
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

**Title: CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
EXTENSION**

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Purpose

To inform the Board of progress with the extension of the Cairngorms National Park boundary as well as work that is underway to ensure a smooth transition.

Recommendations

- a) The Board is asked to note the report and raise any questions on the update provided.

Executive Summary

SNH have submitted their recommendations on the southern extension of the Park boundary to the Scottish Government and these have been laid before Parliament. The timing of the boundary change process should become clear soon. Work is underway with Perth and Kinross Council to plan for a smooth boundary transition.

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Background

1. In March 2008 Scottish Ministers announced their proposal to extend the Cairngorms National Park into Perth and Kinross **on, or approximately on**, the boundary proposed in John Swinney's Cairngorms National Park Boundary Bill. This boundary was in turn based on SNH's earlier advice in its *Report on the proposal for a National Park in the Cairngorms* in 2001.
2. Under Section 3 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, Ministers subsequently asked SNH to consult upon the proposal and to prepare a detailed proposal for the revised boundary by the end of 2008. *The Report on the Proposal to Extend the Southern Boundary of the Cairngorms National Park into Perth and Kinross and Summary of Responses* was duly submitted to the Scottish Government and was then laid before Parliament on 27 February 2009.
3. The timing of the next steps in bringing about the boundary change should become clear soon, when Ministers' conclusions from the wider National Parks Review consultation are announced.

Preparatory Work

4. In order to plan for a smooth transition, I have been liaising with Perth and Kinross Council's Head of Planning, Roland Bean. We have identified a range of issues and the respective staff contacts where policy or operational activities need to be linked. The nominated staff have now been charged with following up these issues/actions. Some of the issues/actions group naturally around particular themes so three workshops are being arranged on the topics of:
 - a) Access/Rangers;
 - b) Sustainable tourism/destination development;
 - c) Planning/Development Management.

Next Steps

5. I will continue to act as the point of co-ordination for the boundary extension work and will regularly liaise with Roland Bean to keep oversight and address any problems that arise. Information and/or decision reports will be presented to the Board as and when required.

Andrew Harper

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