

I am responding to the consultation on forestry provisions in the Scottish Climate Change Bill as follows;

- 1) I fully support the proposals re joint ventures.
- 2) I totally disagree with the proposal to lease Forestry Commission land, this land belongs to the people of Scotland not private companies. It is part of our heritage and should be preserved where appropriate and used to provide for future generations where possible.

The area proposed in the Consultation is for about 100,000ha of the most commercial areas, why are you creaming off our land when the Forestry Commission has the infrastructure to make best use of this land whilst benefiting the community at the same time.

In view of the rapidly changing dynamics of climate change and peak oil, it cannot be possible to predict what the consequences will be in 10 or 20 years time, let alone 75 years when none of the current decision makers will be around to take responsibility.

The Scottish Government should be working with its own people to arrive at the best possible solution. To date there are many joint ventures being undertaken by the Forestry with local communities to create renewable energy projects, with the potential for many more local solutions, all benefitting from the expertise already gained. On the West Coast there is vast potential for micro projects which may never come to fruition if the adjoining land cannot be released.

This proposal is very short sighted.

- 3) As I do not agree with the above proposal I cannot agree with the setting up of a trust.

The setting up of a trust would just be another bureaucratic body, creating expense rather than income.

- 4) The governments Climate Change Bill is to be applauded as action needs to be taken now if we are to have any chance of preserving the human race, it also recognises that our current lifestyles will need to change. Cutting the 'red tape' regarding planning and the implementing of solutions to mitigate reduced emissions, would go a long way to allowing communities to help themselves to become resilient to both climate change and peak oil.

Sally Wilkin

