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RE : Observation/ objection on Garrane Green Energy Wind Farm Project located in the townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul and Creggane, Co. Limerick.

Project Reference No. 323635

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed construction of a wind farm consisting of nine turbines at Garrane, Ballynagoul and Creggane, Co. Limerick. This is a beautiful, rural part of Limerick, characterised by its scenic hills, natural habitats, and peaceful surroundings. The proposed development site includes a Grade A floodplain and an area rich in biodiversity. It is deeply concerning that such a large-scale industrial project could be considered appropriate in an area of such natural beauty and environmental sensitivity.

My wife and I have lived here all our lives, raising our family in this community. We now enjoy walking and exploring the local countryside with our grandchildren — an activity that connects us to nature and to the generations before us. The construction of these massive turbines will permanently alter this landscape. The visual intrusion, noise pollution, shadow flicker, and disruption to local wildlife habitats will destroy much of what makes this area so special.

There are numerous concerns that need urgent attention. Firstly, this development is planned on a wetland area. Given that this is the first project of its kind in such a sensitive location, how can we be certain that all the potential environmental impacts have been properly assessed? The risk of exacerbating flooding in the area is a genuine concern, and the long-term effects of this development on the landscape and surrounding ecosystems are far from clear.

Furthermore, the impact on local residents will be profound.

I am deeply concerned about the impact on vulnerable members of our community, especially those with special needs. The construction and operation of this wind farm would bring increased noise, visual disruption, and potential stress, which could severely affect their well-being.

The local infrastructure is also ill-equipped to handle the scale of this project. Our roads and heritage bridges are not suitable for the heavy traffic that would be generated by the transportation of large turbine components. This could result in significant damage to these structures, as well as pose serious safety risks. The added risk of

flicker effects from the turbines on drivers—especially on narrow, winding roads—could potentially lead to fatal accidents. The disruption to local traffic and pedestrians, particularly with the width of construction lorries, is another major concern.

Property values are likely to fall significantly, and the character of this rural area will be lost. It will also make it increasingly difficult for younger generations to obtain planning permission to build homes locally, contributing to rural depopulation — the very opposite of what our communities need.

While I am fully supportive of green energy initiatives and have embraced sustainable practices in my own home—such as transitioning away from coal as a heating option over 20 years ago—I strongly believe that this project represents a grave misstep in how renewable energy is being implemented. We are all aware of the government's clean energy goals, but surely this should not come at the expense of rural communities, their livelihoods, and the natural beauty that sustains them.

I also question whether the full environmental impact, including the carbon footprint of this project, has been properly studied. While renewable energy is crucial, we must ensure that the benefits of these projects outweigh their environmental and social costs. Has the carbon footprint of this proposal been accurately assessed, including the emissions from construction and the lifecycle of the turbines?

Additionally, I am deeply concerned about the lack of meaningful engagement with local residents. While flyers were delivered, there has been no genuine effort to meet with us, discuss our concerns, or listen to our views. The company's refusal to attend public meetings raises further questions about the transparency of this process and what they may be trying to conceal.

I respectfully urge An Coimisiun Pleanála to reject this proposal. The long-term environmental, social, and economic damage far outweighs any short-term benefit. I implore you to consider the long-term consequences of such a project before proceeding. I trust that the voices of local residents and the preservation of our countryside will be given the consideration they deserve.

Yours faithfully

Eugene & Mary O' Shea