



## **Creich Community Council Scoping Response**

### **Braelangwell Wind Farm**

**25/11/24**

Due to the impacts of this project and the scale of concern we are receiving from the residents of the Kyle of Sutherland, we wish to set out our request for a range of items of information which must form part of the project scoping, and which are listed below.

Project scoping is almost always seen by developers as confined to an 'environmental Impact Assessment'. If it is done properly by competent design, construction, and operating organisations it should refer to engineering standards and project target integrity levels. The idea that scoping equals EIA is false. All areas that must be included in planning applications should also be discussed for proper informed consultation to take place.

Due to a recent motion about wind farm planning applications, brought by Cllr Helen Crawford and accepted by the Highland Council, we ask for an immediate deferral until that motion is implemented, and the cumulative mapping is available, and we have had training. Any application within the Kyle must now fall under this change in planning.

We also consider that the Scottish Government and Highland Council, should have a moratorium on all wind farm and infrastructure requests that fall within the overall catchment of the Carron, Cassley, Oykel, and Shin Rivers and within the visual horizon of the Creich Community area until such time as a full ecological report is produced for the entire region and a review of engineering interactions and impacts that covers the whole area is performed. We are at risk of being swamped by multiple individual schemes with no overarching control. Different developers; fragmented responsibilities for construction; for access; for generation; for transmission and safety raise major concerns.

- **CUMULATIVE VISUAL IMPACT:** To include every project of this kind proposed along the Kyle of Sutherland and the catchment of its tributaries, in scoping or complete. The rivers, the estuary and the land form a substantial unity for life and nature and the community is also a unity within the catchment of the rivers and the shores of the Kyle.
- **CUMULATIVE NEGATIVE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT.** To include every project of this kind proposed within the overall catchment of the Carron, Cassley Oykel and Shin Rivers (including smaller tributaries) and along the Kyle of Sutherland and Inner Dornoch Firth and within the visual horizon of the Creich Community area. To include studies on endangered salmon, freshwater mussels and other river and estuarine life, and but not exclusive raptors, badgers, red squirrels and any species or mammal or insect, which lives on the hillsides and water ways.
- **THE LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT:** To include wildlife tourism, scenic tourism, and provide evidence on how these will be enhanced, and not affected, as part of the community benefits from the project. Also to state the employment numbers the area will gain for permanent full-time jobs based solely at the project on completion over the next 30 years.

- **PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT'S:** To include a report on the health and wellbeing of every resident that will be affected by the project – not just visually - on both sides of the Kyle of Sutherland.
- **WATER SUPPLIES:** To include the impact the project will have on spring-fed water supplies to every home, the full length of the Kyle of Sutherland and the other rivers. The developers should state their legal position and responsibility, or that of any future owner or beneficiary, should any property or business have its water supply affected during all phases from inception to closure of the project.
- **ANTISOCIAL:** To include the effect on of strobing and shadow casting for every home, the full length of the Kyle of Sutherland 5 km from north bank. This must include a sun shadow report for a full year, detailing the area a shadow will be cast from each turbine.
- **ACCESS:** To include how and where the river Carron, or other, will be crossed to access the site during planning, construction, and maintenance for the life of the project.
- **PPREFERRED CONNECTIONS:** To include as early as possible, the preferred connection to the grid. Although this will be a grid operators' decision a preferred choice needs to be presented and should form part of all consultation events. If as we suspect, the only obvious place would be the partially constrained Shin GSP, on the North bank of the Kyle of Sutherland.
- **BESS:** If a battery storage system is also being proposed it should be defined and its location given.
- Should you wish not to take action on any point above please state your reasons in writing so that the community can assess and respond.

We also request that all consultations be held at three locations, Bonar Bridge, Invershin and Rosehall, as all these areas are affected and fall under our care.

Should these locations not be included in any round of consultation we will consider that round to be null and void.

Regards

Creich Community Council