Policy Forum for Ireland conference:
Next steps for climate adaptation in Ireland - governance, funding and resilience
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 20th January 2027
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Malcolm Byrne TD, Spokesperson, Climate, Environment and Energy, Fianna Fáil

9.05 **Climate change in Ireland - trends, projections and implications for adaptation**
Senior representative, climate
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Priorities for effective adaptation - regulation, funding and delivery**
assessing progress and outstanding barriers in meeting National Adaptation Framework objectives | effectiveness of the Climate Adaptation Taskforce in strengthening coordination and resolving barriers between sectors | priorities emerging from the CCAC's adaptation review, Preparing for Ireland's Changing Climate | strengthening governance, accountability and oversight | responsibilities, resourcing and capacity for delivery across national and local government | practicalities for funding climate adaptation and mobilising investment | respective roles of public and private finance and barriers to developing deliverable projects | mainstreaming adaptation within the Climate Action Plan | priorities for the forthcoming Nature Restoration Plan | National Strategic Risk Assessment implications for funding and adaptation policy | measuring resilience outcomes and improving monitoring and evaluation | implications of the European Commission's proposed European Climate Resilience and Risk Management Integrated Framework for adaptation policy and preparedness in Ireland
Dr Darren Clarke, Assistant Professor, Climate and Environmental Change, Dublin City University
Dr Barry O'Dwyer, Director, KPMG Sustainable Futures
Elliott Griffin, Director and Founder, BVP
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **Assessing key risks to communities, critical infrastructure and the wider economy**
Dr Kieran Craven, Senior Manager, Climate Adaptation and Behavioural Insights, Environmental Protection Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Malcolm Byrne TD, Spokesperson, Climate, Environment and Energy, Fianna Fáil

10.50 Break

11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas

11.05 **Delivery of *2025-30 Sectoral Adaptation Plan* ambitions**
translating adaptation strategies into practical action | alignment between planned actions and the risks identified in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment | responding to lessons from recent extreme weather events | embedding adaptation within operational planning, investment and service delivery | dependencies between sectors and critical systems, including implications for continuity of essential services | costing, committed funding and measurable targets in the Sectoral Adaptation Plans | what is workable at farm, network and service level | strengthening coordination across sectors and organisations | skills, capacity and resourcing for delivery | supporting biodiversity and nature-based solutions
Heidi Hopper-Duffy, Chief Sustainability Officer, Irish Rail
Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive, Environment, Irish Farmers' Association
Anthony Coleman, Director, Services, Tipperary County Council
Senior representative, environment
Questions and comments from the floor

11.50 **Building resilience to flooding, coastal erosion and extreme weather**
Senior representative, infrastructure

12.00 **Community resilience, preparedness and long-term adaptation**
strengthening community preparedness and resilience to climate impact | supporting coastal communities at risk of erosion and flooding | property resilience, recovery and compensation frameworks | delivery of Local Authority Climate Action Plans | implications of the revised National Planning Framework and emerging land-use governance arrangements for local planning and housing delivery | safeguarding public health and wellbeing | insurance availability and affordability, protection gaps and the roles of government and insurers | allocation of costs and responsibilities for long-term resilience | nature-based solutions | managed retreat and other longer-term responses to coastal risk | provision of clear information and involvement of communities in locally significant adaptation decisions
Dr Matthew Chersich, Research Professor, Trinity College Dublin; and Executive Director, Wits Planetary Health Research Divison, University of the Witwatersrand
John Ryan, Chief Underwriting Officer, Allianz
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, legal

12.20 Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 **Embedding climate adaptation into policy, planning and investment**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
Harry Nelson, Policy Forum for Ireland