

# Inspector's Report ABP-319139-24

Development

9 No. wind turbines, grid connection,

an energy storage facility and all

associated site works.

Location

The townlands of Garrane,

Ballynagoul, Creggane and

Charleville, Co. Limerick.

**Planning Authority** 

Limerick City and County Council

**Prospective Applicant** 

Garrane Green Energy Limited

Type of Application

Pre-application consultation under

Section 37B of the Planning and

Development Act, 2000, as amended.

**Date of Site Inspection** 

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

Inspector

Robert Speer

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The Board received a request on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 from Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd., Consulting Engineers, on behalf of Garrane Green Energy Ltd. (the prospective applicant) to enter into pre-application consultations under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, in relation to the proposed development of up to 9 No. wind turbines, a grid connection, an energy storage facility and all associated site works in the townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul, Creggane and Charleville, Co. Limerick.
- 1.2. A total of 3 No. meetings were held remotely with the prospective applicant and its representatives on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. Closure of the pre-application consultation was requested by letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1. The proposed development site (the 'Garrane Study Area') is located in the rural townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul & Creggane, Co. Limerick, approximately 2.1km northeast of Charleville, Co. Cork (at its nearest point), where it adjoins the administrative boundary between Counties Cork and Limerick. Broadly speaking, it is bounded by the N20 National Road to the west and by Local Road No. L1537 to the east with agricultural fields to the north and south.
- 2.2. The surrounding area is characterised by a gently undulating rural landscape dominated by agricultural lowlands bounded by mature hedgerow and interspersed with intermittent instances of individual farmsteads and one-off rural housing. The River Maigue flows in a northerly direction alongside the site from Garroose Bridge on Local Road No. L1537 towards the village of Bruree further downstream with a considerable expanse of the wider site lying within the fluvial floodplain of that river and its tributaries. The Blackwater River (Cork / Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002170) lies approximately 6.8km to the south with the Ballyhoura Mountains Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002036) c. 9km to the southeast and the Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004161) located c. 24km to the west.

## 3.0 Proposed Development

- 3.1. The proposed development, as initially detailed in the consultation request, consists of the construction of up to 9 No. wind turbines (with a maximum tip height of up to 185m), each typically of approximately 6MW to 7.2MW, with a combined output of up to 54MW, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to approximately 150MW capacity, and a 110kV substation with a 110kV grid connection to the Charleville substation (Co. Cork), or alternatively, a 110kV 'loop-in' substation connecting to the Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line (which traverses the south-eastern corner of the study area).
- 3.2. During the initial consultation meeting, the prospective applicant indicated that it was proposed to develop a 'loop-in' grid connection to the existing Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line.
- 3.3. In advance of the second consultation meeting, correspondence from the prospective applicant stated that the proposed development would comprise the construction of up to 9 No. turbines (varying in height from 169m to 172m depending on existing ground levels), each of approximately 6MW with a combined output of up to 54MW, and a 110kV on-site substation with a 110kV grid connection to the Charleville substation (Co. Cork), or alternatively, a 110kV 'loop-in' substation connecting to the Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line. The Battery Energy Storage System originally proposed was no longer to form part of any Strategic Infrastructure Development application.
- 3.4. At the meeting itself, the prospective applicant detailed an intention to assess 2 No. turbine models (the Vestas V150 6MW and the Nordex N149 5.7MW) giving rise to a Maximum Export Capacity of 51.3MW or 54MW with planning permission to be sought for a single turbine model (there was no 'design flexibility' request). It was also re-stated that the proposed development would be served by a 'loop-in' grid connection to the existing Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line.
- 3.5. At the third and final consultation meeting, the Board's representatives sought clarity as to the design strategy for the proposed turbines and advised the prospective applicant that without entering the 'Design Flexibility' process any application should be made on the basis of a single turbine type and that the assessment of same in

- the EIAR and any NIS should be concerned only with the turbine type for which permission is sought.
- 3.6. In its request for closure of the pre-application consultations, the prospective applicant confirmed that only one turbine type would be assessed in the EIAR / NIS and that flexibility as regards the turbine type was not being sought.

