

## **A83 TASKFORCE MEETING 19**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020**

**Agenda Items (09:00 – 09:45am)**

**Microsoft Teams meeting:**

1. Opening remarks by the Cabinet Secretary
2. Presentation by BEAR Scotland
3. Next steps
4. Q & A
5. Close of Meeting

## List of Attendees

Cab Sec Michael Matheson MSP (MM)	Scottish Parliament
Jackie Baillie MSP (JB)	Scottish Parliament
Maurice Corry MSP (MC)	Scottish Parliament
Brendan O'Hara MP (BO'H)	UK Parliament
Anisah Ijaz (AI)	Scottish Government
John MacFarlane (JMacF)	Scottish Government
Cllr Roderick McCuish (RMcC)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Aileen Morton (AM)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Dougie Philand (DP)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Gary Mulvaney (GM)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Sandy Taylor (ST)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr George Freeman (GFr)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Alan Reid (AR)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Rory Colville (RC)	Argyll & Bute Council
Jim Smith (JS)	Argyll & Bute Council
Pippa Milne (PM)	Argyll & Bute Council
Kirsty Flanagan (KF)	Argyll & Bute Council
Ruth Crosbie (RCr)	Argyll & Bute Council
Veronica MacFarlane (VMac)	Argyll & Bute Council
Hugh Gillies (HG)	Transport Scotland
Scott Lees (SL)	Transport Scotland
Jonathan Moran (JM)	Transport Scotland
Alasdair Graham (AG)	Transport Scotland
Jo Blewett (JBI)	Transport Scotland
George Fiddes (GF)	Transport Scotland
Martin Polland (MP)	Transport Scotland
Neil MacFarlane (NMac)	Transport Scotland
Fiona Brown (FB)	Transport Scotland
Paul Junik (PJ)	Transport Scotland
Ryan Gilbert (RG)	Transport Scotland
Mike Baxter (MB)	BEAR Scotland
Eddie Ross (ER)	BEAR Scotland
Euan Scott (ES)	BEAR Scotland
Laura Donaldson (LD)	BEAR Scotland
Niall McLean (NMc)	Geo-rope
Camilla Tayler (CT)	MET Office
John Hair (JH)	Forestry Commission
Alan Bell (AB)	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Robby Anderson (RA)	Freight Transport Association
Fiona Bartels (FBa)	Freight Transport Association
Iain Jurgensen (IJ)	Wild About Argyll / AITC
Lucy Sumsion (LS)	NFU Scotland
Ranald Robertson (RR)	Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership
Neil Macrae (NMa)	Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership
Gordon Ross (GR)	Western Ferries
Alastair McLundie (AMcL)	Western Ferries
Iain Slorach (IS)	Calmac
Peter McKerral (PMcK)	McKerral Timber
Kirsty Robb (KR)	Ridings Sawmills
Jane MacLeod (JMac)	Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce
Kenneth MacLeod (KMac)	Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce
Claire McMurchy (CMcM)	Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Iain Catterwell (IC)  
 Iain MacInnes (IMaI)  
 Dianne Paton (DP)  
 Morag Goodfellow (MG)  
 Jane Ireland (JI)  
 Gordon Blair (GB)  
 Helen Gregory (HG)  
 Graeme McKendry (GMcK)  
 Chris Holt (CH)  
 Martin Reid (MR)  
 Mags Simpson (MS)  
 Mary Haggerty (MH)  
 Ronnie MacDonald (RMacD)

Argyll Timber Transport Group  
 Lochgoil Community Council  
 Lochgoil Community Council  
 Argyll and the Islands  
 Slanj Restaurant  
 Jacobs  
 Jacobs  
 Jacobs  
 Jacobs  
 Road Haulage Association  
 Freight Transport Association  
 Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Community Council  
 Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Community Council

Apologies

Michael Russell MSP

Scottish Parliament

	Description	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening remarks by the Cabinet Secretary</b>	
	MM opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting. MM outlined the continued and increasing challenges presented by the ground conditions on the hillside, introduced the measures proposed to keep the OMR open, and that a broad range of options are being considered to arrive at a permanent solution. Advised that BEAR would follow with a presentation.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Presentation by BEAR Scotland</b>	
	ER described the unprecedented condition of the hillside and possible implications of its sudden failure. Described the measures proposed to mitigate the issues outlined with the general intention to keep the OMR open 24/7 as circumstances dictate.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	
	Stakeholders were advised of the construction of a new 175m long wall (6m high) adjacent to OMR local diversion to help improve the resilience of the diversion. The aim is to complete construction before Christmas. As well as currently delivering these measures, Transport Scotland is also exploring future works for the hillside to bolster the resilience of this key trunk route.	Transport Scotland
	The Scottish Government is committed to an infrastructure solution to address the A83 Rest and Be Thankful landslip risks, which goes beyond the current mitigation works (fencing, catch pits and investment in the Old Military Road as a diversion). Recognising the need to identify a long term sustainable and resilient alternative to the A83 Rest and Be Thankful, Transport Scotland has commenced the necessary development and assessment work.	Transport Scotland
	Eleven options for alternate infrastructure have been developed for public consultation. The recent online public consultation in to the corridor options for a long term solution was the first of several engagement exercises that will take place up until Spring 2021 when a preferred route corridor is expected to be announced.	

4	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	
	<p><i>KMac - Can you confirm that the talk of putting a Weight Limit on the OMR is correct? Are there any plans to resolve the width issue at a culvert?</i> ER – there are no plans to introduce a weight limit on the OMR.</p> <p><i>DP - Any scope to accelerate permanent solution?</i> MM - Dependant on Statutory Processes however will be streamlined as efficiently as possible.</p> <p><i>IC - Please expand on the process and programme of assessing the Forest Road route?</i> ER - Look at all tracks in the area with the intention of assessing the requirements to bring them up to Public Road standard. All options assessed in parallel.</p> <p><i>MR – We need a suite of measures to be implemented.</i> HG - Noted and as previously stated there are short, medium and long term solution being considered.</p> <p><i>BO’H - 5 years too long. Need commitment to make OMR and Forest Road resilient.</i> HG - A full assessment of all options will be undertaken. Not ruling anything in or out at this stage.</p> <p><i>PM - ABC want, and would like to be involved more in, a whole system approach. Look at Ferries and also the resilience of the A819 diversion route.</i> MM - Agreed. TS forming a Working Group and will invite ABC to take part.</p> <p><i>PMcK - 6 hour operation of OMR not viable, business left undone at end of week owing to knock on affect to driver hours and the increased distances on the diversion route. Thinks that barrier and catch pit proposals would prove ineffective against the volume of material now on the move.</i> ER - These measures not intended to halt complete collapse, only to mitigate against in-channel movement.</p> <p><i>GR - Possibility of compensation scheme in favour of Western Ferries to carry Forestry traffic?</i> HG – that will be given due consideration.</p> <p><i>AR - Could Parliament time be given to considering a Private Member Bill or the like to speed up the permanent solution?</i> MM – No, due process must be observed regardless of whether compulsory purchase is invoked or not.</p>	
5	<b>Close of Meeting</b>	
	HG thanked all for attending and concluded what was acknowledged as a positive meeting.	