# Scottish Government faces backlash over Flamingo Land approval amid flood and traffic concerns



The approval of the Flamingo Land resort at Loch Lomond, a decision that has ignited substantial controversy and protest, has drawn sharp comparisons to the contentious establishment of Donald Trump’s golf course in Aberdeenshire. The Green Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP), Ross Greer, has been vocal in his criticism, particularly following the Scottish Government's refusal to overturn officials' endorsement of the £40 million Lomond Banks project, despite overwhelming local opposition.

Once initially rejected by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority in September last year, the proposal faced significant backlash, receiving over 65,000 objections—marking it as the most opposed planning application in Scottish history. Public sentiment has been remarkably strong, with a vast coalition of environmental groups and local residents rallying against the development, voicing concerns over flood risks, increased traffic, and potential harm to local businesses.

Greer asserted the parallels between the two cases, stating, "In 2008, this Scottish Government intervened to overturn Aberdeenshire Council's rejection of Donald Trump's Menie golf course." He expressed disappointment over the apparent reluctance of ministers to intervene in the Flamingo Land case, especially given warnings from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regarding flood protection violations and existing road congestion issues.

Public Finance Minister Ivan McKee responded to these claims, emphasising that the Reporter—an independent planning official—had conducted a thorough assessment of the case and reached a judicious opinion based on established regulations. He noted that "49 conditions" would be imposed on the developer prior to any construction, indicating a framework intended to mitigate potential negative impacts.

Calls for further scrutiny have also emerged from various conservation organisations. The Woodland Trust has explicitly objected to the development, echoing concerns about the irreversible loss of ancient woodland that cannot be counterbalanced by new planting initiatives. Alistair Seaman, director of Woodland Trust Scotland, highlighted the fragility of local ecosystems, warning that the new development could significantly degrade the environment over time.

Despite these environmental concerns and the fierce local opposition, including a petition signed by over 150,000 individuals, the project continues to move forward. Critics have raised alarms over the potential influx of traffic, estimating an increase of 250 vehicles per hour during peak times—an alarming prospect for the already congested A82 road.

As the planning process evolves, the future of the Lomond Banks resort remains uncertain. With experts and local citizens voicing significant apprehensions, it is incumbent upon the Scottish Government to scrutinise thoroughly the implications of such developments in sensitive areas. The controversy surrounding Flamingo Land serves as a crucial touchpoint in the ongoing discussion of balancing economic development and environmental preservation in Scotland.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/flamingo-land-mega-resort-loch-35257857> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23423581.loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-most-objected-scots-history/> - A proposal to build a Flamingo Land holiday resort at Loch Lomond has become the most objected-to plan in Scottish history, with over 65,000 objections. The development includes a £30 million project with a waterpark, hotels, and lodges, sparking significant opposition from local communities and environmental groups.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm221w10wxo> - The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority unanimously rejected Flamingo Land's £40 million Lomond Banks resort proposal, citing concerns over flood risk, increased traffic, and impact on local businesses. Over 174,000 people signed a petition against the development.
4. <https://greens.scot/news/150000-oppose-disastrous-flamingo-land-proposal-for-loch-lomond> - Over 150,000 people have lodged objections against Flamingo Land's proposal for a mega-resort on the banks of Loch Lomond, making it the most unpopular planning application in Scottish history. The development includes over 100 woodland lodges, two hotels, a waterpark, and a monorail.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c19d8kvd0m8o> - Flamingo Land's proposal for a resort on the shores of Loch Lomond, featuring a waterpark and monorail, faces its final planning decision. The development has been met with strong opposition, with over 150,000 people signing a petition against it.
6. <https://news.stv.tv/west-central/loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-rejected-by-park-authority> - Flamingo Land's £40 million holiday resort proposal on the banks of Loch Lomond has been rejected by the park authority, ending a six-year-long battle. The development included over 100 lodges, two hotels, a waterpark, monorail, and 372 parking spaces.
7. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24588607.flamingo-lands-loch-lomond-development-plans-rejected/> - Flamingo Land's Lomond Banks development plans have been rejected by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority. The proposal included two hotels, over 100 self-catering lodges, a waterpark, and other amenities on the southernmost point of Loch Lomond.