

Salmond gives major boost to



First Minister
Alex Salmond
with Douglas
McAdam

First Minister salutes contribution of landowners and estates at AGM

First Minister The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP gave a major boost to landowners and estates in a landmark address to the Scottish Land & Estates AGM at Mansfield Traquair in Edinburgh.

In the most positive recognition of the contribution of land businesses by a leading political figure, Mr Salmond told the audience of more than 200: "Your actions and decisions have a lasting impact on the Scottish economy and on the prosperity and wellbeing of communities throughout the land."

Mr Salmond announced plans for a dedicated Rural Modern Apprenticeship initiative, teaching land-based skills required for rural businesses and individuals to flourish.

The initiative, which is to be examined by an industry and Government working group, was proposed by Scottish Land & Estates and warmly welcomed by the First Minister.

Mr Salmond acknowledged the role Scottish Land & Estates played in the Tenant Farming Forum and also its partnership with Government in running demonstration days, which help rural businesses to diversify.

He also cited farming, forestry and sporting estates as traditional sectors still important to the modern Scottish economy and the

significant role landowners have played in renewables development, tourism and affordable housing over the past 20 years.

The First Minister also stated that "the role of landowners is not simply economic. Effective land use is also at the heart of building sustainable communities in rural areas.

"For example, landowners have an important role in the delivery of affordable housing."

Mr Salmond said that Scottish Government investment on broadband will be focused on rural and remote areas, where the market is least likely to deliver best access.

The First Minister concluded:

"I hope that this speech demonstrates the Scottish Government's desire to maintain a serious and wide-ranging dialogue with Scottish Land & Estates."

The full text of the First Minister's speech can be found online, which we strongly encourage you to read in full.

www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/agm



Luke Borwick
Chairman

Douglas
McAdam
CEO

Chairman's and CEO's address

Luke Borwick, Chairman of Scottish Land & Estates, told the AGM: "Landowners and estates can make things happen.

"We can and do deliver on tourism, agriculture, employment, energy, housing and environmental stewardship - all of which are universal goals for those with the interests of

rural Scotland at heart. We should be long beyond fighting the battles of the past. Landowners and estates are willing, ready and able partners.

"Working in partnership is the way forward and our members willingly work with all levels of Government and stakeholders and communities across the land-based sector."

Chief Executive Douglas McAdam said in his address: "We are working to four key principles that guide our work: 1. quantifying and promoting the contribution and future potential of our members to the sustainable economic growth of Scotland, 2. an evidence-based approach to all our policy and communications work, thus relying on substance and fact, 3. achieving recognition that estates

and rural business deliver a huge amount of public good from significant private investment, often from overseas and that this should be welcomed 4. to bridge the gap between policy and action, delivered by our members, to deliver practical, workable outcomes on the ground."

Brian
Pack OBE



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