



## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**By**

**The Hon. Alexa Lightbourne, JP, MP  
Minister of Home Affairs**

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **Update on Consultative Draft National Electricity Sector Policy**

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**Mr. Speaker,**

I rise this morning to update this Honourable House and the people of Bermuda on the continued progress of the National Electricity Sector Policy (NESP), advanced by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Department of Energy.

This work reflects this Government's determination to confront one of the most consequential issues facing our country: the cost, reliability, and future of electricity in Bermuda.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Electricity powers every Bermudian home. It sustains every business on this island. It underpins our national resilience. It shapes the cost of living, influences economic competitiveness, and determines how effectively we respond to a changing climate.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The reform of electricity in Bermuda began in April 2025, when the Ministry became clear-eyed about what was required. In advance of a completed policy, a Ministerial Directive was issued to the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda under Section 4 of the Regulatory Authority Act 2011, signalling the policy direction.

That Directive established three priorities. Enhanced transparency through annual reporting on strategic plans and consumer

protection. Capacity building through a Resource Development Plan to strengthen local technical expertise in renewable energy and grid modernisation. And a comprehensive review of the electricity transmission and distribution model to explore fairer pricing structures and identify cost-saving opportunities.

The Directive was the opening act of this reform. The National Electricity Sector Policy is the framework that brings the full reform programme into alignment.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I must be candid with this House about a matter that bears directly on why this Policy is necessary.

Bermuda's Integrated Resource Plan has been in various stages of development since 2019, establishing a target of 85% renewable deployment. As of 2026, it has not been fully operational. Its provisions have not been stewarded into deployment with the required regulatory discipline.

The IRP is the instrument that directs Bermuda's electricity future, informed by the Government's policy. It charts the course for generation investment, infrastructure renewal, and the integration of renewable energy. It defines cost, reliability, and the pace of Bermuda's energy transition.

Under the existing legislative framework established by the Electricity Act 2016, the IRP is proposed by the electricity utility and reviewed by the Regulatory Authority. A process in which has proven cumbersome. Proposed plans too often run contrary to the Government's policy, the policy Bermudians elected us to deliver. In 2026, with families battling electricity costs compounded by global events, those delays are no longer something Bermuda can afford.

The 2026 Policy addresses that failure directly. Integrated Resource Planning sits at the centre of the framework, and the legislative amendments now in development will place responsibility for preparing the IRP with the Regulatory Authority, with input from

the industry. The future of this sector requires precise regulatory rigor and disciplined implementation. Policy that is adopted and then left to languish serves no one.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I recently returned from the United States, where I participated in the International Visitor Leadership Programme focused on Energy Policy, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

I met with the institutions that shape American energy governance. In Washington, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Congressional Research Service. In Oklahoma, the Corporation Commission, with site visits to pipeline infrastructure and a hydropower facility. In Louisiana, the Public Service Commission and the LSU Center for Energy Studies. In Arizona, the Corporation Commission and the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

Every jurisdiction I visited, regardless of size, structure, or political context, had made the same foundational choice. Deliberate reform. Genuine regulatory authority. Resource planning. Investment in people alongside infrastructure. The results were measurable: stable prices, transparent oversight, accountable planning, and energy markets built to serve the consumer.

**Mr. Speaker,**

In Louisiana, the Public Service Commission built frameworks for large-scale energy investment with rigorous consumer protection. That approach attracts global technology companies seeking reliable, competitively priced power. New entrants pay their full cost of service. The infrastructure built to serve them, from generation to transmission to grid strengthening, benefits every existing customer.

These agreements are projected to deliver billions in savings to residential and commercial customers over twenty years. Large customers fund energy efficiency programmes for the communities they have joined, supporting the vulnerable. The framework secures commitments to renewable development and grid resilience. Every benefit flows to the public because the regulatory architecture demands it.

Bermuda is a different jurisdiction with different constraints. We are a small island with a single utility and a captive electricity market. The lesson from Louisiana is about architecture and vision. When resource planning is rigorous, when regulatory oversight is precise, when implementation is disciplined, energy reform delivers results for the public.

That experience reinforced a conviction that shapes every element of this Policy. Bermuda's electricity sector requires the same commitment to deliberate, structured reform. Business as usual will produce the same outcomes we have always received. The

people of Bermuda deserve better, and this Government will deliver better.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The National Electricity Sector Policy establishes a clear and disciplined framework to guide the future of Bermuda's electricity sector. It is grounded in the central objective of delivering an electricity sector that is affordable, reliable, resilient, sustainable, and equitable for all Bermudians.

Affordability is at the forefront. Rising electricity costs place real and sustained pressure on households and businesses across this island. The Policy reinforces the equal priority of reliability and resilience, ensuring that Bermuda's electricity infrastructure can withstand disruption, respond to system pressures, and adapt to the realities of climate risk.

The Policy moves away from prescriptive targets and focuses on least-cost development. The integrated resource planning process assesses all generation, infrastructure, and demand-side options on a consistent, evidence-based basis. The future IRP will be prepared with the regulatory rigor and implementation discipline that has been absent. Ambition must be matched with practical, economically sound execution.

The Policy directs the full sector: bulk generation, distributed generation, transmission and distribution, energy efficiency, electrification of transport, and regulatory oversight. It strengthens governance, supports innovation, and shares the benefits of the energy transition fairly across all customers.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Honourable Members will recall that the Energy Policy Steering Committee, the EPSC, was established to support this work. We

thank them for their input and expertise which brought together voices from across the electricity sector.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The revised draft Policy was published on the Citizens Forum on 20 April 2026 and will be live until 21 May. A Town Hall meeting will take place on Monday, 18 May, to present the key elements of the 2026 Policy and the changes since 2015.

I encourage all Bermudians to read the draft Policy and share their views.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The reform of Bermuda's electricity sector is the defining infrastructure challenge of this generation. The decisions made will determine what Bermudians pay for power, how resilient our grid is when the next storm arrives, and whether our economy can compete in a world demanding more energy at lower cost.

I have seen what deliberate reform produces. Stable prices. Transparent regulation. Accountable planning. Markets that serve the consumer. I have seen what is possible when regulation turns planning into deployment, and deployment into measurable savings for households and businesses. Bermuda's people deserve the same results.

This Policy establishes the framework for legislative amendments and enforcement. The standard this Government sets is measured against what it delivers for the Bermudian consumer.

I look forward to updating this Honourable House as this work advances.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.