bombay being alive – if that is not a contradiction in terms – with single-use plastic bottles and other detritus.

4445 My hon. friend, the Member for Douglas North, Mr Peake makes a very valid point about education. He referred to an omission figure of 7,000 tonnes of carbon per year. We all know that pretty much one Chinese coal-fired power station emits as much in probably a week; and, yes, we are on a journey. So that is why we have to use what influence we have, albeit a small influence, but nonetheless in bringing it to the attention of the governments of India and China, the two  
4450 most populous countries on the planet, where renewable energy will take them.

Mr Speaker, that is where the real climate issue is. We will be seen to be playing our part collectively, as an Island, but we have to use what influence we have and make others see that their future is the same future as we believe in.

Thank you.

4455

**The Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Onchan, Ms Edge.

**Ms Edge:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4460 This is just really quite a quick one; and really the Chief Minister and his comments that we should spend the money on our own infrastructure and not just spend money away from the Island, which I totally, totally agree with.

But I am wondering if the Minister could clarify for me – because we did talk about it last week – the Paris Agreement and the convention that is taking place next November. If the Island does decide to join in, as the request from the UK as come, and there are significant changes there.  
4465 If we are going to take this step-by-step approach, how would the Minister adapt to those changes fast, which would be what would be expected? However, I would prefer the Chief Minister's solution: Manx problems, Manx solutions.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4470 **The Speaker:** I call on the mover, Mr Boot, to reply.

**Mr Boot:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4475 I would like to thank the many Members who have made contributions, and *positive* contributions, (**Mr Peake:** Hear, hear.) except for the odd excursion. I will try and cover all those contributions as best I can.

4480 Dr Allinson came first and I thank him for his support, his positive comments and putting climate change in context as a worldwide problem. It is not just *our* problem, it is a worldwide problem. He alluded to all the consultation that has taken place and will continue to take place, and that has informed the way we have moved forward. I think, despite comments from one Hon. Member particularly that we have not moved quickly, we *have* moved very quickly. When I look at the timescale, from when the Chief Minister acknowledged the climate change emergency to where we are now with a functioning Bill with 65 Phase 1 actions already progressed, I think we have moved very quickly.

4485 Dr Allinson made the point that it is *actions* that count, dates are irrelevant. It is what we do, and we are *doing*.

4490 I agree with his comments about technology and electric vehicles. I know all about electric vehicles, I have got one. If you had told me four years ago I would have an electric car and I would find it a very comfortable form of transport, I probably would not have believed you! But they are moving on quickly, the prices are coming down and technology will be key to hitting an earlier date. Technology is developing quickly and Prof. Curran alludes to that when he speaks to us about what is happening elsewhere.

I thank Dr Allinson for raising the movement towards new charging points and smart meters, and of course our Active Travel policy.

4495 Our Biosphere status adds to our national pride in greening our economy. I think the two are very much interlinked, and several Members alluded to that. We will all benefit from a cleaner environment and hopefully, in due course, it will be cost effective. Getting people to buy in, it is quite important that they see advantages; and not just environmental advantages, which is very difficult to sell sometimes, but certainly in their pocket when it comes to green energy.

4500 Mrs Barber, I thank you for your support, and I note your scepticism with regard to the date, but then you allude to action as being key. So I thank you for that and I can assure you that we *have* the political will to move this forward. That is why we are here today, rather than it being pushed into the next administration.

4505 It is not our intention to criminalise the community, but for anything to work you have to have, as you pointed out, carrots and sticks. They cannot all be carrots, we would get very fat just on carrots, you need a stick occasionally to make things happen. We are looking at the penalties and I can assure you that it is not our intention to criminalise people. We want people to do the right thing with the carrots but if we need to enforce it, and I alluded in my speech to large corporations versus small private individuals, you have to have penalties in place.

4510 Mr Thomas talked about drafters and he is absolutely correct: they rely on the instructions they are given. Some instructions are interpreted in different ways, that is the subjective nature of the law and the way legislation is drafted. I hope and I believe that we get clear instructions based on the consultations that took place. We have been open to Members' contributions and external contributions in terms of the Bill itself, and had two months' public consultation during the summer period. I was a little bit disappointed in the feedback we had during that period, I thought that people may have fed more into the system. But that is in the past now and I thank people for their engagement in the meantime.

4520 You talked about the citizens' forum and the representation. The citizens' forum, by definition, should be representative of a cross-section of the community; and there are undoubtedly people out there that are climate sceptics. That is fine because as far as I am aware, and I have not been to a citizens' forum meeting, I believe it is working quite well. There are opportunities there for the sceptics to be convinced that there is a real problem; and there are also some opportunities for the sceptics to feed in some of their concerns. But as far as I am aware it is working well.

