

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: **Observation on Planning Application – Shancloon Wind Farm**

Case Reference: 323699

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to submit an observation on the proposed development at Shancloon, near Caherlistrane, Co. Galway. As a public representative for the area, I am bringing forward a number of concerns that have been raised with me by local residents and landowners who may be affected by the proposal.

## **1. Residential Amenity Impacts**

Constituents in the surrounding area have highlighted concerns regarding:

- Potential noise impacts, including low-frequency and night-time noise;
- Shadow flicker affecting nearby dwellings;
- The scale and height of the proposed turbines and their visual impact on the local landscape;
- The proximity of certain turbines to established homes and the cumulative impact alongside other renewable developments in the wider region.

Residents are seeking reassurance that any potential impacts will be fully assessed, appropriately mitigated, and subject to enforceable conditions.

## **2. Traffic, Road Network and Construction Issues**

The local road network consists largely of narrow rural roads frequently used by farm machinery, school transport, and everyday traffic. Concerns raised include:

- The safety implications of transporting turbine components;
- The extent of road disruption during construction;
- The potential for damage to roads, drains, and verges;
- Maintaining reliable access for local residents and emergency services.

There has been a strong request for a clear and detailed Traffic Management Plan, with commitments to road reinstatement where required.

### **3. Environmental and Biodiversity Considerations**

Residents have raised questions about the environmental implications of the proposal, specifically relating to:

- Impacts on birds, bats, and other protected species;
- Possible hydrological impacts, including drainage alterations and watercourse effects;
- Soil and peat stability in areas of excavation or construction;
- The cumulative environmental effect of multiple renewable energy projects in nearby townlands.

It is important that all assessments provided are robust, transparent, and independently verifiable.

### **4. Community Engagement and Benefit**

People are seeking clarity on:

- The level of ongoing engagement that will be provided;
- The structure and scale of any Community Benefit Fund;
- How local households will be supported and informed throughout construction and operation.

Residents have emphasised the need for open, proactive and continuous engagement.

### **5. Cumulative Landscape and Regional Impact**

It has been noted by constituents that the area has seen several energy-related applications in recent years. Concerns have therefore been raised about the cumulative landscape, visual and amenity impacts. A comprehensive cumulative assessment is important in fully understanding the overall effect on the wider region.

## **Conclusion**

I am submitting this observation to reflect the concerns that have been brought to my attention by members of the local community living near the proposed development. I respectfully request that the Board give full consideration to these issues and ensure that any decision made takes account of the potential impacts on residents, local infrastructure, and the surrounding environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Albert Dolan TD**

Teachta Dála, Galway East