



Pete Roche TD

Submission from **Deputy Pete Roche, T.D.** Abbeyknockmoy, Moynes, Tuam
Re: **Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm SID (Ref. 323761)**

I wish to make a submission in relation to the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm. While I recognise the need to meet Ireland's energy and climate objectives, it is equally important that any major development is progressed in a way that respects and protects the communities who will live closest to it. I have raised concerns previously about the growing number of large energy developments in East Galway and the cumulative impact this is having on local residents and rural communities. The guidelines in place are outdated and ill suited to a development of this size.

Through ongoing engagement with residents in Cooloo, Barnaderg, Brierfield and surrounding areas, a number of planning-related concerns have been brought to my attention. These include the overall scale of the project—particularly the proposed turbine heights of approximately 180 metres—the proximity of these structures to existing homes, and the implications for residential amenity. Specific issues raised include potential noise and low-frequency noise, shadow flicker, and the visual and landscape impact associated with turbines of this height.

Questions have also been raised regarding the adequacy of the public consultation process. Many individuals have indicated that they did not feel fully informed or given sufficient opportunity to engage with the proposal in advance of the application being submitted. For a project of this scale, comprehensive and effective consultation is an essential part of the planning process.

Additional matters highlighted to me include the capacity of local and regional roads to manage 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 accommodating multiple energy developments. Constituents have requested that these issues be thoroughly assessed and addressed through clear, enforceable mitigation where appropriate.

I am aware that many detailed submissions have 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 wider issues relating to public health, biodiversity and the local environment. I ask that An Coimisiún Pleanála take full account of these concerns and the cumulative burden already experienced in this part of East Galway.

Dáilcheantar na Gaillimhe Thoir – Galway East Constituency

Dáil Éireann, Teach Laighean, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 XR20.
Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 XR20.

Tel: 01 6183876 Email: peter.roche@oireachtas.ie

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