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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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3 July 2025

Dear Finlay,

Environment Strategy

I am writing to you in your role as convenor of the RAI Committee to inform you that I have published the Scottish Government's [draft Environment Strategy](#) and related impacts assessments for consultation. This draft Strategy will fulfil the requirement under section 47 of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) 2021 ("the Continuity Act").

This draft Environment Strategy brings together our approach for creating a Scotland whose environment is healthy and robust and benefits everyone in Scotland. It sets out a holistic framework for delivering Scotland's role in protecting our environment by tackling nature loss, climate change and pollution. It focuses on approaches that will improve the health and wellbeing of Scotland's communities, promote social justice and strengthen our economy, helping us to become a fairer, more prosperous and resilient nation. In this way, it is designed to support the delivery of all four of the government's priorities.

The draft Strategy begins by describing our 2045 vision for fulfilling our role in tackling the global crises of nature loss, climate change and pollution – in ways that create wider benefits for Scotland's people and our economy. It also presents outcomes that will support the delivery of this vision, and then outlines high-level pathways for driving progress towards these outcomes. These outcomes include:

- Scotland's biodiversity is restored and regenerated
- We have ended Scotland's contribution to climate change
- We minimise pollution and waste in our environment
- Scotland's global environmental impact is sustainable
- Scotland's society is transformed for the better by living sustainably, in harmony with nature
- Scotland's net zero, nature positive and circular economy thrives within the planet's sustainable limits
- We build Scotland's resilience to climate change and other global environmental risks

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- These transformations are achieved through a just transition and support climate and environmental justice.

We have commissioned new research, supported by stakeholder working groups to help inform the development of pathways for these outcomes on Scotland's global environmental impact, society and economy. The draft Strategy then sets out the arrangements for monitoring and reporting progress towards the outcomes.

The consultation for the draft Environment Strategy will seek views on the draft Environment Strategy, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the related draft impact assessments. The responses to the consultation will be crucial to informing the development of the final Environment Strategy. The consultation will close on 29 September.

Following the close of the consultation, I shall look to produce a final Strategy. Section 47 of the Continuity Act requires Ministers to lay before Parliament a copy of the final strategy, and a statement setting out the details of the consultation, a summary of any views expressed in response to the consultation, and detail of how those views have or haven't been taken into account when preparing the strategy.

I would be pleased to discuss the Environment Strategy with the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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