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Co. Cork

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Date: 28th October 2025

To:  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
D01V902

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal objection to the planning application submitted by Garrane Green Energy Limited (case reference 323635) for the construction of **9 wind turbines** and associated site works in the townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul and Creggane Co. Limerick

As per my Eircode P56VE40 I am a resident of Ballincolly, Charleville just inside the Cork /Limerick border which is approx. 1.2 km from nearest wind turbine. I am a **sheep farmer** as well as farming my own land which is approx. 1 km from the proposed wind farm. I am farming the land since 1994 to the present day and I have rented a land bank ranging from Creggane, Rathgoggan North to Ballynagoul (as per \* map showing my residence + land inside red border). This land completely surrounds and includes the Wild Life Sanctuary "Charleville Lagoons". I am extremely concerned that the wind farm would have a very serious impact on wild life in Charleville Lagoons and all lands adjacent to the wind farm.

## Grounds of Objection

### 1. Wildlife / Ecological Concerns

- There is a very significant wild life sanctuary "Charleville Lagoons" adjacent to proposed Garrane Green Energy wind farm .
- Site location Latitude\Longitude:52.38152,-8.67462
- Grid Reference:R154117
- Easting:154117
- Northing:125732
- The proximity of the proposed wind farm 9 x 170 m wind turbines to the "Charleville lagoons" wild life sanctuary seems unbelievable. The nearest two wind turbine are possibly 300m to 500 m or less as per map attached (Turbines green dots on map)\*

- This would have a very serious effect on the wetland birds, countryside birds, bat and mammal population through habitat loss, noise disturbance, vibration and turbine collision.
- “Charleville lagoon wild life sanctuary” is a very important habitat for both native and migratory wet land birds, bats as well as other mammals. I have walked the extensive land banks of the Charleville lagoons **365 days per year** from 1994 to the present day. 30+ years of checking my sheep flock which have access to the Charleville lagoons and surrounding land. I feel so privileged to see such a variety of bird species daily. These include the larger swan, mute/whooper, duck species, shoveler, teal, mallard, wigeon, tufted, black headed gull and the smaller snipe bird. Some nesting depending on species and the time of the year. It also includes mammals such as otters, badgers, foxes, and hares in their chosen Charleville Lagoon habitat .
- There are many species of wet land birds in the “Charleville lagoon wild life sanctuary” some of whom are on the protected Red - Amber list of birdwatch Ireland Birds of Conservation Concern list. Chart 2020 - 2026 (\*lists attached).
- Sample of birds as seen on Charleville lagoon wild life sanctuary as per Bird Ireland survey (\*see chart below) These are on the protected Red - Amber list.

○ Shoveler	Red List (high conservation list)
○ Pochard	Red List
○ Snipe	Red List
○ Whooper Swan	Amber List (medium conservation list)
○ Mute Swan	Amber List
○ Wigeon	Amber List
○ Tufted Duck	Amber List
○ Shelduck	Amber List
○ Teal	Amber List
○ Mallard	Amber List
○ Coot	Amber List

Table 1 -Peak water bird counts for selected species at Charleville lagoons between 1996/2023(IWEBS data Bird watch Ireland and the \*2023&2024 Garrane/Green/Energy )

Species	AllIreland	Flyway	Peak	1996/97	2010/11	2018/19	2022/23	2023* & 2024
	_1pc	_1pc						
Mute Swan	90	100	34	9	21		15	7
Whooper Swan	150	340	8		8			0
Wigeon	560	14000	374	227	225	1	339	456
Gadwall	20	1200	12		12		7	17
Teal	360	5000	759	338	59	230	100	543
Mallard	280	53000	247	137	102	100	69	129
Shoveler	20	650	148	148	50	22	38	63
Tufted Duck	270	8900	56	10	56		16	24
Little Grebe	20	4700	30	7	30	20		10
Cormorant	110	1200	6			6	1	1
Coot	190	15500	43	1	6		4	51

**Shoveler duck** a national important species is a rear and scarce and declining breeding species in Ireland. Many disperse to different breeding grounds in the spring but **Many breed** in the Charleville lagoons wild life sanctuary as I regularly see. This has also been recorded as a confirmed breeder on the site (Balmer et al .2013). This species is **red-listed** as a species of high conservation in Ireland as per chart \*see chart Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 . We have to protect this rare species of duck in their Charleville Lagoon habitat.

