

STATES OF JERSEY



CARBON NEUTRAL STRATEGY 2019 (P.127/2019): SECOND AMENDMENT (P.127/2019 Amd.(2)) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 21st February 2020
by the Minister for the Environment**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

Background

The Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel lodged an amendment ([P.127/2019 Amd.\(2\)](#)) on 7th February 2020, which was the second amendment to [P.127/2019](#). There are 2 amendments within Amendment (2).

Detail

The Minister for the Environment **opposes** the **first** part of the amendment.

It is the view of the Minister for the Environment that a Chair should be appointed by the Government as outlined in the Carbon Neutral Strategy Appendix 3.

The Chair of the Citizens' Assembly will be appointed by the Jersey Appointment Commission ("JAC") on behalf of the Government in line with the agreed procedures for appointments to Commissions. This is a transparent procedure that has been agreed by the States Assembly for appointments of this nature. It is the opinion of the Minister for the Environment that the appointment of the Chair should be made in line with agreed procedure and practice.

By virtue of the fact that the appointment will be made by the Government through the JAC, the integrity and independence of the Chair can be assured which will ensure the credibility and robustness of the recommendations that the Citizens' Assembly develop.

Accepting the amendment would potentially expose the process to lobbying and undermine the credibility of the Citizens' Assembly. By following the agreed procedure, we recognize the sovereignty of the States Assembly and recognise that the Citizens' Assembly is being established by the States Assembly for the purpose as outlined in the mandate in Appendix 3 of the Carbon Neutral Strategy.¹

The Minister for the Environment **accepts** the **second** part of the amendment and the insertion of the additional paragraph as follows –

“2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b) –

After the words, “the Appendix to the Report”, insert the words “except that, after Paragraph viii, the following paragraph shall be inserted –

“(ix) The Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel shall have the right to observe meetings of the citizens' assembly, as well as the selection and reporting process, and will report its observations and findings to the States Assembly.””.

¹<https://www.gov.je/Government/Departments/OfficeChiefExecutive/OfficeChiefExecutivesSections/JerseyAppointmentsCommission/Pages/GuidelinesRecruitmentSeniorEmployeesAppointeesIndependents.aspx>

It is the opinion of the Minister for the Environment that this amendment supports the principles of transparency and provides scrutiny of the process. By enabling the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel to have observer status and to produce an independent report of the process and findings that the panel will report to the States Assembly, this will ensure the full transparency of the Citizens' Assembly.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

These comments were submitted to the States Greffe after the noon deadline as set out in Standing Order 37A due to administrative delay.