

We object to the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm Development on the following grounds:

### **1. Proposed Location**

Section 2.1 in the planning statement for the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm states that this development will be 19 km from Ennis and 20km from Kilrush. However this document does not address that this proposed development is planned in very close proximity to rural villages such as Kildysart, Coolmeen, Cranny and Lissycasey. This raises significant concerns for all people living in these communities and poses risks to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. This level of intrusion is unacceptable for these communities who rely on a peaceful environment and unspoiled scenery. The proposed development fails to provide adequate distance between the turbines and the surrounding settlements with some residences situated as little as 600 metres from the nearest turbine. I believe the proposal is inappropriate for this location and would result in long-term negative effects on the health and wellbeing of local residents.

### **2. Lack of consultation**

The failure to engage with the community in a local formal meeting denies residents the opportunity to raise questions, express concerns and provide input on a project that will have significant impacts on their health, environment and quality of life.

### **3. Local Infrastructure**

The proposed wind farm also raises serious concerns regarding local infrastructure, as the surrounding roads are not suitable for the heavy machinery required for construction and turbine transport. The narrow, rural roads in the area would face increased risk of damage.

### **4. Planning Permission**

The proposed wind farm application is based on planning permission guidelines from 2006, which are now severely outdated. Since that time, there have been significant developments in environmental protection, community consultation standards and best practices for wind energy including human health, wildlife, protected habitats and sensitive landscapes.

### **5. Public health**

The proposed wind farm raises serious concerns for the mental and physical health of residents. Turbines located close to homes cause persistent noise and shadow flicker, leading to sleep disturbances, headaches and fatigue. The visual impact of large turbines on the local landscape would further contribute to a reduced sense of wellbeing. Overall, the proximity of the proposed development poses a clear risk to the health and quality of life of nearby residents.

## **6. Gortglass Lake and Clonsnaughta Lake**

The proposed wind farm could have a significant impact on the two nearby scenic lakes; Gortglass Lake and Clonsnaughta Lake. Construction and operation of turbines could lead to increased runoff, soil erosion, and sedimentation, potentially affecting water quality. Gortglass Lake provides water to hundreds of homes in the Kildysart and Coolmeen areas. In addition, the visual intrusion of large turbines near these natural areas would diminish the scenic and recreational value of the lakes, impacting both the environment and the enjoyment of the local community.

## **7. Noise Pollution**

The proposed wind farm poses significant concerns regarding noise for residents living in close proximity to the turbines. When turbines are situated too near to homes, the constant low-frequency and mechanical noise can be intrusive, particularly during nighttime, leading to sleep disturbances. Over time, disrupted sleep may result in fatigue, headaches, reduced concentration and increased stress levels. The persistent noise can also contribute to anxiety and a general decline in overall wellbeing, as residents may feel they have little control over their environment.

## **8. Local Wildlife:**

The noise, vibrations, and changes to the surrounding landscape may also disturb local wildlife, in particular the hen harrier.

## **9. Overconcentration of Wind Turbines in West Clare**

West Clare has already seen a large number of wind turbines installed, while many other areas have had few or none. Adding another wind farm in this region would place an excessive and unfair burden on local communities, increasing noise, visual intrusion, and stress for residents. The cumulative impact of multiple developments makes this proposal particularly inappropriate and inequitable for the people of this community.

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Clonsnaughta,

Cranny,

Kilrush,

Co Clare