



**May 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Sir Michael Strang Steel  
Chairperson  
EYCDC  
C/O Waterwheel Cafe  
Philiphaugh  
Selkirk

Dear Sir Michael

**Re: Application for Land Purchase**

I am writing on behalf of the Ettrick and Yarrow Tourism Association (EYTA) to express our support for the application from EYCDC to purchase the land that includes part of Gamescleuch Forest and the Ettrick Marshes.

Our tourism association has felt for a long time that the Ettrick Marshes offers great potential for further developing tourism in the area, both through bringing in day visitors as well as offering remote and innovative accommodation experiences.

Evidence shows that the development of attractions and associated support facilities increases visitor numbers. We feel that the planned development of this land has significant potential for tourism development and expect that it will help to both protect existing tourism related jobs in the valleys as well as create some new employment through the emergence of new businesses. At the same time having this area of special significance for flora and fauna under the control of the local community will protect this area for future generations.

In anticipation that this bid is successful, we look forward to working in partnership with EYCDC to take forward the future plans.

Yours sincerely

**Linda Jackson**  
Chair  
Ettrick & Yarrow Tourism Association