**Snipe** – Again a national important species in Ireland magnificent bird is resident in the Charleville lagoons wild life sanctuary banks and certain land area adjacent to Charleville lagoons. Again this is on the **red list** due to the significant decline in its breeding and wintering populations\* see chart. Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026. Many breed in this local habitat. We have to protect these birds in their Charleville Lagoon habitat

**Whooper Swan** again on the amber list - Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026. (\* see chart). On my daily walk of the Charleville lagoons in the winter months, I regularly see the Whooper swans. Table 1 (IWEBS data ) 2022/2023. Garrane Green energy chart recordings show zero birds recorded. I must definitely state that whooper swans are present in the Charleville Lagoons wild life sanctuary, sometimes intermittently but absolutely every year. Garrane Green Energy EIAR stated only one flock (11 flying approx..

1.1 km outside the site boundary in 2023). Just a single whooper was recorded at the Charleville lagoons in Nov 2023 and later flying NE of the lagoons. **This is absolutely contrary to my observations.** As a matter of fact I observed 6 whooper swans on the Charleville lagoons this week (26/Oct/2025) (\* see photo). In the EIAR report Garrane Green Energy seem to dismiss whooper swans and their importance in this area. County Cork is known as a traditional wintering area for whooper swans. Two important local sites Churchtown Annagh bog which is 13.5km SW of the site and Kilcolman Bog SPA which is 15km South of the site. Both are short distances from Charleville Lagoons. **I dispute** Garrane Green Energy findings. The Wind Farm will seriously impact whooper swans both migrating on route to Kilcolman SPA and Churchtown Annagh Bog through collision impact. Birds that feed and roost in the Charleville Lagoons wild life sanctuary would also be seriously affected as a result of noise disturbance and wind turbine collision. We have to protect whooper swans in their habitat flight path.

**Mallard/Teal/Wigeon** – Duck species are present in big numbers in the Charleville Lagoons Wild Life Sanctuary as per \* Table 1 chart. Many nest during the spring and summer months. These are all on the amber list of protection Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 \* as per attachment. We have to protect all these species of duck in Charleville lagoon wild life sanctuary.

The Garrane wind farm would seriously disrupt the habitat of all species of birds in the Charleville Lagoons wild life sanctuary and bordering lands to all turbines through noise disturbance and turbine collision.

Mammals such as bats are also present in the Charleville lagoon wild life sanctuary. These mammals are a protected species under Wildlife Act 1976 and subsequent amendment. They are very vulnerable in their habitats close to wind turbines.

Otters are present in the Charleville Lagoons. Again they are protected species under the Wildlife Act 1976 and European Habitats Directive

I object on the grounds that these enormous 9 wind turbines 170M high with a blade tip span of 150M would have a devastating effect on the wild life and habitats of the many protected species of wetland birds and bats and other mammals in this magnificent Charleville Lagoon wild life sanctuary and surrounding lands. Garrane Green Energy seem to be dismissive of the whooper swan species and also of the wetland birds that nest and remain in the Charleville Lagoons throughout the year. I think this is a serious flaw in their application. Surely these beautiful wet land birds, bats, mammals deserve protection from wind turbines in their local habitat.

## 2. Visual and Landscape Impact

The Scale and height of these proposed wind turbines 9 x 170 met will cause significant and irreversible visual intrusion on the local rural landscape particularly in an area of high scenic value. The landscape around the Charleville

Cork/limerick border is predominantly flat low lying and the wind turbines will be intrusive and disproportionate. The development would be visible from several approach roads to Charleville and from nearby scenic viewpoints altering the rural character and scene of place. The wind turbines would be a distraction to motorists on the N20 from Mague bridge to Charleville Limerick border which has been a stretch of many serious accidents.

