



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Mairi Gougeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands  
Scottish Government

**12 December 2025**

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### Scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Plan 2025-2040

The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee has agreed to consider the chapters of the draft Climate Change Plan (CCP) relating to agriculture and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) as part of the joint committee scrutiny of the draft plan.

The draft CCP makes clear that the Scottish Government's rural support plan will perform a key role in supporting decarbonisation of the agriculture sector to achieve required emissions reductions. The draft CCP reiterates the Scottish Government's intention to publish a rural support plan "in Winter 2025".

You will also be aware that Section 3(2) of the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024 states the Scottish Minister must have regard to "the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use" when developing its rural support plan.

The Committee will commence its scrutiny of the CCP in early January 2026 and is keen to ensure it is able to consider fully the rural support plan at the same time. **The Committee would, therefore, welcome further clarity about the timing of the rural support plan to assist with its work planning around the CCP.**

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by **Friday 19 December**.

Yours sincerely,

**Finlay Carson MSP**  
Convener

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