

Edel Barrett

Ballygrennan

Bruff

Co. Limerick

17/11/2025

An Comisiun Pleanala,

61-64 Marlborough St.

Dublin 1

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to formally and wholeheartedly object to the proposed development of a 17-turbine wind farm in the Bruff, Dromin, Athlacca, and Ballinlee area of County Limerick.

My name is Edel Barrett and I live here with my husband and our two young daughters. My husband is Australian, and we chose to build our life in this area so our children could grow up with the same nature, peace, and community values that shaped my own childhood. We run a small farm less than 2 km from proposed turbine locations, raising cows, sheep, and chickens. This landscape, its wildlife, and its tranquillity are not abstract concepts to us—they are central to our health, our livelihood, and our children's future.

#### **Impact on Children's Health, Sleep and Wellbeing**

As healthcare professionals and parents, we have deep concerns about the potential impact on our daughters' health. The low-frequency noise, mechanical hum, and night-time activity of turbines are known to disrupt sleep and increase anxiety, particularly in children. Chronic sleep disturbance can affect development, attention, emotional regulation, and long-term wellbeing.

It is even more alarming that **there is a primary school within 1 km of some proposed turbine sites**. Dozens of young children will spend most of their day in close proximity to these structures. The potential for noise exposure, vibration, shadow flicker and associated stressors raises serious safeguarding concerns that cannot be ignored.

#### **Impact on Livestock and Farming Life**

Our animals—cattle, sheep, and poultry—are highly sensitive to environmental disruption. Continuous noise, ground vibration, and visual disturbance can affect feeding, breeding, and overall health. Any negative impact on livestock welfare directly affects our livelihood and the broader agricultural network in this community. Farming is not just our job; it is our way of life, and this proposal threatens the viability of traditional farming practices in the area.

### **Noise, Vibrations and Shadow Flicker**

Turbines generate infrasound, low-frequency noise, and persistent vibration, all of which have documented effects on both humans and animals. Shadow flicker—rapid, pulsating light caused by blades—can trigger headaches, stress, and anxiety. These disturbances threaten the peaceful rural environment that residents rely on for quality of life, rest, and mental health.

### **Visual and Landscape Impact**

Seventeen industrial-scale turbines will dominate the skyline, permanently altering the character of this beautiful rural landscape. The visual intrusion from such a large development will undermine the natural heritage, identity, and serenity of this region.

### **Impact on Wildlife and Biodiversity**

Our area is home to barn owls, bats, buzzards, migrating geese, and many other species that rely on undisturbed habitats. Turbines pose collision risks, displace sensitive species, and fragment ecosystems. Once these animals leave, they rarely return, and the loss to local biodiversity would be profound and irreversible.

### **Heritage and Archaeological Concerns**

The region's heritage sites—including Lough Gur and Ballygrennan Castle—are of immense local and national importance. Industrial turbines threaten these treasures through ground disturbance, vibration, and visual pollution. The cultural landscape surrounding these sites would be deeply compromised, potentially damaging archaeological features that have survived for centuries.

### **Flooding and Ground Disturbance**

Flooding is already a significant issue in the Caucus area, one of the zones proposed for turbine placement. Large-scale excavation, concrete foundations, and altered drainage patterns risk worsening flooding, endangering farmland, natural habitats, family homes, and local infrastructure.

### **Carbon Footprint, Social and Economic Factors**

While renewable energy is essential, this project raises serious questions about its true carbon neutrality given the massive scale of construction, transport, concrete use, and long-term maintenance. The social and economic costs—reduced farming viability, decreased property values, potential loss of tourism around heritage sites, and community disruption—may far outweigh any theoretical energy gains.

### **Operational and Mechanical Risks**

Turbines carry risks of malfunction, blade throw, fires, and oil leakage. These hazards are deeply concerning in an area with homes, farms, a primary school, and public roads nearby. The safety of the community must be prioritised.

### **Impact on the Community**

This proposal threatens the unity and wellbeing of a close-knit rural community. Our connection to this landscape, its traditions, and each other is strong. The imposition of an industrial-scale development risks fracturing that sense of place and belonging.

### **Conclusion**

This development poses unacceptable risks to our children, our health, our livestock, our heritage, our landscape, and our community's future. While we support renewable energy in

principle, it must be sited responsibly and ethically, with genuine consideration for those whose lives will be upended. This proposal fails to meet those standards.

I strongly urge you to reject this wind farm development.

Sincerely,

Edel Barrett

Leigh Tweddle

Lucy Tweddle

Ellie Tweddle