### **3.Impact on Local Roads and Infrastructure.**

The construction phase in preparation for the erecting of 9 wind turbines which includes 5 km of roadway along with 9 concrete pads and erection of a substation and two bridges will require vast quantities of stone and concrete and other material. It is suggested this could equate to in excess of 7000 lorry loads. These loads will most likely come via N20 limerick to Charleville road or N 20 Cork to Charleville road – through an already extremely busy Charleville town on route to the minor L1537 Ballygoul to Bruere road as per Garrane Wind Farm Planning application .This minor road is extremely narrow with many acute bends which lead to entrance 1.This road is completely unsuitable for this volume of heavy lorries which will take over the complete width of the road. This poses a serious risk to road safety and increases wear and tear on local infrastructure and would lead to inconvenience/nuisance to the local community.

### **4.Inadequate Public consultation and Transparency**

There has been insufficient engagement and transparency with the local community. Many residents within the affected townlands/local areas were not adequately or not informed at all. It seemed as if it was better “less disclosed to the least number of residents the better”. My residence is 1.2 km from the wind farm and we received just one brochure in April 2025. There was no mention of where the turbines were proposed to be situated. the town lands This was very misleading. There was a link to the site but it was inaccessible. There were many requests for the Garrane Green Energy company to attend/hold a public meeting in the Charleville/Bruere area informing locals of the proposal but this did not happen. Proper community consultation and full disclosure are fundamental to the planning process. As such, the proposal failed to meet the standard of openness and accountability expected under Irelands planning framework and EU environmental participation requirements(Aarhus Convention).

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons set out above ,I respectfully request An Bord Pleanála to refuse planning permission to Garrane Green Energy Wind Farm case ref 323635 in the interest of impact of



- Wildlife / Ecological Concerns
- Visual and Landscape Impact
- Impact on Local Roads and Infrastructure.
- Inadequate Public consultation and Transparency
- Thanking you for considering my submission.

Des Fitzgerald.

## Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026

### Amber-list species (medium conservation concern)

<b>Breeding</b> Goosander Garganey Spotted Crake European Storm-petrel Fulmar Manx Shearwater Gannet Shag Little Ringed Plover Common Sandpiper Mediterranean Gull Little Tern Roseate Tern Common Tern Arctic Tern Sandwich Tern Great Skua Black Guillemot Common Guillemot Short-eared Owl Marsh Harrier Hen Harrier Goshawk Kingfisher Merlin Chough Skylark Bearded Reedling House Martin	<b>Breeding continued</b> Swallow Sand Martin Willow Warbler Starling Spotted Flycatcher Northern Wheatear Goldcrest House Sparrow Tree Sparrow Greenfinch Linnet Pied Flycatcher Western Yellow Wagtail  <b>Passage</b> Cory's Shearwater Ruff Spotted Redshank Wood Sandpiper Little Gull Black Tern Wryneck Tree Pipit  <b>Wintering</b> Brent Goose Barnacle Goose Greylag Goose Greater White-fronted Goose	<b>Wintering continued</b> Smew Pintail Black-throated Diver Great Northern Diver Bittern Turnstone Brambling  <b>Breeding and Wintering</b> Mute Swan Whooper Swan Red-breasted Merganser Shelduck Tufted Duck Gadwall Wigeon Mallard Teal Great Crested Grebe Coot Red-throated Diver Cormorant Ringed Plover Black-headed Gull Common Gull Lesser Black-backed Gull European Herring Gull
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nature  
a home**



**BirdWatch Ireland**  
promoting bird and nature conservation

For more information, please see Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021), "Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020–2026". Irish Birds 9: 523–544

The categorisation of species as breeding, wintering etc. refers to the populations against which BoCCI criteria were applied

## Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026

Red-list species (high conservation concern)

### Breeding

Quail  
Grey Partridge  
Red Grouse  
Black-necked Grebe  
Stock Dove  
Nightjar  
Swift  
Corncrake  
Leach's Storm-petrel  
Woodcock  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Kittiwake  
Puffin  
Razorbill  
Barn Owl  
Golden Eagle  
White-tailed Eagle  
Red Kite  
Kestrel  
Wood Warbler

### Breeding continued

Ring Ouzel  
Common Redstart  
Whinchat  
Meadow Pipit  
Grey Wagtail  
Twite  
Yellowhammer

### Passage

Turtle Dove  
Balearic Shearwater  
Curlew Sandpiper

### Wintering

Bewick's Swan  
Long-tailed Duck  
Velvet Scoter  
Goldeneye  
Scaup  
Slavonian Grebe

