

**Attn: Kieran Somers, Executive Officer**  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
DV01 V902

24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Our Ref:** 160815  
**Your Ref:** 07.PC0227

**Re: Proposed Wind Farm at Ardderroo, near Rosscahill, Co. Galway -  
Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Determination**

Dear Mr. Somers,

I refer to our previous Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pre-application consultation meeting held in relation to the proposed wind farm development at Ardderroo, near Rosscahill, Co. Galway on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

On behalf of our clients, Ardderroo Windfarm Limited, we wish to acknowledge receipt of the written record of the pre-application consultation meeting held in relation to this project on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016. We have no additional comments to make in relation to the circulated minutes.

**Pre-Application Consultation Review**

The Board will be aware that the applicants wish to progress an application for the proposed Ardderroo Wind Farm as soon as practicable, and that two pre-application consultation meetings have now been held. As advised by the Board in our previous pre-determination meeting, the project team have engaged with of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), and with other prescribed bodies, including the Planning Authority, and interested parties in respect of the content and scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and design of the proposed development.

**Formal Request to Close Pre-Application Consultation and Issue SID Determination**

In light of the comprehensive studies that have been carried out and discussions that have taken place with the Board and other stakeholders in relation to the project, the prospective applicant now wishes to formally close the pre-application consultation process and request that the Board carry out its determination under the provisions of Section 37B(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

As presented in our previous discussions with the Board, the proposed development represents a wind farm scheme comprising of in excess of 25 no. turbines, 1 no. 110kV substation, 1 no. permanent meteorological mast and ancillary infrastructure.

### **SID Determination Criteria**

In order to be considered as Strategic Infrastructure Development, any project must satisfy the thresholds established in the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and also satisfy one or more of the three criteria set out in section 37A(2).

The relevant threshold established in the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule for the current project is "An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total power output greater than 50MW". As discussed at our last meeting the proposed development will be for a wind farm with in excess of 25 turbines and will have an output in excess 50 MW. The proposal will therefore exceed both the turbine number and generating capacity thresholds specified in the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule.

Under Section 37A(2) of the Act, for a project to be considered as SID it must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- 1. The development must be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the Region in which it would be situate;**
- 2. The development would contribute substantially to the fulfillment of any of the objectives in the National Spatial Strategy or in any regional planning guidelines in force in respect of the area in which it would be situate;**
- 3. The development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.**

The consideration of the project in the context of these criteria has been set out in detail in our previous correspondence, as acknowledged in the circulated minutes.

As the proposed development exceeds the relevant thresholds set out in the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule and satisfies two of the three criteria (1 and 2 above) set out in section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended) it is contended that the project does constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development, as such we look forward to the determination of the Board in this regard.


### **Proposed Application Documentation**

Similar to the previous SID application on this site (PA0036) we intend to submit the following with any future planning application for the proposed development:

- Required Application forms, notices and drawings etc.;
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – assessing all the relevant criteria (Human Beings, Noise, landscape, Noise, Flora and Fauna, Geology/Soils, Hydrology, Air and Climate, Cultural Heritage etc.) including an assessment of any potential cumulative effects, and
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

As discussed at our pre-application consultation meeting, we understand that the Board will issue any further direction in terms of notices, procedures and consultee's etc. in writing. We trust the above is in order and request that a determination issue on this case at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

  
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J.J. Green, B.A., M.R.U.P. MIPI  
Senior Planner  
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd.

