

26 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out by MeyGen in accordance with relevant EU, UK and Scottish regulations and has robustly assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

The EIA has assessed the worst-case scenario that would have the greatest effect on the environment. This approach results in a maximum impact assessment, giving security and confidence to the regulatory bodies that the environmental impact will be no greater than that which is set out within the Environmental Statement and in fact may be considerably less.

Due to the novel nature of the tidal energy industry there are some uncertainties related to impact predictions that have yet to be verified by operational monitoring. MeyGen therefore propose to follow the Scottish Government's Survey, Deploy and Monitor Strategy where appropriate. MeyGen will deploy the Project in a series of phases. The initial array will provide information on the interactions between the array and the environment, increasing the knowledge for the remaining phases of the Project and the tidal stream industry as a whole.

If successful in attaining the required consents for construction, the Project is likely to be one of the world's first and largest arrays of tidal turbines. The MeyGen Tidal Energy Project Phase 1 represents an important development step for tidal stream technology in terms of the scale of development and in the transition from prototype technology to full development. The development of marine renewables is a key objective for Scotland and the Project represents a key part of the Scottish and UK renewable energy strategies.

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