



committee@greenparty.im

**Honourable Tim Crookall MHK**

Department of Infrastructure  
Sea Terminal  
Douglas  
IM1 2RF

05 May 2022

**Dear Minister for Infrastructure**

**Seaward Production Innovate Licence Between the Department of Infrastructure (“the Department”) and Crogga Limited (“Crogga”) (“the Licence”)**

We refer to the Isle of Man Government press release dated 03 May 2022 announcing that the Department had granted Crogga an extension of 27 months to complete ‘Phase B’ of the Licence (“**the Extension**”).

**1) Our Comment upon the Decision**

We are of the view that the Decision is entirely regrettable. devoid of all rational reason, and in conflict with the declaration of Tynwald on Tuesday 18 June 2019 of an environmental and climate emergency (“**the Climate Emergency**”).

At a time when the leading science is compelling us to take immediate action to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, the Isle of Man Government is filling headlines with the support for fossil fuel exploration of prospective deposits, that, if they should exist, will represent fuel that cannot be burned in order to comply with the objective of the 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement (“**Paris Agreement**”).

In this respect, we refer you to the UN Environment Programme’s ‘*The Production Gap Report 2021*’ SEI, IISD, ODI, E3G, and UNEP. (2021), inter alia the following extracts:

- i. *“Governments plan to produce more than twice the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C. The production gap has remained largely unchanged since our first analysis in 2019.”* [page 2]
- ii. *“Global fossil fuel production must start declining immediately and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to 1.5°C.”* [page 2]
- iii. *“Governments have a primary role to play in closing the production gap and in ensuring that the transition away from fossil fuels is just and equitable.”* [page 2]
- iv. *“As shown in Chapter 2, annual average decline rates of around 11% for coal, 4% for oil, and 3% for gas between 2020 and 2030 would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C, based on the mitigation scenarios compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In order to ensure a just and equitable wind-down, countries with greater capacity and*



*lower dependency on fossil fuels will likely need to wind down their production faster than the global average.” [page 35]*

- v. *“Governments can restrict fossil fuel exploration and extraction, phase out producer subsidies and public finance for fossil fuel projects, and re-direct support towards decarbonization and just transition efforts” [page 64]*
- vi. *“Thus far, most countries have focused their climate policies on reducing the demand for coal, oil, and gas, with their actions on the supply side of fossil fuels largely restricted to promoting carbon capture and storage and addressing emissions from extraction, processing, and distribution processes. Governments can do much more, as they have a primary role to play in closing the production gap and in ensuring that the transition away from fossil fuels is just and equitable.” [page 65]*

We further refer you to the report of the International Energy Agency (IEA) entitled ‘Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector’ (4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Revised October 2021), inter alia the following extract:

- vii. *“The rapid drop in oil and natural gas demand in the NZE means that no fossil fuel exploration is required and no new oil and natural gas fields are required beyond those that have already been approved for development. No new coal mines or mine extensions are required either. Prices are increasingly set by the operating costs of the marginal project required to meet demand, and this results in significantly lower fossil fuel prices than in recent years. The oil price drops to around USD 35/barrel by 2030 and then drifts down slowly towards USD 25/barrel in 2050.” [page 51]*

In sum, from last year (2021) no new fossil fuel exploration and, should gas exist, exploitation, is either needed or compliant with achieving the objective of avoiding extreme climate change as enshrined in the Paris Agreement (inter alia, article 2.1(a) “...pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”).

Noting the critical public import of this matter, we invite you to please respond to our request for information at (2).

## 2) Request for Information

As Minister for the Department, please can you provide the confirmations and clarifications in respect of the following:

- i. Please confirm the date the decision to grant the Extension was made (“**the Decision**”).
- ii. In the making of the Decision, please confirm the consideration that was given to the precepts of section 21(1) of the Climate Change Act 2021, viz:
  - a. *the meeting of the net zero emissions target by the net zero emissions target year;*



- b. *the meeting of any interim target;*
  - c. *supporting the just transition principles and the climate justice principle;*
  - d. *sustainable development, including the achievement of the United Nations sustainable development goals; and*
  - e. *protecting and enhancing biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services.*
- iii. Please confirm what consideration was given to the Decision's impact upon achieving the objective of the Paris Agreement (inter alia, article 2.1(a) "...pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change").
- iv. Please confirm what consideration was given to the compatibility of the Decision and the Climate Emergency.
- v. Please confirm if and when the terms of the Extension will be published.

Yours sincerely

*Isle of Man Green Party*

**ISLE OF MAN GREEN PARTY**

Please reply to: [committee@greenparty.im](mailto:committee@greenparty.im)

**cc.**

- Chief Minister Cannan MHK
- Cabinet Minister Lord-Brennan MHK
- Treasury Minister Ashford MHK MBE
- Justice & Home Affairs Minister Poole-Wilson MHK
- Health & Social Care Minister Hooper MHK
- Minister for Education, Sport and Culture Edge MHK
- Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture Barber MHK
- Minister for Enterprise Allinson MHK