## 4.0 Relevant Planning History

# 4.1. The Proposed Development Site / Garrane Study Area:

There are multiple examples of planning applications having been lodged for a variety of domestic and agricultural developments in the study area with the notable exception of the following:

- PA Ref. No. 17/270. Was granted on 28th June, 2017 permitting Kerry Ingredients (Ireland) Limited permission for the installation of an underground pumped outfall pipeline for the conveyance of treated wastewater from its wastewater treatment plant at Rathgoggan North, Co. Cork, to a discharge point on the river located approximately 2km north of the wastewater treatment plant site. The outfall pipeline installation (which forms part of an upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment plant at Rathgoggan North) is routed across agricultural lands in the townlands of Creggane and Garrane in Co. Limerick to a discharge point on the River Maigue (the upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment plant at Rathgoggan North, including a section of the new outfall pipeline within the wastewater treatment plant site, will be the subject of a separate planning application to Cork County Council). The development works relate to an activity for which a revised Industrial Emissions Directive Licence is required. All at Creggane & Garrane, Co. Limerick.

#### 5.0 Precedent Cases

5.1. There have been a number of pre-application consultations concluded within the last year for wind farm developments of a comparable scale. Examples include the following:

ABP Ref. No.		Date Signed	Proposed Development	Decision
ABP-311299-2	1 Gortloughra,	31st May, 2024	Construction of 8 No. wind	Is not Sig
	Kealkill, Bantry,		turbines with an overall	
	Co. Cork.		capacity of 48MW.	
ABP-314463-2	2 Drehid, Co.	19th April, 2024	Construction of 11 No.	Is SID
	Kildare.		turbines with a total power	
			output of 52MW and	
			associated infrastructure.	
ABP-315655-23	The townlands of	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2024	Construction of 10 No.	Is SID
	Brittas,		turbines with a maximum	
	Rossestown and		export capacity of between	
	Clobanna, near		57MW and 66MW (and all	
	Thurles, Co.		associated infrastructure).	
	Tipperary.			
ABP-317307-23	The townlands of	1 <sup>st</sup> February,	Construction of 11 No.	Is SID
	Beagh More,	2024	turbines with an overall	13 012
	Cloonber,		output of over 50MW with	
	Cloonnaglasha,		associated infrastructure.	
	Cloonsheen,			
	Cloonteen,		ŀ	
	Corillaun,			
	Derrymore,			
	Shancloon,			
	Toberroe and			
	Tonacooleen, Co.	j		
	Galway.			
ABP-318203-23	The townlands of	27 <sup>th</sup> November,	Proposed windfarm	Is SID
	Ballinla,	2024	development of 7 No.	10015
	Ballybrittan and	ĺ	turbines, 110kV substation	
	Leitrim in the		and associated works.	
	municipal district			
	of Edenderry, Co.	ł		
	Offaly.			
ABP-318714-23	Briskalagh and	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2024	Proposed development of 7	Is not SID
	surrounding		No. wind turbines (with a	.9 110, 010

ABP-319215-24	townlands, north of Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny.		projected output of less than 50MW), grid connection and associated infrastructure.	
	Knockshanvo and adjacent townlands, Co. Clare.	15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024	Proposed development of 9 No. wind turbines with an overall output of over 50MW and all associated infrastructure.	Is SID

# 6.0 Prospective Applicant's Case

- By reference to the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the proposed development consists of the construction of up to 9 No. wind turbines, each typically of approximately 6MW – 7.2MW, with a combined output of up to 54MW.
- The proposed development should be regarded as Strategic Infrastructure Development as it satisfies the criteria set out in Section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, as follows:
  - a) The development is of national strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate:
    - The project will make a significant economic contribution to the region and the country as a whole (such as through economic activity related to employment creation). It will also make a meaningful contribution to the achievement of Ireland's renewable energy targets and will meet the objectives of the Climate Action Plan, 2021.
    - There is a commitment in the Climate Action Plan, 2023 to increase the reliance on renewable electricity generation from 30% to 80% by 2030 with key targets for total installed capacity including 9GW of onshore wind, 8GW of solar, and at least 5GW of offshore wind. Given that current onshore wind capacity nationally stands at c. 4.2GW, the proposed development will contribute positively to the decarbonisation of the electricity network and thus is of strategic social importance. The Climate Action Plan, 2023 also highlights the need to remove barriers

to the development of renewables, including onshore wind, such as by streamlining regulation and encouraging reinforcement of the grid to facilitate greater renewables penetration.

