

Caledonian MacBrayne
Clyde & Hebridean Ferries

Community Feedback and Revised Vessel Deployment, Disposal and Cascade Plan

25 September 2026



Introduction



- The Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) fleet is entering a period of significant transition with:
 - › Delivery of new Islay Class vessels.
 - › Entry into service of MV Glen Rosa.
 - › Planned redelivery of older vessels.
 - › Continuing infrastructure constraints across parts of the network.
 - › Risks associated with further delays to vessel delivery programmes.
- In December 2025, we published our Strategic Vessel Deployment, Disposal and Cascade Plan to explain how these changes would affect services and the communities we serve.
- Since publication, consultation has been undertaken with communities likely to be affected by strategic vessel deployment decisions.
- Using the feedback gathered from communities, coupled with operational assessments, vessel condition reports, capacity modelling and financial assessments, we have made changes to our original plans so that the services we deliver better meet the needs of our communities.
- The revised proposal balances community priorities and route requirements with capacity, wider network resilience, financial sustainability and fleet transition risks.

Why your feedback mattered



- Local communities understand their routes better than anyone else.
- We wanted to understand what was priority to each community before making final recommendations.
- The feedback received has directly informed the revised VDD&CP.
- Your feedback supported the completion of an Island Community Impact Assessment (ICIA) Screening Assessment. Available on our [website](#)

What we heard across communities



- The following common themes were raised during consultations with Isle of Arran, Isle of Barra and Isle of Mull, and engagement with Isle of Coll, Isle of Tiree and Isle of Colonsay:
 - › Provision of a reliable and resilient ferry services is the primary priority alongside capacity
 - › Providing confidence during the transition to new vessels is essential
 - › Communities were keen to retain vessels that are proven and known to work well
 - › It is vital that important connections to healthcare, education, employment and businesses were protected
 - › Consideration must be given as to how to reducing the risk of disruption when vessels are unavailable

Feedback and plans on network resilience



You said / We recognised	We amended our plan to	How this will help
Reliable services are essential during a period of fleet change and uncertainty around vessel deliveries.	Retain MV Isle of Arran until August 2027.	Strengthens resilience across the network and provides greater flexibility during overhauls, vessel failures and delivery delays.

What this means:

- More resilience vessels will be available whilst new vessels are being delivered resulting in:
 - › Fewer cancellations when ferries are out of service, helping you travel as planned
 - › More confidence to plan your journeys, with backup cover if new ferries arrive later than expected

Feedback and plans for Isle of Barra community



You said / We recognised	We amended our plan to	How this will help
Summer vehicle capacity was identified as the community's main priority. 81% of respondents asked for increased capacity with MV Glen Rosa/Sannox.	Deploy MV Glen Sannox during summer and MV Hebrides during winter.	Provides a significant increase in summer vehicle capacity while maintaining appropriate winter provision.

What this means:

- A better chance of booking a vehicle space for summer travel.
- Easier access for business vehicles and visitors, supporting the local economy.
- Ferry provision that better meets the community's summer and winter travel needs.

Feedback and plans for Isle of Mull community



You said / We recognised	We amended our plan to	How this will help
MV Isle of Mull remains the vessel best suited to the route with 97% of respondents preferring this option. MV Isle of Mull was preferred due to her capacity and service levels, and safe and efficient passenger access.	Retain MV Isle of Mull until replacement vessels are delivered.	Protects timetable reliability, onward transport connections and operational flexibility.

What this means:

- Greater confidence that sailings will run as planned until new ferries arrive.
- Continued safe and easy boarding, with capacity suited to the community’s needs.
- Less risk of missed onward connections, helping people complete their journeys.

Feedback from Isle of Arran community



You said / We recognised	We amended our plan to	How this will help
Retaining the Ardrossan connection for as long as possible was a major priority. Communities also wanted greater resilience and 49% of respondents asked for the retention of MV Caledonian Isles.	Remove MV Caledonian Isles from service due to her age and reliability. Operate MV Hebrides from Ardrossan in summer and MV Finlaggan from Ardrossan in winter alongside MV Glen Rosa from Troon, achieving a more resilient service than with MV Caledonian Isles.	Retains the Ardrossan link for longer, ensures the most reliable vessels are operating the route, improving resilience and increases capacity while the port remains open.

What this means:

- Continued travel via Ardrossan for residents and visitors while the port remains open.
- Less risk of cancelled journeys, with more reliable ferries serving Arran.
- A better chance of finding a vehicle space, supporting local travel and businesses.

Feedback and plan for Isles of Coll, Tiree and Colonsay community



You said / We recognised	We amended our plan to	How this will help
Communities wanted MV Clansman to remain on the route.	Retain MV Clansman and remove the planned Hebrides deployment.	Maintains a trusted vessel that is well suited to the route and berthing requirements.

What this means:

- Continued confidence in travelling on the familiar MV Clansman.
- Safe, dependable journeys on a ferry suited to local harbours.
- A ferry service that better reflects community needs and local preferences.

Next steps



Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation process. Your feedback has helped shape the revised vessel deployment plan. The recommendations reflect community priorities wherever operationally possible and aim to provide reliable, resilient and sustainable ferry services throughout a period of significant change across the fleet and network.

We will now:

- Formally communicate the refined plan to all communities.
- Monitor vessel delivery programmes.
- Engage with island communities.
- Refine deployment as new vessels enter service.