

## MEDIA INFORMATION FROM GREEN HIGHLAND RENEWABLES

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### **Green Highland Renewables commences work on new 807kW Hydro Scheme at Roroyere, Glen Lyon**

Work has started this week on a new Hydro energy initiative in Perthshire – the first of three small run-of-river hydro schemes in Glen Lyon to be developed by Aberfeldy-based Green Highland Renewables (GHR).

The scheme, that will have a total output of 807kW on completion, is costing some £1.8 million to develop and is being constructed under an option and lease agreement. It will take nine months to complete.

The Roroyere Hydro Scheme is part of the Glen Lyon Partnership hydro project which is a series of seven planned developments that has also required investment in 20 km of 33kV underground cabling in the Glen to enable connection to the National Grid.

Alastair Riddell, GHR Managing Director, sees hydro as an extremely sound investment with his company offering a number of different solutions to allow landowners to enter the market. He says:

“Scotland is absolutely ripe for more hydro power. We have been successfully using the technology here for more than 100 years. Our terrain and our climate are ideally suited to it, with many suitable sites in the Highlands for small and medium sized schemes.

“Glen Lyon is not unique – this formula can be replicated in many other locations through the Highlands, or where former hydro schemes have fallen into disrepair but are primed for re-development.”

GHR offers a number of different approaches to development including option and lease, joint ventures or project management, with consultancy services and operation and maintenance services also available. The company was founded in 2007 to capitalise on the emerging market in small scale hydro generation throughout Scotland, with Scottish & Southern Energy plc becoming an equity partner the following year.

Alastair Riddell says:

“The Forum for Renewable Energy Development (FREDs) 2008 study encouragingly identified 657 MW of small scale hydro that is economically capable of development throughout Scotland, with this figure being upgraded to 1.2GW of potential new hydro capacity in a more recent Scottish Government

update. The recent introduction of Feed-in-Tariffs (FITs) has also made small hydro scheme development even more attractive.

“We are actively looking for new opportunities with landowners who want to offset their own on-site energy demand and generate revenue from energy sales, and to work with them to transform the raw elements that they have on their ground into a marketable commodity.”

The major drawback to opening up far more of Scotland to hydro power is accessibility of the grid. Alastair Riddell says:

“To develop hydro, on any scale other than simple domestic supply is a major investment and, while the number and opportunity for grid connections are improving, there is still a way to go before this untapped resource will be anything close to delivering a fraction of its real potential, and making a significant contribution to Scotland’s overall renewable energy targets”

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