

## **Shancloon Wind Farm – Case Reference PAX07.323699**

My name is Brendan Keady and I live in Ballycusheen, Co. Mayo. I grew up around here and have always treasured the peace of the countryside, walking my dogs along the quiet rural roads and fishing on the Black River. I am objecting to the Shancloon Wind Farm because it will permanently destroy the rural landscape, natural environment and way of life that generations before us protected and hoped to pass on.

### **Visual Impact & Industrialisation of the Landscape**

The visual impact of this development would be extreme, overwhelming and permanent. At 180m high, these turbines would tower above every natural and built feature of the landscape. They would be visible from homes, community areas, roads, farms, walking routes and scenic viewing points across South Mayo and North Galway.

For those of us who spend a lot of time outdoors, the visual intrusion would ruin the natural experience that rural living provides. Our views of trees, farmland, rivers and sky would be replaced by an industrial energy zone of rotating blades and flashing lights.

This will not only impact scenic quality, but also mental wellbeing. The countryside gives people space to breathe, reflect and switch off. The turbines would create a sense of enclosure, unease and loss, replacing the peaceful natural landscape with machinery.

The **National Landscape Strategy for Ireland (2015–2025)** recognises the landscape as central to identity, quality of life and wellbeing. This proposal is completely at odds with those principles.

### **Impact on Wildlife, River & Environment**

I fish on the Black River, an important wildlife ecosystem. Disturbance of peat, soil and runoff from construction risks polluting the river, harming fish stocks and displacing swans, herons and other protected species.

Under the **EU Birds and Habitats Directives**, these habitats should be protected, not put at risk.

### **Loss of Natural Countryside & Rural Character**

This proposal would turn a quiet rural area into an industrial zone. The countryside where families walk, fish, farm, relax and enjoy nature would be lost. The natural outdoor spaces that support physical and mental wellbeing would be compromised for decades.

### **Flooding Risk from Peat Removal and Land Disturbance**

Another major concern is the high risk of flooding arising from the removal and disturbance of peat. Wind farm construction on peatlands has repeatedly caused drainage disruption, peat erosion and downstream flooding in other parts of Ireland. This development involves excavating large quantities of peat to install turbine foundations, access roads and cabling. Removing peat, a natural water regulator and carbon store, destabilises the land and alters water flow. Residents in this area have already witnessed increased flooding events in fields, farmland and low-lying areas after heavy rainfall. Interfering with peatlands will worsen this significantly, putting homes, farms and the Black River at heightened flood risk.

The development contradicts environmental protection duties under the **EU Water Framework Directive** and Ireland's climate and biodiversity commitments, which require safeguarding peatlands as carbon sinks and natural flood defences.

### **Impact on Families & Future Generations**

This development will make the area less desirable for families to remain in or return to. It will devalue homes, damage the countryside and remove the natural environment that our parents and grandparents hoped to pass on.

### **Noise, Light & Amenity Impacts**

Turbine noise, low-frequency sound, shadow flicker and aviation lighting will destroy the peace of the area, especially at night. This will reduce quality of life and rural amenity value.

### **Conclusion**

The Shancloon Wind Farm is wholly unsuitable for this location. It would:

- I. Industrialise the rural landscape.
- II. Create long-term flooding risks by removing and disturbing peat.
- III. Damage the visual environment, wildlife and river ecosystem.
- IV. Harm quality of life, wellbeing and future generations' connection to nature.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission.

Yours Sincerely

**Brendan Keady**  
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