

Letter to the Editor (for publication)

For immediate use

Friday 12 December 2008

Dear Sir / Madam

The hearing of evidence at the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the proposed Aberdeen Bypass (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route) has now ended.

We, the undersigned, remain gravely concerned that Scottish Government Ministers seem to want this proposed new road at any cost.

Due to the limited remit and scope imposed by Scottish Government Ministers on the Public Local Inquiry, it has failed to fully consider a number of crucial issues. These include the proposed new road's relevance in the context of climate change, dwindling oil supplies and yoyo-ing fuel prices, and its enormous cost to Scottish and local taxpayers in this time of economic crisis when we see north east Local Authorities cutting public services to save money.

When you look at the AWPR in the context of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets recently proposed in the Scottish Climate Change Bill, the new road just simply should not be built. If built, it will increase Scotland's carbon emissions at a time when we are all trying desperately to reduce them.

The AWPR as proposed is not a solution to the traffic or economic problems of the north east, and, if built, it will damage the local, national and global environment irreparably. Scottish Government Ministers need to think again, and spend the money proposed for the AWPR on more sustainable, environmentally friendly public transport improvements instead.

Yours faithfully

- Colin Howden, Director, Transform Scotland
- Corinne Evans, Head of Projects and Campaigns, Friends of the Earth Scotland
- Dr Dan Barlow, Head of Policy, WWF Scotland
- Shiona Baird, Vice Convenor, Scottish Green Party

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