



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **WEST-COAST LANDSLIP EMPHASISES NEED FOR SKYE AND LOCHALSH ABATTOIR, SAYS SCF**

The landslip which has blocked the A890 road at Stromeferry for almost a month emphasises the need for an abattoir in Skye and Lochalsh, says the Scottish Crofting Federation.

The SCF maintains that closure of the A890 exacerbates the difficulties facing west coast crofters and farmers who currently have to take their animals to Dingwall for slaughter.

SCF crofting resources programme manager, Donald Murdie, said: "Taking animals from some parts of north Skye for slaughter at Dingwall, with a stock box, is already a three and a half hour journey. The landslip at Stromeferry means that anyone travelling from Skye and Lochalsh to Dingwall has to go via Invermoriston instead. This will put about another hour on top of what is already a very long journey to Dingwall.

"The uncertainty about the A890 and its future increases the case for an abattoir for Skye and Lochalsh. At the moment the SCF is in the process of putting an application in to the Scottish Government for funding to cover the cost of a study into options for an appropriately sized community owned abattoir in Skye and Lochalsh."

Highland Council confirmed this week that there will be no restrictions on the carriage of livestock on the temporary ferry at Stromeferry, provided the total weight of the vehicle carrying the animals is less than 10 tonnes.

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