

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - RESULTS

<b>Title of Policy</b>	Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy
<b>Summary of aims and desired outcomes of Policy</b>	Statutory five-yearly renewal/review of Scotland's Land Use Strategy under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Section 37(A), setting out objectives and policies for achieving sustainable land use in Scotland.
<b>Directorate: Division: team</b>	ARE: Land Use and land reform: Land Use Strategy Team

### **Executive summary**

This EQIA covers Scotland's third Land Use Strategy (LUS3). LUS3 contains no new policies or alter any existing Scottish Government policies. The primary aim is to shift the perception and understanding of what land use is, who it affects and benefits and to demonstrate how the raft of existing Scottish Government policy relating to land use interact across our landscapes. Given the strategic nature of the document it was deemed that a high-level EQIA was appropriate.

A call for evidence on wider land use impacts for protected characteristics, as well as young people and islands was included. No evidence was found or recived that the publication of the Strategy would impact on protected characteristics.

### **Background**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 placed a requirement on Scottish Ministers to produce a Land Use Strategy (LUS) every five years, recognising the importance of land use in combatting Climate Change. Through this Strategy Scottish Ministers' must set out the vision and objectives for Scotland in relation to sustainable land use.

## **The Scope of the EQIA**

Given the strategic nature of the document and its primary aim to shift the perception and understanding rather than introduce new Scottish Government policy it was concluded that a high-level EQIA was appropriate.

In light of knowledge gaps identified in the process of scoping the EQIA, the Scottish Government used the statutory consultation to take the opportunity to engage with stakeholders and issue a call for evidence to gather any further information, both academic and examples of lived experience, on a wider range of equality issues. The consultation responses included various individual opinions and suggestions but did not provide any meaningful new evidence.

## **Key Findings**

Have positive or negative impacts been identified for any of the equality groups?

No

Is the policy directly or indirectly discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010 ?

No

If the policy is indirectly discriminatory, how is it justified under the relevant legislation?

N/A

If not justified, what mitigating action will be undertaken?

N/A

## **Recommendations and Conclusion**

While the EQIA did not identify any particular impacts likely to result from publication of Scotland's third Land Use Strategy, the Scottish Government have taken the opportunity to bring wider land use and Equality issues more to the fore throughout the Strategy. For example, we have included a strengthened focus on Scotland's Just Transition and Green Recovery, in particular on safeguarding quality of life and healthy environments for future generations and young people. We have also bolstered references to Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement which is centred on a Human Rights Approach.