

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 323761

Thomas and Maureen Mulry

Dangan

Barnaderg

Tuam

Galway

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 14 November 2025

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

Location: Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally, Slievegorm
- Co. Galway

Applicant: Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

We live in Dangan, our home is 1.78 km from proposed turbine T1. We have lived in this area for four generations and have farmed our land over this time. We are currently full time farmers and we are very concerned about the impact this proposed development will have on our lives, our business and our community. We have family (a son and a daughter) living with us and we hope that our son will get planning in the next year or so, and in future years our daughter also. We now fear that their ability to get planning permission and build on our own land will be impacted by this development. Our fear is that future regulation will prevent any building in proximity to the windfarm. We also depend on the Barnaderg Gortbeg water scheme for the water supply to our house and land and are very concerned that this supply will be contaminated or impacted by the construction of turbines within the source protection area of the scheme. Our family work from home often and we also are worried that the turbines will interrupt our wireless internet signal as this is the only internet service we can get.

We will also be severely impacted by the road closures during construction and grid connection works, we have farming land on the opposite side of the N63 to where our home is and we need to use the road multiple times per day to work and earn our livelihood. This will lead to a significant loss on earning for us as we will not be able to access our land efficiently leading to less work being done each day.

We strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse the planning application for this windfarm for these

reasons and the reasons below.

Community Consultation and Engagement

The basis that the community consultation process was carried out by Neoen and MKO for the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm has been fundamentally inadequate and does not meet the standards of meaningful public engagement required under the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) or An Bord Pleanála's Strategic Infrastructure Development protocols.

The consultation was poorly publicised, using the Irish Examiner, a Cork-based paper with minimal reach in north-east Galway, for statutory notices instead of the Tuam Herald, the area's primary local newspaper. This choice deprived many residents of awareness and opportunity to participate.

Claims of engagement with "local groups, clubs and schools" are inaccurate. Key organisations such as Killererin Community Council and Killererin GAA received no correspondence or invitations to contribute. Furthermore, no public consultation meeting was held in Moylough, where seven of the nine turbines are proposed, further excluding the most affected residents.

Reported "door-to-door engagement" reached just 55 homes within 1 km of the turbines, yielding only ten written responses which is an unacceptably low level of participation for a project of this scale. Reliance on online materials was ineffective given poor broadband in the area.

Overall, the process was selective, poorly targeted, and misleading in its presentation of local engagement. These failings undermine the project's compliance with public participation standards and should be given significant weight in An Bord Pleanála's assessment.

Barnaderg Gortbeg Group Water Scheme

I use the water from Barnaderg Gortbeg Group Water Scheme as my main source of drinking water for my household. The water is of excellent quality and I am very concerned that pollution of various types such as silt, sediment and other contaminants will enter the water source, causing me and my family harm. With the location of two Turbines within the Source Protection Area (SPA) I believe the Cooloo Windfarm should not be granted permission whatsoever, especially in such a highly karsified and hydrologically sensitive area.

Farming

There are dairy and dry-stock farmers in Barnaderg, Cooloo and the surrounding areas, both full-time and part-time. Holdings vary in size. Many of these farmers depend on their livestock performing well in order to pay their bills. Also, those who are farming in the area enjoy the work they do, in the absence of shadow flicker, noise or visual pollution. If this development is granted their livelihoods will be impacted.

The 'Importance of Noise Hygiene in Dairy Cattle Farming – A Review' (Published November 1st of 2023 by Dimo Dimov, Toncho Penev and Ivaylo Marinov) details how vibration and noise from a milking parlour can negatively impact the milk yield and milk quality of a dairy cow. The paper also discusses how exposing animals to noise from an unfamiliar source can cause them stress.

It is also important to note that the developer has not taken into account the ways in which farmers depend on the local roads for moving cattle and for access to their land when going about their daily tasks within their farms.

Reference:

Dimov, D., Penev, T., and Marinov, I. (2023) 'Importance of Noise Hygiene in Dairy Cattle Farming – A Review'. Featured Position and Review Papers in Acoustics Science.

Road disruption during construction

I wish to object to the proposed development on the grounds of significant traffic and road safety impacts during construction, particularly in relation to abnormal load deliveries. The Traffic Management Plan (Appendix 15-2) lacks essential detail, including the number, timing and routing of heavy goods and turbine loads, and commitments to off-peak scheduling. Without clear and enforceable mitigation, there is a risk of damage to narrow rural roads, verges and drainage, along with conflicts between construction vehicles, farm traffic and school transport. No robust plan has been presented for road strengthening, maintenance or reinstatement. The absence of detailed community-specific measures leaves local access, amenity and safety inadequately protected. Until comprehensive information and binding commitments are provided, the proposal represents an unacceptable risk to road infrastructure and rural community wellbeing. Having roads closed for a combined 210 days (at a minimum) is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable for locals to have diversions of up to 13.7km per journey for the duration of this project.

Broadband Impact

Given the number currently working from home now, strong broadband is a necessity. There are concerns that the signal, and therefore working from home capabilities will be negatively affected by this proposed windfarm. This is due to the fact that the windfarm is situated exactly within line of sight to the mast. It is unacceptable that broadband signal and mobile phone services utilizing this mast will be degraded, and potentially to such a degree that it will be unusable. This may be worsened by the width of the wind turbine needed to support the weight, and the blades which can create periodic drops in signal level and variable amounts of reflection.

Conclusion

In light of the serious concerns outlined above I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development. The proposal is not compatible with the principles of proper planning or sustainable development and would have lasting negative effects on local residents, farmers, and the wider community. I therefore strongly object to this proposal and ask that it be refused in full.

If permission is not refused outright, I request that an oral hearing be held so that local residents, farmers, and the wider community can have our say on the impacts of this development.

Yours Sincerely,

Thomas AND
Maureen
Mulry

Name: Thomas and Maureen Mulry
Date: 14 November 2025