

Lochcarron Community Council submission of 19 February 2023

PE1974/B: Adopt the A890 as a trunk road

Lochcarron Community Council wholeheartedly supports the petition.

The A890 serves as the main link-road down the west coast of Scotland and is also a significant transit for east to west traffic travelling between the Isle of Skye and Inverness. It is mainly single carriageway but frequently reduces to single track with passing places along the stretch between Attadale and Ardnarff.

The road has seen an increase in traffic as visitors have returned to the area post COVID. With the current closure of Uig pier for redevelopment, ferry traffic between Skye and the islands have to use the route to get to and from Ullapool. The growth in activity at Kishorn Yard has also seen a significant rise in heavy goods traffic.

The Strome ferry Bypass section of the road between Attadale and Ardnarff has steep rock slopes with exposed rock mass susceptible to weathering, frost and root action. There has been a history of rock falls at the site since the road was opened in 1970. The existing road is the route taken daily by school buses, and there have been many days of education lost due to closures. The shortest detour adds approximately 140 miles to a journey.

Annual inspections and remedial works are necessary to bring the slopes into manageable condition. An alternative route was recommended following feasibility studies into two alternatives. Without intervention from Scottish Government there is no possibility of funding being sourced to build a safer reliable route.

The section from Coulags to Achnashellach which has already had approval for a new bypass route has not been completed due to lack of funding. Completion of this section would reduce the single track element of the entire road and improve the route to Achnasheen.

Transport Scotland's Scottish Trunk Road Network Asset Management Policy states "An effective transport system is crucial to supporting the Scottish Government's purpose to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing

sustainable economic growth, as stated in Transport Scotland's Corporate Plan 2017 - 2020."

Adoption of the route as a trunk road would link the existing A87 Invergarry/Uig and A835/A893 Tore - Ullapool routes, completing the loop between these west coast communities.