

## Climate change

35. The Secretary of State has considered the representations on climate change which were made by Friends of the Earth and other parties at the inquiry, and has also taken into account the responses to the reference back exercise (paragraph 10 above). For the reasons given at IR12.673-12.678, he agrees with the Inspector's conclusion that the issues raised as to how shale gas relates to the obligations such as those set out in the Paris Agreement and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change carbon budgets are a matter for future national policy and not for these appeals (IR12.677). The Secretary of State considers that this is also the case for the Government's approach to Carbon Capture and Storage. He further agrees at IR12.678 that for the purposes of these appeals, the analysis should be limited to a consideration of the project emissions during construction, operation and decommissioning, together with cumulative impacts as assessed by the Environmental Statements within the framework set by national and local policies.
36. The Secretary of State considers that the need for shale gas exploration set out in the WMS reflects, among other things, the Government's objectives in the WMS, in that it could help to achieve lower carbon emissions and help meet its climate change target. The Secretary of State has gone on to consider the question of emissions arising from these proposals. For the reasons given at IR12.679, he agrees with the Inspector that there has been no material error in the Environmental Statement estimate of methane emissions. For the reasons given at IR12.682, he further considers that in the light of the support provided by the national policy for shale gas exploration, the emissions likely to arise from the appeal proposals would be entirely reasonable and fully justified (IR12.682).
37. Overall, the Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's conclusion at IR12.686 that the projects would be consistent with the NPPF aim to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. He further agrees that the Appellants have demonstrated, by the provision of appropriate information, that all material, social, economic or environmental impacts that would cause demonstrable harm would be reduced to an acceptable level and that the projects represent a positive contribution towards the reduction of carbon, and that the proposed development would be in accordance with JLMWLP Policy DM2 and relevant national policy.

## Planning conditions sought by Friends of the Earth

38. Friends of the Earth have sought a number of planning conditions if planning permission were to be granted for the proposed development (IR12.687-12.695). For the reasons given in these paragraphs, the Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's conclusions that a baseline health survey of local residents would not be necessary, or relevant, and that it would not be reasonable to impose it (IR12.691). He agrees that a condition requiring the reporting of any material breach of planning conditions to Lancashire County Council within 48 hours should be imposed (IR12.693). He agrees that it would not be necessary or reasonable to impose a condition requiring the developer to provide Lancashire County Council with information identifying the available permitted off-site waste treatment facilities (IR12.695).