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### Onshore wind – getting your project through

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# Morag Watson Director of Policy Scottish Renewables



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### RWE

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### Onshore wind in a changed landscape





### RWE

# Lesley McNeil Head of Onshore Wind Policy and Development Scottish Government



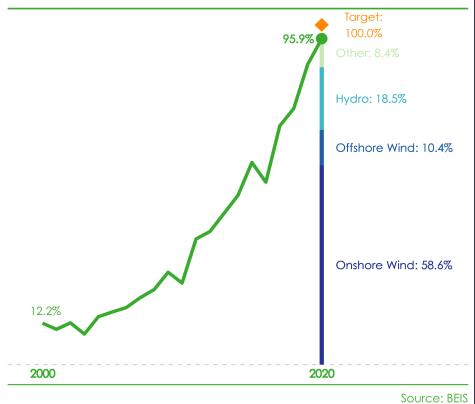


### ONSHORE WIND IN A CHANGED LANDSCAPE

Lesley McNeil, Head of Onshore Wind Policy and Development,
Scottish Government

### Share of renewable electricity in gross electricity consumption

Scotland, 2000 - 2020

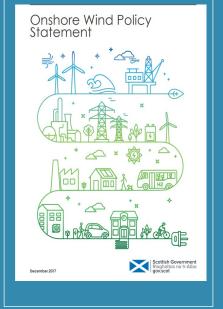


### Net Zero

- The Scottish Government has a target to generate the equivalent of 100% of Scotland's own electricity demand from renewable sources. Provisional figures for 2020 indicate that the equivalent of 95.9% of gross electricity consumption\* was from renewable sources, rising from 88.4% in 2019.
- Since 2000, Scottish renewables have displaced an estimated 151 million tonnes of CO2 across the GB system, assuming that the same amount of electricity would have been generated by fossil fuels.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 set challenging, legally-binding targets of emissions reductions of 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040 and 100% by 2045



### Draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement



### Consultation

28 October 2021-21 January 2022

### Consultation Analysis

1 February 2022-30 April 2022

### Redrafting

1 May 2022-31 July 2022

### Policy Launch

Summer 2022 (targeting August)

### **Delivery**

Onshore
Wind SLG?
Onshore
Wind Sector
Deal?

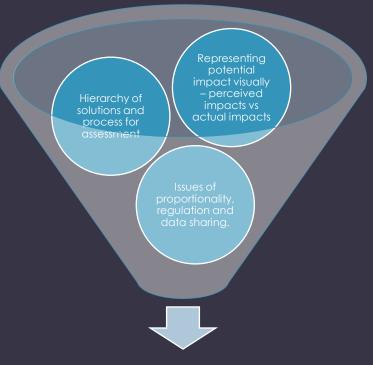
### Timeframe for Onshore Wind Policy Statement



### Montrose Pitlochry Aberfeldy Blairgowrie Arbroath Dundee St Andrews Loch Lomond & The Glenrothes Trossachs Dunblane National Park Stirling Kirkcaldy Dunfermline M9 North Berwick Dunbar M80 Edinburgh Greenock O . Musselburgh Livingston M8 M Glasgow Eyemouth Paisley Berwick-upon-Tweed Galashiels Irvine Bamburgh Isle of Arran Troon Seahouses Hawick Alnwick Kielder Forest Park Galloway Lockerbie Forest Park Dumfries Newcastle upon Tyne Sunderland Stranraer Portpatrick Durham Maryport Hartlepool North Penrith Pennines Workington AONB Keswick Middlesbrough Whitehaven Stockton-on-Tees Google Lake District National Park North You

### Eskdalemuir Seismic Array

- Seimological array in the Scottish Borders – forms part of the UK obligations under the CTBT.
- "Noise" budget now entirely consumed and no further development in the area.
- Working with Xi Engineering to determine the actual budget consumed.
- Next steps to use this evidence to determine whether there should be greater measures in place to limit wind farm deployment

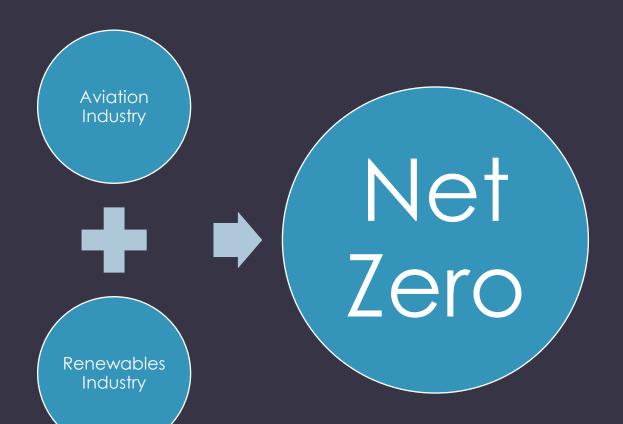


Final Guidance for Issue

### Aviation Lighting: Guidance Working Group

This group has been set up to consider this issue and ultimately deliver practical and consistent guidance to aid both the renewables sector and decision makers in effectively representing these impacts, and assessing them within the planning system.

This group has been set up as a "task and finish" group – a short-term group of 18-24 months which exists solely to produce this guidance.



### Aviation and Renewables Collaboration Board

A new collaboration board is proposed in the draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement to help recognise the complementary nature of the net zero ambitions of both sectors, and to promote collaborative working for mutual benefit.

Just Net Zero Transition Biodiversity Forestry Onshore Wind Peat Landscape and Improvement Cultural Heritage

### The Land Use Balance

A need to recognise competing land use and maximise the net-zero value from sites – where can we do more? Where can we do things better?





