

PRESS RELEASE

SCDI RESPONSE TO SCOTLAND'S ENERGY FUTURE

30 June 2009

Responding to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Inquiry into Scotland's Energy Future, Gareth Williams, energy spokesperson for SCDI, said:

On Beaulay – Denny:

“The Committee is absolutely right that the Beaulay to Denny line is key to unlocking the huge potential of wind, wave and tidal power throughout the Highlands and Islands and is a vital part of Scotland and the UK's efforts to tackle climate change.

“Without this new connection and links to the islands, there will be severe constraints on renewables development and the loss of millions of pounds of investment and thousands of potential new jobs across remote and rural parts of the country.”

On nuclear:

“There are some very real questions still to be answered about how we replace Scotland's ageing power stations with secure and low carbon energy generation, and meet future demand for electricity without new nuclear generation. Scottish Power is at the very forefront of the development of carbon capture, SSE has announced plans for a new wave of investment in hydro, and offshore wind and marine renewables are developing fast, but business needs to know that these technologies can deliver affordable, reliable and secure energy in the necessary timescales.

“And if we are to meet electricity demand without new nuclear, then we absolutely need early completion of the Beaulay to Denny line, targeted financial support for new technologies like CCS, wave and tidal power, and faster and fairer access to the Grid for Scottish generators.”

On managing demand:

“We need to look at new ways of managing demand for heat and power, including more energy efficient buildings and the roll out of smart meters to all houses and businesses.”

ENDS

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