

**PLANNING SUBMISSION**

**JOB REF. NO.** 556/2025

**CLIENT:** JOHN FAHY,  
COOLWONEEN  
MOYLOUGH  
BALLINASLOE  
CO. GALWAY  
H53 FN72

**SUBJECT:** PLANNING SUBMISSION: PAX07.323761

SECTION 37E STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:  
WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED  
WORKS AT THE TOWNLANDS OF CLOONDAHAMPER  
(BLAKE), CLOONASCRAUGH, ELMHILL, COOLOO,  
LECARROW,  
DANGAN EIGHTER, LISSAVALLY AND SLIEVEGORM  
IN COUNTY GALWAY.

**APPLICANT:** NEOEN RENEWABLES IRELAND LTD

**DESCRIPTION:** COOLOO-WINDFARM.

Daniel Melia B.eng., C.eng., M.I.E.I.  
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### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

I am instructed by John Fahy of Coolwoneen, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, to make a Planning submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála, in relation to a Section 37E Strategic Infrastructure Development application.

My client is the owner of the property within 800m of the development site.

The Section 37E application seeks permission for the construction of wind energy development and all associated works.

### **2. PLANNING APPLICATION:**

**Planning Ref. No.:** PAX07.323761

**Applicant:** Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd

**RE:** Construction of wind energy development and all associated works.

### **3. APPLICATION DETAILS:**

This proposed development consists of nine industrial-scale wind turbines with:

- maximum tip heights of 180 metres,
- rotor diameters of approximately 150–162 metres,
- and hub heights of 99–105 metres.

The application also includes new site entrances, upgrading of local roads, temporary construction access routes, site drainage infrastructure, and significant tree felling and vegetation clearance as part of the associated works.

My client Mr. John Fahy of Cooloneen, Moylough, Ballinasloe, County Galway is a directly affected local resident whose dwelling lies approximately 750 metres from the nearest proposed turbine, with two turbines located within 800 metres of his home

Mr. Fahy is extremely concerned about the scale and cumulative impacts of this proposal.

#### **4. GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION:**

##### **Noise, Nuisance and Residential Amenity Impacts:**

The proximity of at least two turbines (T2 & T4) within 800 metres — with the nearest (T4) located approximately 750 metres from Mr. Fahy's dwelling — gives rise to a serious and credible risk of adverse noise impacts, including amplitude modulation, low-frequency noise and tonal characteristics.

These impacts are known to cause significant long-term nuisance, sleep disturbance and degradation of residential amenity in quiet, rural environments with naturally low background noise levels.

Furthermore, the intensity and duration of construction-phase activity — including HGV traffic, groundworks, piling and cable trenching — would generate unacceptable temporary and potentially prolonged nuisance effects, wholly inappropriate in a peaceful rural residential setting.

Mr. Fahy's family have a long-term intention to reside at this home into the future; however, the proposed wind farm would act as a significant deterrent to continued occupancy and would, in practical terms, render the dwelling materially less suitable for residential use, resulting in a serious diminution of property value.

A turbine separation distance of less than 800 metres from an occupied domestic dwelling is wholly inappropriate in a rural residential context, and it is submitted that alternative, more remote siting locations should have been properly explored and prioritised.

##### **Landscape and Visual Impact:**

The surrounding area is a quiet, peaceful and predominantly rural environment characterised by dispersed family homes, agricultural lands and a low-intensity settlement pattern.

At tip heights of up to 180 metres, the proposed turbines represent an industrial-scale intrusion wholly inconsistent with the established landscape character. Their prominence, visual dominance and moving blade sweep would materially and adversely alter the rural character and visual amenity of the locality.

The development would constitute a significant and permanent transformation of the landscape, contrary to the landscape protection objectives of the Galway County Development Plan.

**Traffic and Road Safety Concerns:**

The construction phase would involve significant movements of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), abnormal loads and construction machinery on a rural road network that is narrow, substandard and already in use by local residents, agricultural machinery and school transport. No clear evidence has been provided to demonstrate that the local road network is physically capable of safely accommodating the delivery of abnormal turbine components, nor that alternative haul routes were properly considered or discounted. The risk to road safety and residential amenity during construction is therefore unacceptable.

**Environmental, Hydrological and Ecological Impact:**

Disturbance during construction risks altering groundwater flows, increasing surface runoff and causing downstream impacts on water quality and private wells. The potential for adverse impacts on protected species, has not been conclusively excluded.

In accordance with the precautionary principle, and in the absence of definitive and scientifically robust assurances, such environmental risk is unacceptable.

**Cumulative and Policy Compliance Concerns:**

The proposal must be assessed in the context of existing and/or permitted wind energy developments in the wider region.

The cumulative industrialisation of the rural landscape is contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and appears inconsistent with the Galway County Development Plan and national and regional wind energy policy frameworks.

Furthermore, the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the selected site represents the least impactful and most appropriate location available, as required under national wind energy policy's site selection and alternatives assessment obligations.

