STATES OF JERSEY



CLIMATE CHANGE: COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE – PETITION (P.206/2009) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 28th January 2010 by the Council of Ministers

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Council of Ministers supports the proposition lodged by Deputy Wimberley, which asks the States to receive the petition with reference to the December 2009 United Nations Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. In doing so, the Council recognises the concern expressed by Islanders as to the impacts of climate change and underlines the seriousness with which it takes issues of environmental responsibility.

Despite falling short of the expectations of many countries, the Council observes the outcomes from the Copenhagen Conference and remains committed to delivering its environmental responsibilities in respect of climate change.

The Copenhagen Accord re-emphasises that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring strong political will and cooperative action to combat. The Council of Ministers acknowledges the measures being taken by all countries to address climate change and reaffirms its commitment to taking substantive action to combat climate change on behalf of Jersey.

Jersey became a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol through the United Kingdom Government in March 2007, signalling the importance that the Island places upon reducing its carbon emissions to help address climate change. In accordance with the Protocol, the Island's Energy White Paper is well progressed and will provide the necessary policy framework for setting and delivering carbon reduction targets. Following the Copenhagen Conference, the Energy White Paper will also take into account the outcomes from the summit and further response will be incorporated within the annual environmental report, as referred to by the Deputy.