

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action welcomes the opportunity to input into the Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Future Framework Policy Statement. The Committee supports the ambition contained in it with respect to the development of offshore renewable energy (ORE), and particularly for Ireland to become a net exporter of ORE in the years ahead.

The Committee agrees with the plan-led approach, however, the Committee believes the policy must acknowledge the importance of developing DMAPs for all maritime areas as soon as practicable.

In hearings that the Joint Committee held in recent years the urgency of allocating sufficient resources to the development of DMAPs was highlighted. Further, it is the Committee's view that allocation of resources within the Department to develop the DMAPs for the enduring regime, i.e. the ORE development off the south and west coasts, is critical at this point in time in order to meet a timeline for development of ORE in these maritime areas as soon as the early 2030's.