Mr Thomas talked about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Well, they are quite explicit and available to anyone who wishes to search for them. He talked about the higher-ambition

4525 pathway. We committed, I think, in July last year to come back to Tynwald in June this year. Along  
with a lot of things that have happened in the meantime – and that includes looking at the  
renewable energy strategy, which is a strategy where we have commissioned an independent  
4530 consultant to look at the situation following on from the PIN process – we are not able and do not  
have the people who are qualified to assess that PIN process and what is being proposed. So we  
have gone out to external consultants to look at that. But, subject to feedback in that respect, I  
am hoping that we are going to come to Tynwald in June and confirm the higher-ambition  
pathway. That would be my wish and that is the trajectory that we are looking at, at the moment.

4535 With regard to the Paris Agreement, and Ms Edge alluded to that, it is our intention to join the  
Paris Agreement. We cannot join because we are not a sovereign state. We have to ask the UK to  
extend the Paris Agreement to us. That is in process, and I hope we will have that in place by  
COP26 later in the year.

4540 Public authorities is something we have talked about several times. The definition we have at  
the moment can be changed quite quickly and easily. Rather than putting everything in primary  
legislation, I think we have the right balance there. I note your concerns, but I think if there are  
adjustments, and public bodies need to be in or out, that can be dealt with at a later date.

4545 Mr Thomas talked about biodiversity, etc. I think biodiversity is part of climate change, and we  
all know that there has been a big reduction in biodiversity. The Climate Change Bill, while it does  
not directly address that, when it links in with the Biosphere status we have and some of the good  
work that we are doing in that respect, we are respecting biodiversity and we of course do follow  
best international practice.

4550 Then we turn to the fairly controversial subject over the years of wind turbines, whether they  
should be onshore or offshore. The PIN process has explored the renewable energy options and  
we hope that we will have a report with us within the next couple of months showing us a way  
forward. But we should not forget that planning is a big part of where wind turbines can be, and  
the public will be involved in that process. It is not up to Government to mandate it, it will go  
through a planning process. At present we should note that we already have 800 MW of *offshore*  
4555 that is in prospect with Ørsted. The big impediment there has been the contract for differences  
and the fact that we are a Crown Dependency. With the EU we were not able to join into that  
process when it came to tendering. I have a Teams meeting with the new UK Minister on Thursday  
this week, and I am hoping that we are now going to make some progress, since Brexit has now  
gone, and I think that the UK is quite keen to encourage us. If we get 800 MW of renewable energy  
from a wind turbine array in our territorial sea that will actually solve all our renewable energy  
requirements without having anything onshore. That is a dream and we will have to see how we  
go, but I will certainly report back in terms of the progress that we make in that respect.

4560 Mr Hooper said it is a 'meaningless' Bill. I am not quite sure what we have been doing for the  
last nine months. I do not think it is a meaningless Bill. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) It is an ambitious  
Bill and that ambition already embraces Phase 1, 65 actions. It is an enabling Bill and we are only  
just starting that journey.

4565 Renewable energy strategy which I talked about earlier is key to that, and replacing our gas-  
fired power station in due course is also germane to a way forward. In June Tynwald I will be  
reporting back on further progress and, importantly, that high-ambition path again.

4570 It is always difficult when you look at new legislation and problems like the climate change  
situation, which we have talked about as being a worldwide problem. We have to address it  
locally. We are a small jurisdiction and the last thing I want our Government and the next  
Government to do is make a step in the wrong direction. If we adopt the wrong technology or the  
wrong path too early rather than waiting to see how technology develops, we could end up with  
the Island in a very awkward financial situation and one that may be outdated before we really  
get there. So we need to be careful how we deal with new technology and the way forward. Being  
ambitious is good, but running in like a bull in a china shop is not necessarily the right way to do  
4575 this.



Mr Robertshaw talks about how the market will not do it. He is right. The market will have some effect on consumer choices, but it is *people* that need to make this work. I bought my electric car – sorry to hammer on about that – because I was doing the right thing. Other people in this Chamber and elsewhere have also bought electric cars because they are doing the right thing.  
4580 Informed choices by consumers that will actually save them money in the long term will be the way we get people to buy into climate change actions. Air-source heat pumps are coming down in price, and electric cars and better technology are all things that will help move the agenda on and enable us as politicians to persuade people that they should buy into the changes we are wanting to bring about from a climate change perspective. Some of the carrots, some of the stick.

4585 Mr Shimmins: well, the Chief Minister ruined my BS retort, but I thought he was slightly unfair with his commentary about DEFA doing nothing, and it is going to be insignificant what we are doing. DEFA has consistently replanted trees annually in plantations where they are felled for routine purposes, harvesting, etc. – in excess of 100,000 trees a year. He is right: ash dieback, Dutch elm disease – I am trying to remember the name of the larch disease. They have all had an  
4590 impact. Where we have had larch disease, they are being replanted with a local species of trees, broadleaves, which are more environmentally friendly. We should always remember that whilst a lot of the ash trees will die, and predictions are around 80% to 90% over a four- to five-year period, volunteer trees do grow up in place. I know from my own farm that it is amazing what springs up from what you thought was a dead tree or the surrounding area. So there will be regrowth.