# Neil Collar Partner / Head of Planning Law Brodies LLP



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## Andy Sloan Head of Consents Strategy SSE Renewables





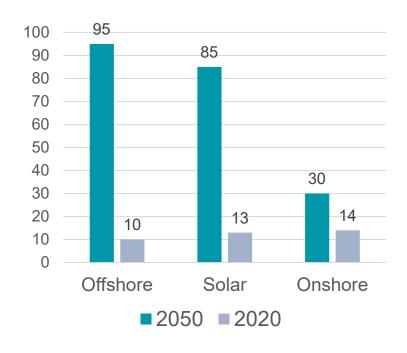
### **SSER**





### RENEWABLE CAPACITY TO MEET NET ZERO

Recommendations from the Climate Change Committee – Sixth Carbon Budget 2020



- Very significant deployment needed across all technologies
  - Offshore 3GW per annum
  - Solar 3 GW per annum
- 25GW to 30GW of onshore wind in all CCC scenarios
- Scottish Government Targets
  - 50% of all energy from renewables by 2030
  - 25% in 2020
  - Net Zero by 2045



### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT**

- Climate and nature crises are linked
- SSE Renewables- A clear goal has been made in respect of Biodiversity: to achieve no net loss on all new infrastructure projects achieving consent from 2023 onwards and net gain on all new infrastructure projects achieving consent from 2025 onwards
- We develop projects that harness natural resources on our journey to decarbonise electricity generation and we have a duty to do this in a responsible way
- Typically, we develop in remote locations where the renewable resources are most effective and where environmental constraints can be challenging
- The push and pull of development policy is not always understood- best resource for wind vs landscape impact. Biodiversity improvement vs agriculture requirements
- Planning policy one of the outcomes of the current NPF is to secure positive effects for biodiversity. NPF3 states "We will respect, enhance and make responsible use of our natural and cultural assets"
- The amended Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 states that the National Planning Framework must contribute to a series of six
  outcomes: improving the health and wellbeing of our people; increasing the population of rural areas; meeting housing needs; improving equality
  and eliminating discrimination; meeting targets for emissions of greenhouse gases; and securing positive effects for biodiversity
- Planning policy via NPF4 and local development plans will be key in deciding if we meet our ambitions for net zero. Biodiversity policies will be a
  core strand that runs through every thing and, as developers, we will be expected to deliver solutions via developments
- Local authorities as well as government agencies and advisors are developing guidance and polices to deal with Biodiversity









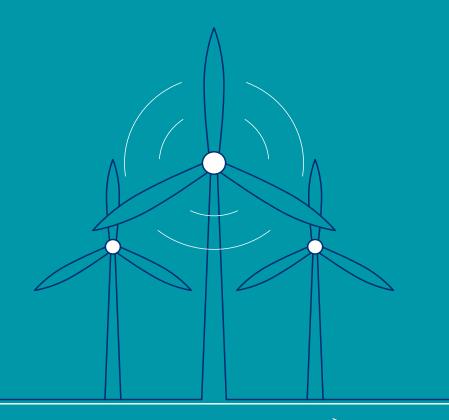
### GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

- In a climate emergency we can't have 'business as usual'. Projects tackling net zero and improving biodiversity must be given priority
- Renewable development and Biodiversity is not an either/or scenario we need both to be delivered
- Renewable development can deliver clean generation and positive benefits for nature.
- More effort must go into habitat management and creation
- Biodiversity is central to planning policy and Planning policy is central to achieving Net Zero





### THANK YOU









### Submit your questions in the Q & A box

### **Lesley McNeil**

Head of Onshore Wind Policy and Development, Scottish Government

### **Neil Collar**

Partner/Head of Planning Law, Brodies LLP

### **Andy Sloan**

Head of Consents Strategy, SSE Renewables



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### Onshore wind on the ground

Chaired by: Morag Watson, Director of Policy, Scottish Renewables



Onshore wind – getting your project through

The changing dynamics around communities and community benefit

- and how to navigate this

Mark Brennan

14 December 2021



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### **About us**

















### **Progress - community benefit**



LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND

Onshore wind £4,156

Average community value from recent projects

£3,840

Per mW per year

£22,373,871

Total benefits paid in the

Onshore wind £1,230,425

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### **Progress - shared ownership**



Item	2020 achievement	2019 achievement	2018 achievement	2017 achievement	Targets
Installed renewables capacity in community or local ownership	853MW (December 2020)	731MW (June 2019)	697MW (June 2018)	666MW (June 2017)	1GW by 2020 and 2GW by 2030
% of projects approved in planning with an element of shared ownership	59%	40%	53%	Measurement method not agreed	15% in 2017 25% in 2018 40% in 2019 50% in 2020

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### Process – SO and CB



- Engagement pre-consent.
- Impartial support from Local Energy Scotland/ CARES.
- Memorandum of Understanding.
- Reasons for community support include:
  - Social and economic benefits outweighing the visual impacts.
  - Contribution to combating climate change.
  - The wellbeing and continuation of the community.
- Just transition.





### **CONTACT US**





### 0808 808 2288

See website for Local Development
Officer contact numbers



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### Submit your questions in the Q & A box

### **Jeremy Sainsbury**

Director, Natural Power

### William Black

Deputy Director for Onshore Electricity, Strategic Co-ordination, and Energy Consents, Scottish Government

### **Mark Brennan**

Shared Ownership Manager, Energy Saving Trust/Local Energy Scotland



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