

McGuire Z (Zoe)

From: currie66@tiscali.co.uk
Sent: 10 January 2007 10:27
To: CMNP Consultation 2006
Subject: marine parks

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I am happy that my response be made public

Dear Ms Milne

With regard to the executives proposals for sighting Scoland's first CMNP I feel that it must be pointed out that the advice the executive recieved from Scottish Natural Heritage is incomplete, inaccurate and misleading. Despite being asked to work closely with a range of relevant stakeholders from business, communiity and environment sectors SNH completely excluded community groups from the 25 strong stakeholders group and did not include any representation from the construction industry, the road haulage industry, aggregate extraction industry, food processing industry, farming, crofting, retail industry, engineering industry, whisky industry, trunk road maintenance authority, water and sewerage authority, rail transport providers, power and electricity generating industry and no representation from the emergency services.

These business interests, service authorities and community groups such as housing associations should have played a vital role in preparing advice on a suitable sight for a CMNP but they were excluded from the stakeholders group set up to consider key issues. This has compromised the whole designation process and calls into question the suitability of any of the shortlisted candidate areas proposed by SNH.

The two areas being touted as favourites Argyll, Mull and the Islands, and Ardnamurchan, Small Isles and South Skye are almost entirely dependant on the wise use of natural resources for their economies and contain some of the most vulnerable communities, culture and heritage in the country. They would be destroyed by the rules, regulaltions, restrictions and extra costs that a CMNP would bring in order to achieve "improved management", "best practice" and "showcase status" proposed by SNH.

With regards to the potential for access that the Minister views as a key consideration it should be noted that the main arterial routes to the four North West candidate areas , the A82 and the A9, have been described by motoring organisations in the year 2006 as "death tracks" and "killer roads" and the rail network and services are severely limited.

Concerning the other key consideration of economic and social development it is clear that SNH have done little if any work on this matter in the shortlisted areas and have excluded those organisations capable of useful input from the process.

SNH have completely failed in the task given them by the Minister in his letter of 29 June 2005, preferring instead to propose sights on natural heritage conservation grounds alone. Now we are all left to deal with this misleading advice. There is almost unanimous opposition to a CMNP designation within the two favoured areas at this time as I am sure you are aware from your attendance at the Craignure meeting, to continue with a designation in these areas would only create conflict and longterm social and economic distress.

I would urge the Minister not to impose a CMNP in these singularly unsuitable areas and more importantly to consider the role that SNH has played in this debacle.

Yours sincerely

Ian MacKinnon

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