

## **Crown Estate Scotland consultation response**

### **National Mission with Local Impact - draft infrastructure investment plan 2021-2022 to 2025-2026**

**Submitted on: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Crown Estate Scotland was established in 2017 and manages land and property on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. Our purpose is to invest in property, natural resources, and people to deliver lasting value for Scotland.

The assets we manage include four rural estates, just under half the foreshore, virtually all the seabed out to 12 nautical miles, seabed out to 200 nautical miles, salmon fishing rights, retail and office units and rights to naturally occurring gold and silver across most of Scotland.

Our strategic objectives set out in our 2020-23 Corporate Plan include supporting the growth of the blue economy, investing in creating great places, and involving people in how seabed, land and coastline are managed.

Overall, we welcome the long-term vision set out in the draft IIP *'Our Infrastructure supports Scotland's resilience and enables inclusive, net zero, and sustainable growth'*. The vision and 3 strategic themes set out in the draft IIP have a lot of overlap with the 5 Strategic Objectives set out in our [Corporate Plan](#).

The summary below highlights some of the key points raised in our consultation response. If you have any queries regarding our response. Please contact Kate Bellew Policy Manager ([kate.bellew@crownestatescotland.com](mailto:kate.bellew@crownestatescotland.com)).

#### **Inclusion of natural infrastructure within the definition of infrastructure**

Crown Estate Scotland recognise the direct and indirect value that investment in natural infrastructure can bring, for example for biodiversity, tourism and recreation and **support** the proposed definition of infrastructure which includes natural infrastructure.

#### **Proposed investment hierarchy, with key steps 1. To determine future need 2. Maximise use of existing assets 3. Re-purpose and co-locate 4. Replace or new build**

Crown Estate Scotland welcome the concept of an investment hierarchy and key steps which support a reduction in carbon emissions / environmental impacts. We recommend that the wording incorporates reference to the strategic need for infrastructure (with reference to other relevant and emerging policy documents such as the National Planning Framework 4, the Climate Change Plan, the Blue Economy Action Plan, as well as strategic infrastructure studies).

### **Proposed dashboard of indicators to enable informed decisions to be taken about infrastructure investments**

We support the proposed dashboard of indicators approach which has some parallels with our [Value Project](#) which is being developed to understand the wider value delivered by Crown Estate Scotland. Our response highlights the benefits of applying the 'Place Principle' to investment decisions. Orkney's Surf and Turf [project](#) is one example of where additional value has been generated for communities by taking a place-based approach.

In order to ensure the right infrastructure is delivered over the long term, we recommend that the IIP identifies **strategic infrastructure priorities** in order to deliver the vision. Our response highlights a recent [report](#) 'Ports for offshore wind: A review of the net-zero opportunity for ports in Scotland', which highlights the need for a strategic approach to maximise the benefits of offshore wind.

### **Developing a new approach to assessing the contribution made by infrastructure investment to Scotland's emissions targets**

Crown Estate Scotland support the development of a new carbon assessment methodology, particularly if this integrates a gap analysis to track the difference between planned investment and emissions targets. Early development of this assessment tool would be welcomed given the urgency of the action required to meet emissions targets.

Crown Estate Scotland previously welcomed the long-term view i.e. the 30-year timeframe taken by the Infrastructure Commission and would welcome reassurance that the five-year reporting period will not prevent important infrastructure decisions being made at the right time.