

*Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.*

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## **Flooding and Flood Management Inquiry**

### **Written submission by the Freshwater Taskforce of the Scottish Environment LINK**

LINK Freshwater Task Force welcomes the opportunity to present written evidence to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee for their Flooding and Flood Management Inquiry. The Freshwater Taskforce warmly welcomes the remit of this inquiry and we hope that the evidence we provide will be helpful in informing the future flooding policies. This written evidence focuses on key issues in relation to the new Flooding Bill and sustainable flood management; and the role of natural flood management in that process.

It has been widely recognised that our current approach to flooding is piece-meal and very reactive, largely limited to flood warning and hard engineering. Most floods to date have resulted in the building of embankments and flood walls to keep water out from vulnerable homes and businesses. However, hard engineering can make the problem worse – by moving large amount of water downstream faster and causing flooding elsewhere. The situation is likely to get worse due to climate change. Scotland is predicted to get wetter and stormier, increasing the risk of all forms of flooding. It is therefore clear that a new approach to dealing with floods is needed. Freshwater Task Force members have therefore warmly welcomed the huge opportunity presented by the forthcoming Scottish Flooding Bill and are keen to constructively input into its development, through the Flooding inquiry, Flooding Bill Advisory Group and through a wider dialogue with Government and other stakeholders.

The following organisations are members of the Freshwater Taskforce and support this submission:

**RSPB Scotland, WWF Scotland, Buglife, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust**



*for a living planet*



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for everyone

