



Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP,
Presiding Officer and Convener of the Parliamentary Bureau
The Scottish Parliament

18 February 2026

Dear Presiding Officer

Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

In our Stage 1 report, we praised Monica Lennon for bringing the Ecocide (Scotland) Bill forward and launching an important debate about how we deal with the worst sort of environmental damage. We also said that our scrutiny had raised significant questions about certain drafting aspects of the Bill and around implementing and applying it, should it become law. A majority of the Committee concluded that there was no realistic prospect of the key concerns raised in this report being addressed comprehensively within the limited time remaining before the end of this Parliamentary session, and that the Bill should therefore not proceed past Stage 1.

In the Stage 1 debate and the division that followed, a majority of the Parliament disagreed with that view, and all Committee Members of course respect that decision. However, the facts have not changed. We are now little over a month from this Session ending and the Committee's agenda is particularly packed, as we conclude our scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Plan, including agreeing a lengthy report, and hearing from the Climate Change Committee, consider several outstanding items of subordinate legislation, take concluding evidence for this Session from Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow on the Glen Sannox and Glen Rosa, and make time to consider and agree a legacy report.

On top of this, a majority of Members stand by the view set out in our Stage 1 report, that further evidence would be required from expert stakeholders before the Committee moves on to debating and disposing of amendments.

Given all this, and after carefully considering a paper setting out options at our meeting yesterday, the Committee, by majority, agreed that I should write to you in these terms so that the Bureau may consider next steps on the Bill. A majority¹ of the Committee see no way through for the Bill at Stage 2 and 3 with such limited time remaining, and few remaining slots in our work programme - even allowing, where possible, for additional or extended meetings. The issue is not merely the risk of passing rushed legislation, including amendments that stakeholders may have had

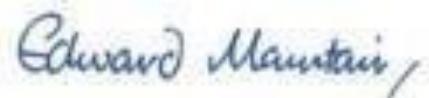
¹ Mark Ruskell and Sarah Boyack (Labour Party substitute) dissented

limited time to consider, but the more fundamental one of the Committee simply being at the limit of what it can realistically do.

Whether one ultimately considers that the Bill should pass or not, this is a regrettable position to find ourselves in: for the Committee, for the wider Parliament, and of course for the Member-in-Charge, who has worked so hard on this Bill. In our view, there is a need for a discussion about the timetabling of Members' Bills and about the support and resources available for them, which we hope can lead to an improved outcome for Members' Bills in the next Session.

We also intend to set out views on possible next steps in relation to legislation on ecocide in our legacy report for our successor committee on Session 2026-31, in case the scrutiny the Committee has carried out in this Session can serve as a foundation for law reform in this area in the next.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

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