

Community Land Scotland Statement on Bays of Harris Estate Community Buyout Ballot

Community Land Scotland welcomes the forthcoming ballot on community ownership of the Bays of Harris Estate. Community land ownership is a well-established way of making communities more sustainable and resilient by delivering multiple local economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. Nowhere more so than in the Outer Hebrides where 75% of the population now lives on community-owned land.

As the examples of North and West Harris, and of Galson, Pairc, Carloway and elsewhere in the islands show, owning the land where they live has helped these communities unlock significant development opportunities and take a leading role in shaping their own futures.

The forthcoming ballot offers the community of the Bays of Harris Estate an opportunity to do the same. The feasibility study commissioned by the Bays of Harris Steering Group shows that community ownership of the Estate can help deliver the affordable housing, jobs, support for crofting, and community initiatives vital to securing the future of the community for generations to come.

Community Land Scotland therefore looks forward to supporting the community in pursuing the sustainable future that community ownership of the Bays of Harris Estate can bring if the community votes in favour of a community buyout.

Ailsa Raeburn
Chair
Community Land Scotland

