

TRANSform Scotland

the campaign for sustainable transport

'The 'Big Ask' for Scotland – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets Bill consultation paper'

Response to consultation on Bill proposal from Mark Ruskell MSP
21st September 2005

1. General comments on the Bill's proposals

- 1.1 TRANSform Scotland has previously given strong support to the proposal from Chris Ballance MSP for a Bill that would set targets for road traffic levels.¹ We have taken the view that with a programme of road traffic reduction in place, the Scottish transport sector could begin to make a responsible response to our biggest environmental threat: climate change.
- 1.2 TRANSform Scotland also gives strong support to measures that could play an effective role in limiting climate emissions from across all sectors of the economy. As such, TRANSform Scotland strongly supports the proposals set out in the 'Big Ask' consultation paper. The proposed Bill, if passed into law, would put in place an effective mechanism for ensuring Scottish progress towards reducing climate change emissions. TRANSform Scotland has no faith that a 'voluntarist' approach to reducing climate emissions can be efficient or effective, and, as such, supports the legislative approach set out in this Bill proposal.
- 1.3 We are in agreement with the analysis of climate change policy in the consultation paper. TRANSform Scotland's detailed views on matters concerning climate change and the transport sector are set out in the written evidence presented in February 2005 to the Environment and Rural Development Committee inquiry on climate change.²

2. Responses to specific questions raised in the consultation paper

- *What are your views on the proposed approach of*
 - i) setting targets,*
 - ii) preparing a plan of action,*
 - iii) reporting on progress toward reducing pollution that contributes to climate change?*
- 2.1 We consider this an entirely rationale way of proceeding.
 - *At what level(s) and over what time frame(s) do you think targets should be set?*
 - 2.2 We agree with the proposal that annual targets be set for year-on-year reductions of 3% in climate emissions, so that the 2050 emission reduction target can be achieved.
 - *What measures would you like to see included in an action plan?*
 - 2.4 For recommendations pertaining to the transport sector, we would refer you to our evidence to the ERDC inquiry on climate change: see note 2 below.
 - *How frequently do you think reporting should take place?*
 - 2.3 We suggest that the Environment Minister should be obliged to report to Parliament each year in a published, and independently verified, report. The Executive should be expected to set out in its report (i) what it is doing to achieve the target, (ii) whether these actions

¹ Our response to the 'Moving On' Bill consultation is available at http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/info/docs/2005-04_Moving_On_response.pdf

² Our evidence to the ERDC inquiry is available at http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/info/docs/2005-02_climate_evidence.pdf

are working, and if not, why not, (iii) what future actions it intends to meet the target.

- *Is there anything else you would like to add?*

2.6 No.

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