

**PE1540/O**

Machrihanish Airbase Community Company Email of 11 February 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find below a submission on behalf of The Machrihanish Airbase Community Company Directors:

**A83 Petition – Response by Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC)**

MACC is a charitable organisation, Registered Charity Number SC042435 that was set up by the community of postcode PA28 6 as a result of the successful community buy out of the former MOD Machrihanish Airbase under The Land Reform Act Scotland (2003). We are situated about 5 miles north of Campbeltown on the west coast. We are employing 233 people in an economic fragile area of Scotland. MACC has 54 tenancies on the former MOD Airbase at Machrihanish. These tenancies include 2 haulage companies and the Windtowers factory. Reliable access to the area is a major concern to MACC and all our tenants if we are to attract further inward investment and prevent declining populations in fragile rural communities. The Scottish Government is committed to reducing the decline of rural populations and support The Argyll and Bute Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023. In planning for success Argyll and Bute Council has set 6 long term outcomes which are:

1. The economy is diverse and thriving.
2. We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth.
3. Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all.
4. Children and young people have the best possible start.
5. People live active, healthier and independent lives.
6. People live in safer and stronger communities.

It will be paramount to have a permanent solution to the problems on the A 83 at The Rest and Be Thankful if both the Scottish Government in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council give any credence to these outcomes. Argyll and Bute's economy and credibility are adversely affected by the current temporary patch and mend solutions. Good transport links are vital to a prospering Argyll and Bute!

Yours faithfully

Andrew Hemmings  
Director MACC (on behalf of the MACC Board)