

David Devaney

Lissavalley

Barnaderg

Tuam

Co. Galway

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 17th November 2025

**Re: Observation/Submission to proposed wind energy development at Cooloo Wind Farm**

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the proposed windfarm project located within Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavalley and Slievegorm, Co.Galway (Case Reference 323761).

I was born and raised in the townland of Lissavalley. I attended Barnaderg National School and attended secondary school in the nearby town of Tuam. I married my wife Kathleen in 2009, and built our family home in Lissavalley in 2016. We have two sons who attend Barnaderg National School. They both play underage football with their local GAA club, Killererin. Our two sons love where they are from and even at a young age, they speak of living here in our community when they grow older. For reasons that are outlined below in Subject 2, we fear this dream of theirs is now under threat. Our home is approximately 500 meters from the proposed construction site entrance in Lissavalley. We are very much concerned about the level of increased number of HGVs that will be using the road (R332) outside our home during the 18/24 month timeframe of

construction. It will lead to excess dust and related air pollution during fine dry weather, and the problem of muck and grime on the road in wet/damp weather. The proposed project greatly concerns us, on a number of levels.

### **1: Water**

Approximately 50 hectares of the proposed development site lie within the Mid-Galway Public Water Supply Source Protection Area (SPA). Two turbines (T1 and T2) and a temporary construction compound are proposed inside this drinking water protection zone. The EIAR itself acknowledges that the Barnaderg/Gortbeg GWS shares the same groundwater zone of contribution as the Mid-Galway PWS. As a member of the Barnaderg/Gortbeg GWS this concerns us greatly. We are also concerned about the approximately 10,000 households that rely on the Mid-Galway Public Water Supply, and the effects that this project may have on their water supply.

The EIAR concedes that deep excavations for turbine foundations, dewatering, and grouting “could have the potential to significantly affect flows to the source springs” supplying the Mid-Galway PWS. These springs are karst-fed, and thus highly sensitive to disturbance or contamination. Any alteration to groundwater flow paths or pressure gradients could disrupt the source yield or introduce pollutants directly into the drinking water system.

Despite this, the developer proposes to construct large turbine bases (3–3.5m deep) and other infrastructure directly within the SPA — an inherently high-risk and inappropriate activity in a regionally important aquifer with “Extreme” groundwater vulnerability.

### **2: Property Rights**

It will have a negative impact on the property rights of adjoining landowners, who have not signed up to the project, but own land/property adjacent to the site. It will have a negative impact on the ability of these landowners to utilise their asset. If they wish to transfer a site to a son or daughter to build a family home in the future, they will be restricted by any future guidelines governing the position of wind turbines in relation to private dwellings.

In other words anybody who owns land within a 2 km radius of a turbine, who wishes to build a family home on this land, may be restricted from doing so due to any future guidelines pertaining to wind turbine locations in relation to private dwellings.

Along with what I have mentioned above, is the considerable devaluation of properties that are situated within a 2 km radius of a turbine, of which there are close to 400. This devaluation will not be restricted to properties within this radius but will be felt most acutely by them.

This in turn will have a "hollowing out effect" on the local community, where you will see in future years the older generation dying and their properties left vacant, due to the fact that the next generation will be reluctant to invest money renovating a property that will probably be worth less than the refurbishment cost of the property. There will also be a very low probability of any new houses built in the immediate vicinity of the turbines, due to any future guidelines pertaining to wind turbine positions in relation to private dwellings. People in general given the choice of living in close proximity to a wind turbine or living somewhere else, will more than likely opt to live somewhere else.

An example of this "hollowing out effect" can be seen in the village of Bellacorick in Co. Mayo. What was once a thriving little village, with a pub, post office and fuel pumps is now a deserted village. The Oweninny Windfarm has been developed in the area. What started out in 1992 as a windfarm with 21 moderate sized turbines evolved over the years into a project that will on completion of phase 3 of the project, have 78 turbines each with a height of over 170 meters.

My concern is that, as turbine technological advances occur in the coming years, Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd. will use this initial project as the foundation for a larger project or larger turbines in the future, as can be seen happening with the Oweninny Windfarm in Co. Mayo.

If this project is allowed to proceed, I am fearful that it will have a detrimental effect on the ability of future generations of our community to thrive.

**3: Incompatible with Galway County Council Wind Potential report, that forms part of the Galway County Development Plan.**

Turbines 6, 7 and 8 are in areas that are termed “ generally to be discouraged “ by the Galway County Council Wind Potential report. The image below clearly shows the position of Turbines 6,7 and 8, and that they are in the area termed “generally to be discouraged “.



**4: Grid Connection/Substation/BESS Planning Application.**

The proposed Substation, connection to the grid and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) are subject to separate planning application. Surely this is a form of project splitting. The windfarm is of no use unless it has a connection to the National Grid, by going ahead with the windfarm, are the developers being presumptuous that they will automatically be granted planning permission for the grid connection, Substation and BESS.

To make a comparison, If an individual applied for planning permission to build a house but didn't detail how the waste water from the house was to be dealt with, the planning application would surely be refused for the reason of not specifying how the waste water was to be dealt with. Similarly the developer in this case is applying for planning permission to construct a 9 turbine windfarm but not applying for planning permission for the grid connection, Substation and BESS

### **Conclusion**

While my family and I are strong believers in renewable energy and have recently installed Solar Panels on our house, for the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for this project. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and keep me informed of any further information or oral hearing notifications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Devaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

David Devaney