



Scottish
Environment
LINK



Scotland's climate coalition

17th August 2026

Dear Mark Ruskell MSP,

Congratulations on your re-election to the Scottish Parliament and your election as Convener of the Rural Affairs Committee.

[Scottish Environment LINK](#) and [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#), Scotland's nature and climate coalitions, recommend that the Rural Affairs Committee include **wildfire management and resilience** as an item on your workplan for this year. Given the severe fire in Abernethy and other recent wildfires around the country, it is critical that the Scottish Government develops at pace an effective strategy for limiting the number and scale of wildfires each year. This strategy must be developed in conjunction with land managers, and must support progress towards nature restoration and emissions reduction targets, not undermine these efforts.

The issue is complex and nuanced, so **we recommend a series of sessions on the subject**. Committee scrutiny would help to ensure that the Scottish Government considers a wide range of perspectives and evidence when developing their plans. Scottish Environment LINK have a wildfire subgroup which includes land-owning eNGOs who could provide evidence.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. Both of our organisations look forward to working with you and your committee colleagues over the course of this Parliament.

Sincerely,

Dan Paris
Director of Policy & Engagement
Scottish Environment LINK

Amanda Grimm
Advocacy Lead
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with 50 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is Scotland's climate coalition, bringing together over 70 civil society organisations campaigning together on climate change. Together, we represent over 1 million people across Scotland. We collaborate to build public support for fair, effective policies to reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts and support international climate justice.