### Wintering continued

Grey Plover  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Knot  
Purple Sandpiper  
Snowy Owl  
Redwing

### Breeding and Wintering

Eider  
Common Scoter  
Pochard  
Shoveler  
Oystercatcher  
Golden Plover  
Lapwing  
Curlew  
Dunlin  
Snipe  
Redshank



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The categorisation of species as breeding, wintering etc. refers to the populations against which BoCC criteria were applied

See photos of swans in the Charleville Lagoons:





See photos of swans in the Charleville Lagoons:



See photos of 6 Whooper Swans in the Charleville Lagoons on 26<sup>th</sup>/October/2025:

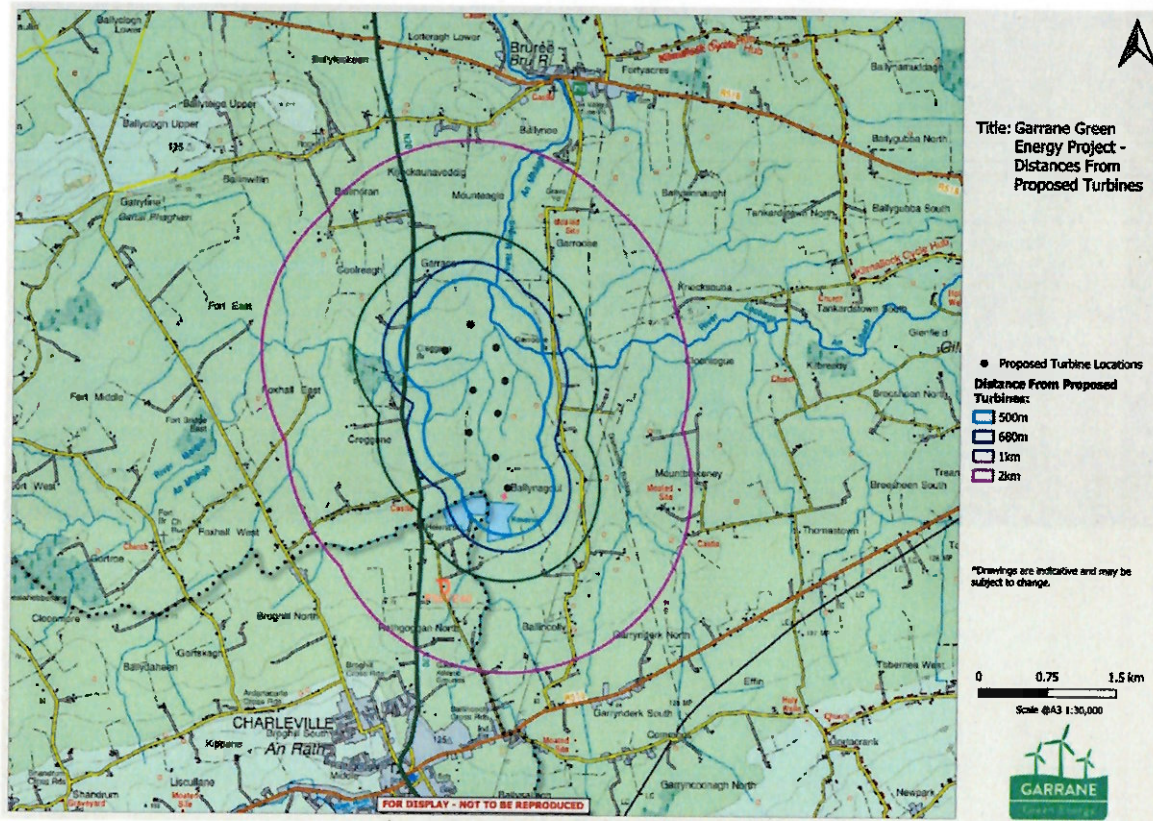




Garrane Green Energy site map showing wind turbines.

See my residents in red circle on the map – P56 VE 40

See Charleville Lagoons proximity to Wind Turbines – Pink line and arrow on map.



See satellite image below showing the Charleville Lagoons and the land I farm. This is inside the red line I placed on the map.