4595 Peat restoration, and I think I should hammer on about that a bit, because a thousand acres of peat regeneration has already been started and we are looking at other ways. We own a lot of the upland area so it is something Government can do without an awful lot of effort, and there are great sequestration sinks. I think it is *totally* incorrect that Mr Shimmin says we are not taking this seriously. His position in Treasury ... people will have to acknowledge that sometimes we would  
4600 like to do more, but there are financial restraints. I am pleased to say that there are substantial sums of money available in climate change funds and I hope that we will be able to dip into those in due course.

I thank Mr Harmer for his support, and he hit the nail on the head. How much does Government want to spend? It is always Government; Government, with buy-in from the public. I am pleased  
4605 to say that when it comes to climate change, this is a cross-Government effort. This is not just DEFA or Cabinet Office, we are all working together. Planning is key. It is *key*. This is a 30-year programme and there is a lot that can go wrong, but there is a lot that can go right with proper planning and independent advice. That is why we brought Prof. Curran in in the first place, because he proffers that advice, he has experience in the field and enables us to make the right decisions,  
4610 I hope.

Thank you, Mr Peake. Thank you for seconding and thank you for your work that you do on the Climate Change Board. You are probably closer to that and with the citizens' forum than I am. You are correct, once again action is key. That is what matters and bringing public bodies into that, as well as the private sector is the way we move forward.

4615 Mr Baker, thank you for acknowledging the work that has been done and the momentum. I think we have maintained that momentum. You were in the Department when this journey started and you are now in a different place, but we are still talking to each other, so that is good and we are co-operating across Departments.

The Biosphere is important and is a good example of how, with a little budget, you can get the  
4620 community to buy in. That has not been a big budget item in DEFA, but I think there is not a person in the Isle of Man that does not now know that we are a Biosphere nation, and that is spreading out to the youth and the younger communities. If we can just get that buy-in with climate change then we are on to a winner here. I think that is the way we move forward. We have a look at what we have done with Biosphere and how that can influence the way we deal with the climate change  
4625 and the publicity it gets. Once again I will use the bull in a china shop: we need to plan.

I should emphasise that it is not just DEFA that are driving this programme. We have a Climate Transformation Team and Board, as well as the citizens' forum, and DEFA are contributors to that programme. We are governed by that process and that is what will drive progress forward.

4630 Mr Baker made the point that during the consultation it was fairly obvious people wanted to move things forward fairly quickly, but when it actually came to *their* pocket it was Government that should be doing it. Well, Government is their money as well, and that is why we need to get public buy-in and make sure that the advantages of some of the actions that people can take will benefit them. We need to change the narrative in that respect.

4635 Chief Minister, thank you for your context and comments. Yes, we are working in the right direction with the reforestation replanting. I think with that first step I was disappointed by Mr Shimmins' remarks from his constituents. Someone has to plant the first tree, and it is appropriate that the Chief Minister acknowledged the climate change emergency and has driven some of these projects. I felt that it was the right thing to do. It is not just 5,000 trees, it is tens of thousands of trees. So it is definitely a step in the right direction.

4640 Mr Quine, I think the Amazon and India are slightly beyond DEFA's pay grade, but I take your point, which is really that we should lead by example. I think we are leading by example, we are one of the few countries that now has a proper Bill with statutory targets. I think that we have a big commitment to make this work.

4645 I think I have answered Ms Edge's comments with regard to the Paris Agreement and hopefully we will soon be linked to that.

4650 So, finally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the good work which has gone on behind the scenes to enable us to reach this point today, despite tight timescales and the pandemic. Most notably I acknowledge Prof. Curran, Dr Fiona Gell – who is here; Karl Cubbon and the legislative team, including Theresa Greaves, Naomi Atkins and Dave Burnett, who have definitely all burnt the midnight oil to get to this point. Perhaps that is the incorrect expression nowadays (*Laughter*) but they certainly have.

**Mr Ashford:** It soon will be!

4655 **Mr Boot:** Should I have said, 'used some stored solar energy to keep the lights on'? (*Laughter*)

I would also like to acknowledge the public's participation in the consultation process and other bodies, because that was key to where we are today; and of course you, Hon. Members, for contributing.

4660 I would finish by saying I am really proud to have been able to progress this legislation which, with its longevity, is probably one of the most significant pieces of legislation to pass through this House in this administration.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move.

**A Member:** Hear, hear.

4665

**The Speaker:** I put the question that the Climate Change Bill 2020 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.