- The Government has declared that Ireland is in the midst of a climate and biodiversity emergency while the Environmental Protection Agency has stated that future impacts associated with climate change will include:
  - o more intense storm and rainfall events;
  - o increased likelihood and magnitude of river and coastal flooding;
  - o water shortages in summer in the east;
  - o adverse impacts on water quality; and
  - changes in the distribution of plant and animal species.
- b) The development would contribute significantly to the fulfilment of any of the objectives of the National Spatial Strategy or any regional planning guidelines in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate:
  - Project Ireland: 2040:

The National Development Plan, 2018-2027 will guide strategic development and infrastructure investment at a national level and sets out investment priorities of €21.8 billion for climate action for the tenyear period. This (and other) substantial funding will facilitate the upscaling of investments and implementation of actions needed to move the country towards the 2030 climate targets.

In the energy sector, the transition to a low carbon economy from renewable sources of energy is an integral part of Ireland's climate change strategy and renewable energies are a means of reducing the reliance on fossil fuels.

The proposal will meet the objectives of the National Planning Framework, including NPO 54 which aims to 'Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate change into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions' and NPO 55 which seeks to 'Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050'.

- The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region:

  The RSES provides a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework to support the implementation of the NPF for the future physical, economic and social development of the Southern Region. It recognises and supports many opportunities for onshore wind as a major source of renewable energy. Opportunities for both commercial and community wind energy projects should be harnessed, having regard to the requirements of the Department's 'Wind Energy Development, Guidelines for Planning Authorities'. In conjunction with current and emerging technologies, wind energy has an important role to play in delivering value and clean electricity for Ireland. The following policy objectives are of particular relevance:
  - RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy: It is an objective to support the development of a Regional Renewable Energy Strategy with relevant stakeholders.
  - RPO 99 Renewable Wind Energy: It is an objective to support
    the sustainable development of renewable wind energy (on
    shore and offshore) at appropriate locations and related grid
    infrastructure in the Region in compliance with national Wind
    Energy Guidelines.
  - RPO 100 Indigenous Renewable Energy Production and Grid Injection: It is an objective to support the integration of indigenous renewable energy production and grid injection.

The proposed development will contribute to the economic, environmental and social objectives of the NPF and it is critical that a pro-active approach is taken to the development of wind energy in order to achieve an 80% share of electricity being generated by renewables by 2030 and beyond.

At an output level of up to 54MW and a BESS capacity of up to 150MW, the proposed development will contribute significantly to the renewable energy targets and strategy supported in the RSES.

- c) The development would have significant effects on the area of more than one planning authority:
  - Although the project is located entirely within Co. Limerick, it will be close to the boundary shared with Co. Cork. Therefore, possible significant effects, either direct or indirect, on the administrative area of the adjoining Planning Authority will be assessed.
- Given that the proposed development exceeds the threshold set out in the Seventh Schedule and satisfies the criteria contained in section 37A(2) of the Act, it is submitted that the project constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development being a wind farm having a total output greater than 50MW.

## 7.0 Pre-Application Consultation

- 7.1. A series of 3 No. pre-application consultation meetings were held with the prospective applicant (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 & 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2024) over the course of which refinements were made to the type and layout of the turbines proposed, clarity was provided as regards the 'loop-in' connection to the national grid via the existing Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line, and confirmation was given that the Battery Energy Storage System originally proposed was to no longer form part of any Strategic Infrastructure Development application.
- 7.2. The principal matters raised related to:
  - Procedural matters
  - Policy context
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - The need for a robust and comprehensive analysis to support screening for the purposes of appropriate assessment and any Natura Impact Statement

(particularly in light of potential hydrological and ornithological connectivity pathways).

- Hydrological and flood risk management considerations
- Geo-technical assessment as regards ground conditions
- Residential amenities and separation distances
- Traffic considerations (including the proposed access arrangement via the N20 National Road)
- Archaeological and heritage implications
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Clarity as regards the prospective applicant's intention in relation to any design flexibility.

