

PRESS RELEASE from members of the Lochluichart community concerning LZN LOCHLUICHART WINDFARM PROPOSALS. 5.01.06

Contact John Urquhart 01997 414228<rhoda.urquhart@btinternes.com>  
Harry Goudie 01997 414257<mail@luichartwoollens.freeserve.co.uk>

## WILD LAND NOT WASTE LAND

.....are we entitled to our views?.....

The latest Highland windfarm proposal to be lodged with the Scottish Executive for planning consents is from LZN Limited. 43 wind turbines are planned, each with a hub height of 80 metres, some of the highest in Europe. The application area stretches from the A835 at the eastern end of Loch Glascarnoch to within 2 kilometres of the A832.

### LZN'S OWN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OUTLINES THE THREAT TO LANDSCAPE AND TOURISM IN WESTER ROSS

They admit that the proposed development would "be clearly visible from surrounding high hills and mountains".

They acknowledge Wester Ross as one of the main tourism areas in the Highlands.

They claim the hills near the site are not regularly walked "although there are munros nearby that are more frequently climbed". In other words

### VISITORS TO SOME OF SCOTLAND'S BEST LOVED MOUNTAINS WILL LOOK DOWN ON A LANDSCAPE TAMED BY GIANT WIND TURBINES

These will be seen from summits including:

Ben Wyvis  
An Teallach  
Beinn Mhor Dearg  
the Fannichs  
the Freewater Forest  
the Fisherfield and Torridon Hills

LZN admits "the possibility of negative effects cannot be ignored." !

### MISREPRESENTATION OF SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE

LZN describes this remote area as between the semi-urban hinterland of Inverness and Wester Ross. It is in fact miles from anywhere.

It describes the rolling moorland, surrounded by lovely hills, with burns and lochans, visited by ospreys and red-throated divers as “degraded habitat”. Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, Golden Plovers and Twite grace this landscape. Parts of the area are in fact overgrazed by an overlarge deer population encouraged by the Lochluichart Estate, which has had stewardship of the land for generations and now seeks to make money from wind farms instead.

It draws attention to the unlovely Glascarnoch dam as evidence of a “working landscape” as though the environmental vandalism of a past generation is a good reason for inappropriate development in the present.

THE MAJORITY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE OPPOSED TO THE SCHEME CLAIMING THAT THIS IS WILD LAND NOT WASTE LAND, but a living landscape in which people have for generations lived, worked and enjoyed recreation alongside the wildlife and their habitat.

THE MONEY GOES TO ENGLAND AND HOLLAND

LZN Ltd is a joint venture between the Lochluichart Estate (registered in London) and Infinergy Ltd, a company formed by a Dutch windfarm developer and Savills property consultants.

THE WIND TURBINES WILL BE MANUFACTURED ABROAD

They will land at Invergordon and proceed by Road to Lochluichart

Lochluichart Press Release 2.

TRANSMISSION WILL BE OVERHEAD FROM LOCHLUICHART TO BEAULY

No final scheme has been developed for the transmission of energy and no consents sought. LZN has conducted its own Environmental Assessment but : THERE HAS BEEN NO OVERALL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ENERGY GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION IN THIS AREA AS REQUIRED BY EUROPEAN LAW.

WIDESPREAD IGNORANCE OF LOCHLUICHART SCHEME

Despite the ecological, environmental and economic implications of the scheme, and the fact that the company has been in converse with the Highland Council and SNH since 2003, their proposals have not received wide public notice. By lodging their application in mid November, at a time when SSE proposals for Beaully to Denny upgrade were filling the headlines, just before the run up to the Christmas holidays, the company ensured that their initial deadline for objections, December 23rd, 2005 would attract little attention. Following protests from the local community this has now been extended to January 27th, 2006. Plans are on view in Contin as well as Garve and Lochluichart Post Offices (limited opening hours). Neither Highland Council, nor the Scottish Executive Consents Unit were aware of this

deadline on Friday, Jan. 6th.

OBJECTIONS IN WRITING MUST BE IN BY JANUARY 27th 2006

WRITE identifying the scheme and stating the reasons for your objections to:

The Scottish Executive,  
Energy Consents Unit  
2nd Floor  
Meridian Court  
5, Cadogan St.  
Glasgow  
G2 6AT

## Shortcomings of Draft Highland Renewable Energy Strategy exposed..

Highland Council has confirmed that Lochluichart comes within their draft plan "Primary possible development" category for onshore wind.

If the Lochluichart proposals for a major windfarm of 43 turbines and an output of 129 MW goes through, with no guarantees that a doubling in size would not follow, in addition to the smaller 15 turbine plan for nearby Corriemollie, then the Highlands really will have become a windfarm developers' paradise and they will never be the same again.

LZN states that it has scoured Scotland looking for sites and there are many more Lochluicharts that will be up for grabs if the Highland Renewable energy Strategy goes through in its present form.

WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AT HIGHLAND COUNCIL BY  
JANUARY 13TH

- a) to comment on the renewable energy strategy BY JANUARY 27TH
- b) to state objections to the Loch Luichart proposals.

WRITE TO: John Rennilson  
Planning and Development  
Highland Council  
Glen Urquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX