

March 2025

Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Volume 5: Appendices
Appendix 2.2: Letter from Scottish Canals

Glen Earrach Energy Ltd



Martin Lacey
Project Director, Glen Earrach Energy

31 March 2025

Dear Martin

Ness Weir Potential Upgrading Works

We understand that Glen Earrach Energy ("GEE") will shortly be submitting its planning application for the Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydropower ("PSH") Plant under Section 36 of the Electricity Act.

Scottish Canals as a Non-Executive Public Body established by the Transport Act 1962 is the statutory body responsible for the operation and management of Scotland's inland waterways including the Caledonian Canal for which Scottish Canals are the navigation authority in Scotland. Scottish Canals wishes to work towards maximising the benefits of using the Caledonian Canal during the construction and operational phases of the PSH as a sustainable freight transport route to mitigate the impact on the Great Glen road network and increase the use of the Caledonian Canal for freight in line with the Scottish Government's objectives.

Scottish Canals confirms that it wishes to work with GEE, other PSH developers and key stakeholders to ensure any changes to operation or improvements to the Caledonian Canal infrastructure are agreed and approved in a competent manner; bring long term operational benefits to the Caledonian Canal for users and visitors; identify and offer potential opportunities to local businesses, canal users and residents on the route of the Caledonian Canal; and that the long term integrity of tourism, heritage and environmental benefits for the Great Glen and wider Highlands region is maintained.

Specifically, Scottish Canals confirms that it has undertaken a number of discussions on possible upgrading works to the Ness Weir and is engaging in a process with the objective of implementing its continuing interest in exploring this possible upgrade to the weir, to modernise the weir with respect to future use cases involving potential additional PSH on Loch Ness, while also providing opportunities for increased climate change resilience and modernised fish pass provision to ensure that any PSH activity would not negatively impact fish passage. We will continue to develop this programme with GEE and other PSH developers which GEE has involved in these discussions, along with other key stakeholders to ensure the coordinated and transparent operation of the upgraded weir.

Any proposed works would be subject to a planning application with relevant supporting documentation, and GEE has proposed working to achieve this over the next 18 months.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Millar
Chief Operating Officer
For and on behalf of Scottish Canals

