

15 December 2008

Liz Kirk
Forestry Commission Scotland
Silvan House
231 Costorphine Road
Edinburgh EH12 7AT

Dear Liz Kirk

Forestry Renewable Energy

Further to the Government Enquiry, I believe that Strome Peninsular (Forestry Commission 2000 acres, Lochcarron Estate 3000+ acres) would benefit from extension of Government powers.

Lochcarron Estate in 1926 sold land, 2000 acres, part of Strome Peninsular, Wester Ross, to the Forestry Commission.

The sale contract included several Reservations. These are principally to the effect that the land may only be for forestry planting, thinning maintenance and harvesting.

The remaining area of the Estate peninsular is mainly croft land – approximately 3000 acres.

For some time the estate with residents have been considering a community/crofting buyout of parts of the Strome peninsular with the following objectives:-

1. Renewable sources of energy with Forestry Commission support.
2. Use of Forestry and estate land for local and tourist recreation. The estate has already contributed to the cost of paths on estate land. Forestry have several miles of paths which need improving, linking up and opening to tourists and locals.
3. There are “clearance sites” in Forestry land which could be once again built upon and inhabited.

The above will require powers in the Climate Change Bill.

Achintraid, thirty-eight houses, of which eight are new in the last two years and lived in by resident workers, is a village at the gateway to the forestry. Conversion to forestry renewable energy would, with tourist development, be substantially beneficial for the area.

Yours sincerely

Mark Pattinson

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Lochcarron Estate