

## Cooloo Windfarm Development Planning Reference- 323761

### Potential effect on Local Water Sources

- The proposed development puts at risk 3 different water schemes – i.e. Barnaderg/Gortbeg, Brierfield and Mid Galway Public Scheme (circa. 10,000 households).
- The spring at Pollifrin, Brierfield and District GWS source, is considered to be part of the same zone of contribution (ZOC) as the Mid Galway PWS and Barnaderg Gortbeg GWS as they all form part of the same groundwater flow system.
- Two turbines are located within the Source Protection Area (SPA) for the above. This area is a highly karsified and hydrologically sensitive area.
- Planning documents state that there is a risk during construction to the water, as the developers cannot guarantee that the water will not be affected or that levels will not drop, putting the sources and the service users at risk.

### Project Splitting

- The proposed development aims to secure planning first for the 9 turbines and then at a later stage to submit a separate planning permission for a substation, BESS and grid connection. This constitutes “project splitting”, which should not be allowed.
- The proposed development is all one project and therefore the planning should only be considered as one project.

### Lack of Community Engagement

- Developers have stated in their planning documents that they have made contact with a number of local community groups; however, the Barnaderg Cooloo Windfarm Action Collective has confirmed that a number of these groups were never contacted by the developer.
- The reported “door-to-door engagement” reached only 55 homes within 1 km of the turbines, yielding only ten written responses. This is an unacceptably low level of participation for a project of this scale.