

Environment Bill White Paper

“We need a modern legislative framework that recognises the value of our natural resources and the services they provide, and the need for us to manage them carefully for the long term benefit of Wales.”

Minister for Natural Resources & Food, October 2013



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Why do we need a Bill?

We need a modern legislative framework that will enable a joined-up approach to managing our natural resources, as well as recognising their value and the opportunities they provide.

Our consultation in 2010 and the 2012 *Sustaining a Living Wales Green Paper* showed broad support for this fresh approach to the planning and management of natural resources in Wales at a national and local level.

Overall, we want to use and manage Wales' natural resources to deliver lasting economic and social benefits as well as environmental. We also want to strip away unnecessary complexity and simplify processes.

What will the Bill do?

There are four key themes in the White Paper:

- **Theme 1** looks at joining-up the existing statutory frameworks for natural resource planning and management in Wales.
- **Theme 2** considers proposals to ensure Natural Resources Wales has the right legislative tools to enable them to implement a joined-up approach to natural resource management.
- **Theme 3** sets out actions to ensure Wales' natural resources are used to best effect and reduce waste.
- **Theme 4** sets out proposals to simplify, streamline and clarify the law for a number of existing environmental regulatory regimes.

What do we want to achieve?

There is international recognition of the need for a more joined-up approach to managing our natural resources, which better recognises the value of our ecosystems and the services they provide, in order to help achieve long-term sustainable growth, resilience and diversity, resource efficiency and to tackle poverty.

For businesses and the economy

The proposals for an area-based approach to natural resource management will help ensure that we have the right information earlier so that we can identify the right development opportunities in the right places that support our ambitions for long-term growth. The Bill will also help Natural Resources Wales to develop new ways of working to maximise long-term benefit from our natural resources.

For communities and to tackle poverty

The proposals for an area-based approach will ensure that we have the right information on the challenges and opportunities in different areas. This evidence will help inform decisions on how we can improve our environment for our communities, and to better target investment.

Forward look

For more information please visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/?lang=en>

For queries and to submit responses email:

naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The consultation closes on 15th January 2014.