#### 8.0 Legislative Provisions

- 8.1. **Section 2(1)** of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, defines 'strategic infrastructure' as including, inter alia:
  - '(a) any proposed development in respect of which a notice has been served under section 37B(4)(a)'.
- 8.2. Section 37A of the Act requires an application for permission for any development specified in the Seventh Schedule to be made directly to the Board under Section 37E provided that, following consultations under Section 37B, the Board serves notice in writing on the prospective applicant stating that, in its opinion, the proposed development would fall within one or more of the following paragraphs:
  - (a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,
  - (b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,

- (c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.
- 8.3. Section 37B of the Act requires any person proposing to apply for permission for any development specified in the Seventh Schedule to enter into consultations with the Board in relation to the proposed development.
- 8.4. The Seventh Schedule of the Act defines infrastructure developments for the purposes of sections 37A and 37B and includes the following category of development under Class 1: 'Energy Infrastructure':

'An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts'.

# 9.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

9.1. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, transposes Annex I and II of the EIA Directive and sets out prescribed classes of development, for which an environmental impact assessment is required. The following classes are noted:

Part 2: Class 3 (i):

'Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts'.

# 10.0 Appropriate Assessment:

- 10.1. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are the Blackwater River (Cork / Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002170) approximately 6.8km to the south and the Ballyhoura Mountains Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002036) c. 9km to the southeast. The Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004161) is located c. 24km to the west.
- 10.2. The applicant intends to submit an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and a Natura Impact Assessment as necessary.

#### 11.0 Assessment

## 11.1. Seventh Schedule Development:

- 11.1.1. The proposed development will comprise the construction of 9 No. wind turbines each with an output of between 5.7MW and 6MW giving a combined Maximum Export Capacity of between 51.3MW and 54MW (with planning permission to be sought for a single turbine model and no 'design flexibility' request having been made) and a 110kV substation with a 'loop-in' connection to the existing Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line.
- 11.1.2. The Battery Energy Storage System originally proposed is no longer to form part of any Strategic Infrastructure Development application.
- 11.1.3. The current SID thresholds are set out within the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. The relevant threshold for the proposed 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 output greater than 50 megawatts'.
- 11.1.4. Having regard to the combined generating capacity of the proposed development, I am satisfied that the development accords with Section 37A(1) of the Act.

### 11.2. Section 37A(2) Criteria:

Pursuant to Section 37A(2) of the Act, the proposed development must fall within one or more of the following conditions:

11.2.1. (a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,

The prospective applicant's case is that the proposal satisfies the conditions under Section 37A(2)(a) of the Act on the basis that it will make a significant economic contribution to the region and the State (with specific reference having been made to the employment creation and economic activity generated during the construction phase). Moreover, it has been asserted that the proposed development of up to 9 No. turbines on site will make a meaningful contribution to the achievement of Ireland's renewable energy targets along with the objectives of the Climate Action

- Plan, 2023 (with the positive influence of the development on the de-carbonisation of the electricity network considered to be of strategic social importance).
- 11.2.2. In my opinion, the development would be of strategic economic and social importance to the State due to the significant economic contribution to the region and to the country as a whole. It has the potential to have a significant impact in realising Ireland's international, European and national commitments as regards the provision of energy from renewable sources and achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions with a view to transitioning to a low carbon and climate resilient society. The project will contribute to the State's renewable energy targets and will meet the objectives of the Climate Action Plan, 2024 in a sustainable way through the provision of 9 No. turbines which will be connected to the national grid. The proposed development will assist in meeting national renewable energy targets and will also result in reductions in carbon emissions from electricity generation while reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels.
- 11.2.3. Having regard to the national and regional policy context and the details of the subject proposal outlined above, I am satisfied that the development would be of strategic economic importance to the State and the Region and would, therefore, comply with the condition set out in section 37A(2)(a) of the Act.
- 11.2.4. (b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,

The prospective applicant states that the proposed development would contribute to the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the provisions of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region. Having reviewed the NPF, I note following relevant National Policy Objectives (NPOs) which aim to reduce the State's carbon footprint and promote renewable energy:

 NPO 54: Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

- NPO 55: Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.
- 11.2.5. At a regional level, the RSES for the Southern Region advocates for the transition towards a low carbon economy and climate resilient society across all sectors. It further recognises and supports the importance of wind as a major source of renewable energy in delivering value and clean electricity for Ireland. Relevant Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) include the following:
  - RPO 87: Low Carbon Energy Future:

The RSES is committed to the implementation of the Government's policy under Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-30 and Climate Action Plan 2019. It is an objective to promote change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced GHG emissions in accordance with current and future national targets, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy sources across the key sectors of electricity supply, heating, transport and agriculture.

