

# Stuart Corder submission of 27 February 2024

## PE1967/J: Protect Loch Lomond's Atlantic oakwood shoreline by implementing the High road option for the A82 upgrade between Tarbet and Inverarnan

The A82 and the beautiful wooded shoreline of Loch Lomond between Tarbet and Inveruglas are two items which are fundamental to our loch cruises business on the northern arm of Loch Lomond. Operating out of Tarbet and Inveruglas, we have built the business over many years so that it is now a major player in the local economy employing in excess of 40 local people and annually carrying 160,000 passengers. We were therefore alarmed to learn that The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs is struggling to make headway with its petition to persuade the Scottish Government to reconsider its "Low Road" policy for the A82 upgrade.

I therefore wish to bring the following matters to the attention of the Petitions Committee.

As the existing road is widened, there will inevitably be a long period – potentially extending over years – of traffic disruption. Our business is heavily dependent on the free flow of traffic on the A82 and the prospect of an extensive period of traffic hold ups fills us with horror.

We are also extremely worried that so much of the proposed engineering will be so close to the shore – in two cases actually bridging out across bays. We also understand there will be long stretches where the road is cantilevered out over the loch (as it is at Pulpit Rock). It is also obvious that much of the natural shoreline and its woodland will be damaged or lost and we consider that these measures will be seriously detrimental to its existing unspoilt natural appearance. As the premier tourism business in the area which is so reliant on the scenic quality of those "Bonnie Banks", we are surprised and concerned that a high road proposal was not discussed with us.