

2 June 2025

Presiding Officer's Statement on Legislative Competence

Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

In my view, most of the provisions of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Senedd.

The following provisions would not be within competence because they require the consent of the Secretary of State, and such consent has not been obtained at this time:

- Section 6(3) and (4) – Environmental principles and integrating environmental protection statement
- Section 10 – Duty to prepare and publish strategy
- Section 11 – Monitoring and reporting
- Section 13 – Advice, guidance and assistance on environmental law
- Section 14 – Information notices
- Section 15 – Investigations
- Section 16 – Compliance notices
- Section 17 – Urgent compliance notices
- Section 18 – OEGW's review of compliance notices
- Section 19 – High court review after failure to take specific action
- Section 20 – Improvement reports
- Section 26 – Confidentiality requirements: public authorities
- Section 33(1) (insofar as it relates to new section 6F of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) – Biodiversity targets
- Schedule 2 – The Office of Environmental Governance Wales: strategy

Elin Jones MS
Presiding Officer