RPO 95: Sustainable Renewable Energy Generation:

It is an objective to support implementation of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), and the Offshore Renewable Energy Plan and the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in their respective SEA and AA and leverage the Region as a leader and innovator in sustainable renewable energy generation.

RPO 99: Renewable Wind Energy:

It is an objective to support the sustainable development of renewable wind energy (on shore and off shore) at appropriate locations and related grid infrastructure in the Region in compliance with national Wind Energy Guidelines.

RPO219: New Energy Infrastructure:

It is an objective to support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure by infrastructure providers (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the Region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs.

- 11.2.6. Having regard to the above, I am satisfied that the development would meet the relevant national policy objectives of the NPF and would serve to fulfil the relevant regional policy objectives of the RSES for the Southern Region. The development would, therefore, satisfy the requirement set out in section 37A(2)(b) of the Act.
- 11.2.7. (c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

Although the proposed development site (also identified as the 'Garrane Study Area') is fully contained within the area of one planning authority (Limerick City and County Council), it directly adjoins the administrative boundary of another planning authority, namely, Cork County Council, and is located approximately 2.1km northeast of the town of Charleville in Co. Cork. It is of further relevance to note the site location alongside the principal road corridor (the N20 National Road) between Charleville and Co. Limerick and the proximity of the site to certain properties / receptors in Co. Cork. The proposed development site / study area would also appear to include part of those lands subject to an Industrial Emissions licence (Ref. No. P0386-04) issued to Kerry Ingredients (Ireland) Limited (which extends across the administrative boundary between Counties Cork and Limerick).

- 11.2.8. The Board may also wish to consider any implications arising from the prospective applicant's original proposal for a grid connection via the Charleville substation (Co. Cork), although it has since been confirmed that a 110kV 'loop-in' substation will be developed to connect to the existing Charleville to Kilonan 110kV overhead line (which traverses the south-eastern corner of the study area).
- 11.2.9. On the basis of the foregoing, it is my opinion that the potential arises for significant effects to arise on the area of more than one planning authority as a result of impacts on factors such as traffic, visual, and amenity considerations. Therefore, I am satisfied that the proposed development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority. Accordingly, I am of the opinion that the

proposal would come within the scope of this requirement to be considered as complying with section 37A(2)(c) of the Act.

#### 11.3. Prescribed Bodies:

- 11.3.1. In view of the scale, nature, and location of the proposed development, as described in this report, it is recommended that the prospective applicant should consult with the prescribed bodies listed in the attached Appendix in respect of any future application for approval.
- 11.3.2. **Note**: The prospective applicant should be advised to submit a standalone document (which may form part of the EIAR) with the planning application, which outlines the mitigation measures, in the interest of convenience and ease of reference.

## 12.0 Recommendation

- 12.1. Based on the foregoing assessment, it can be concluded that the proposed development would exceed the threshold set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and therefore satisfies Section 37A(1) of the Act. It can also be concluded that the development is of strategic importance by reference to the requirements of Section 37A(2)(a), Section 37A(2)(b) and Section 37A(2)(b) of the Act.
- 12.2. I recommend that the Board serve a notice on the prospective applicant, pursuant to Section 37(B)(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, stating that it is of the opinion that the proposed development constitutes a strategic infrastructure development within the meaning of Section 37A of the Act for the reasons and considerations set out below

## 13.0 Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the size, scale and location of the proposed wind farm and related development, and to the policy context, it is considered that the proposed development comprising the development of a 9 No. turbine wind farm with an overall output of over 50MW with associated infrastructure on site in the townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul, Creggane and Charleville, Co. Limerick, 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 Section 37A(2)(a), 37A(2)(b) and 37A(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. An application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37E of the Act.

I confirm that this report represents my professional planning assessment, judgement and opinion on the matter assigned to me and that no person has influenced or sought to influence, directly or indirectly, the exercise of my professional judgement in an improper or inappropriate way.

Robert Speer

Senior Planning Inspector

6<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

## Appendix 1 - Prescribed Bodies

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Limerick City and County Council
- Cork County Council
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- The Heritage Council
- Fáilte Ireland
- An Taisce
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Waterways Ireland
- Office of Public Works
- Uisce Éireann (Irish Water)
- Health Service Executive
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Irish Aviation Authority
- ESB
- EirGrid
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.