



Pete Roche TD

Submission from Deputy Pete Roche, T.D. Abbeyknockmoy, Moyne, Tuam, Galway

Re: Proposed Shancloon Wind Farm SID (Ref. case 323699)

I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm. While I fully acknowledge the importance of advancing Ireland's renewable energy and climate goals, it is equally vital that such large-scale projects are developed in a manner that safeguards and respects the communities living in closest proximity. In recent months, I have received a growing number of concerns about the increasing concentration of major energy developments in East Galway and the cumulative pressures this places on local residents and rural communities. The guidelines in place are outdated and ill suited to a development of this size.

Through ongoing dialogue with residents, several planning-related issues have been raised. These include the overall magnitude of the project—particularly the proposed turbine heights of approximately 180 metres plus—the closeness of these structures to existing homes, and the implications for residential amenity. Specific concerns highlighted include potential noise (including low-frequency noise), shadow flicker, and the significant visual and landscape impact associated with turbines of this scale.

Further questions have been raised about the adequacy of the public consultation process. Many individuals have expressed that they did not feel sufficiently informed or afforded adequate opportunity to engage with the proposal before the application was lodged. For a project of this size, comprehensive and meaningful consultation is an essential component of the planning process.

Additional matters brought to my attention include the capacity of local and regional roads to accommodate construction traffic and abnormal loads; potential impacts on hydrology, peat soils and watercourses; risks to private wells; and concerns relating to biodiversity, habitat disturbance, and cumulative environmental effects in an area already hosting multiple energy developments.

I am aware that many detailed submissions have already been made by members of the local community outlining concerns about the scale of the proposed turbines, the suitability of the location, the potential effects on nearby homes, and broader issues relating to public health, biodiversity, and the local environment. I ask that An Coimisiún Pleanála give full consideration to these concerns.

Dáilcheantar na Gaillimhe Thoir – Galway East Constituency

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