

LOCAL COMMUNITY



Local Employment

The principal contractor for the Loch Toftingall BESS project is RJ McLeod. Its team is with us today, so please don't hesitate to speak to them about any potential opportunities around subcontracting or employment and training opportunities.

It is estimated that during construction, the proposals will contribute approximately £5 million to the Highland economy and generate 67 employment years.

Construction contracts will be made available locally where possible and indeed many are already in place for other local contracts. The same will apply to direct employment with those already currently employed from Caithness and Sutherland being moved to Loch Toftingall and there may be further opportunities as the project progresses.

Local Biodiversity

The scheme of habitat creation includes:

- 9.83 ha of blanket bog restoration;
- 2.03 ha of additional peatland habitat creation (within bunded peat cells);
- 3.01 ha of riparian planting along Allt Eirannaich and associated tributaries;
- 2.2 ha of natural woodland regeneration; and
- 0.92 ha of deciduous tree planting.

Local Community Funding

Boralex is committed to community benefits associated with its projects. Whilst there is no guidance around community benefit for BESS projects currently in place, principally because BESS is not physically generating renewable energy, we have taken a view that this project should contribute to the community which hosts it.

We have agreed that a fund of £7000 a year will be provided for the Spittal Village Hall in order to help progress further its development plans to support the local community. Over a 25-year period this would total £175,000.

This amount sits in line with the proposed revised guidance on onshore community benefits currently under review by the Scottish Government.

Business Rates

It is estimated that the proposal would contribute £500,000 per annum in non-domestic rates, about half of which would be directly useable by The Highland Council.