

**Board Direction BD-008930-21 ABP-306948-20** 

At a meeting held on 19/08/2021, the Board considered the report of the Planning Inspector, as well as the documents and submissions on file, in relation to the proposed development of a 20-turbine windfarm and associated infrastructure in the townlands of Knocknagappul, Ballynagree West, Ballynagree East, Carrigagulla and Annagannihy, County Cork.

The Board determined, in accordance with the Senior Planning Inspector's reasoning and recommendation, that the proposed development falls within the scope of Section 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). And would therefore constitute strategic infrastructure within the meaning of the Act, based on the reasons and considerations set out below. An application for permission for the proposed development must, therefore, be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

## Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the size, scale and location of the proposed windfarm and related development and to the policy context, it is considered that the proposed development comprising the development of a 20-turbine windfarm with associated infrastructure and the production of an overall energy output ranging between 118MW and 132MW, as well as the associated connection to the electricity grid infrastructure, constitutes development that falls within the definition of energy infrastructure in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, thereby satisfying the requirements set out in Section 37A(1) of the

Act. The proposed development is also considered to be of strategic importance by reference to the requirements of Sections 37A(2)(a) and 37A(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

**Board Member:** 

Dave Walsh

ABP-306948-20 Board Direction Page 2 of 2