

The Secretary,  
2025  
An Coimisiún,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902.

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>085 314-25</u>	
ACP- _____	
25 NOV 2025	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>C36</u>
Time: <u>9.15</u>	By: <u>Ag/174</u>

21<sup>st</sup> November,

Re: Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála regarding the proposed Windfarm (Strategic Infrastructure Development) ABP – 317616-23 – ACP Case Reference Number – 323783-25.

Planning Permission to develop a Windfarm located within the Townlands of Glenconau More, Craghera and Cloonkett, Co. Clare.

Dear Inspector,

With reference to above, I John O'Brien, Gortglass, Kildysart, Co. Clare wish to make a submission to express my concerns regarding the proposed Windfarm at Cloonkett, Co. Clare.

The following is proposed:

much long-term harm to a very important habitat. Planning is sought for:

- 14 x 150-meter (Blade tip height) turbines
- 5.15 ha area for onsite borrow pits,
- 9.51 Km of internal access tracks minimum of 5 meters wide, wider at bends.
- forestry felling 8.4 ha
- new bridge within the site

The size and scale of this project is immense and I am in residence 1 km from the inner-circle of this project.

Wind is not constant so turbines only produce energy when the wind blows within a specific range of speeds and require large areas of land, which can be a limitation. Wind turbines can kill birds through collision with the blades.

The blades will generate noise, affecting residents nearby and can also affect farm animals.

The turbines are visually unappealing and impact greatly on the landscape view.

The residents who will be impacted by the proposal were not informed or consulted regarding the proposal, a meeting was promised and did not take place.

The road infrastructure around the location is unfit for a large-scale project such as the one proposed, roads are extremely narrow and this project will cause a massive inconvenience for locals who use the roads on a daily basis.

The location is very unsuitable for the proposed development and would only be suited to an unpopulated area.

I am born and raised in this location and deeply affected with the proposal which will affect the most beautiful and peaceful view our local community are blessed with. Living on the doorstep of Gortglass Lake has always been a blessing and I just cannot imagine this being destroyed, it is soul destroying.

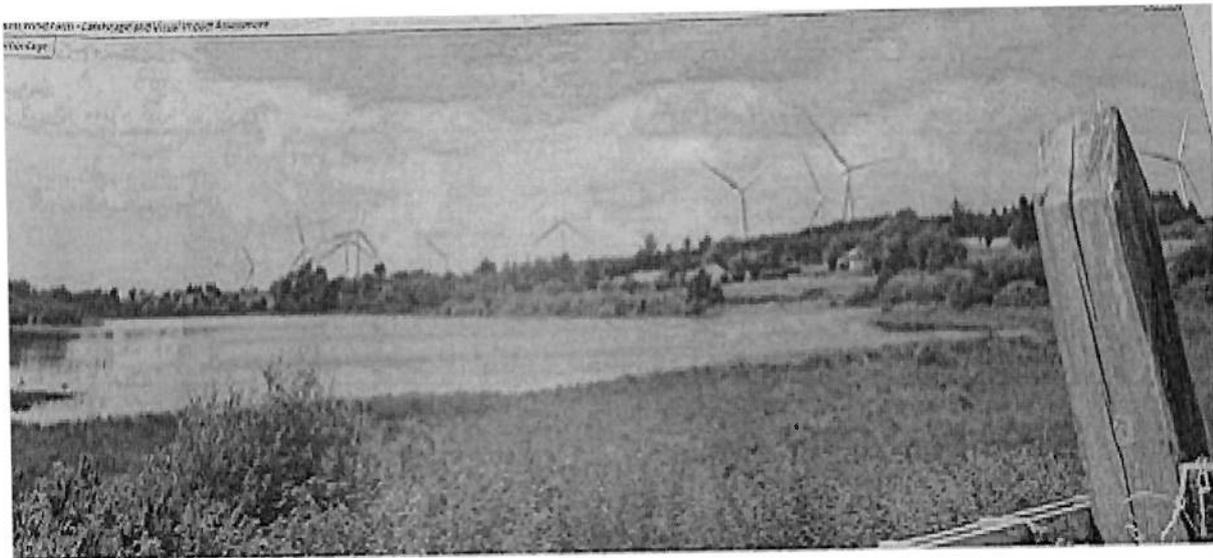
This proposed development is located in the pristine blanket bogs of Glenconau and Cloonkett. These bogs are located 3Km from Kildysart, 2Km from the village of Cranny and 2.5Km from Coolmeen. The development is only 690 meters from Gortglass Lough and 840m from Cloonsnachta Lough, both of these lakes are pNHA's. Gortglass Lough is only 3.5km from the Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (site code: 0044077) is the most important coastal wetland site in Ireland and supports 50,000 wintering waterfowl (NPWS, 2012), many avian species move between the lakes and the SAC throughout the year, these include many migratory bird species. The report states 'given the proximity to the River Shannon and River Fergus estuaries, habitat suitability for upland breeding waders is high in wider areas and therefore wader species like golden plover and dunlin are highly likely to breed in the area' and 'the 500 m turbine buffer area holds areas of plantation and associated scrub that have the potential to support breeding woodcock', woodcock breeding populations are considered red-listed since the Irish breeding range was reduced (Gilbert et al., 2021), the report also states 'the study area is considered to provide a mosaic of suitable habitats for wintering waders', Drinking Water supplied by Gortglass will be affected by pollutants from the Turbine posing a risk to the health of the entire community.

I need access to my bog at Dan O'Connell's which is a right of way included in the proposal, if it goes ahead I will be at a loss to this access.

Also, the proposal is not the distance from my farm that is outlined in the planning.

The Bog lands where the Turbines are planned also play a key habitat for many bird species, the two streams Cloonkett stream (EPA Code 27C12 ) and the Carrowreagh East stream (EPA Code 27C49) flow either side of the site and often flood with many ducks, swans and geese present in the winter months, as well as many waders such as curlews and Egrets, unfortunately some of the proposed turbines are at the southern side of the bog meaning birds have to fly past the turbines to reach the bog from the lakes. The report states 'based on SNH (SNH, 2017) guidelines, migratory populations of wintering geese and swans are notably sensitive to wind farm developments. The swans on the lake are flying to and fro from the Knockalough lake.

The photo below includes my house which I have worked very hard all my life to afford and maintain and is now no longer visible, this is devastating.

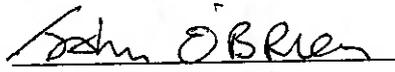


There is new information regarding Gortglass Lake as a drinking water source and this contradicts the proposal immensely.

During the Summer and sunshine days, the Shadow flicker caused by turbines will continuously result in shadows, depriving all affected by the proposal of the low percentage of sunshine Ireland receives and Vitamin D which is a common deficiency in Ireland and Irish people.

As outlined above, I am strongly against the proposal, I do not believe permission should be granted On the grounds of Public Health, Visuality and Biodiversity.

Signed:

  
(JOHN O'BRIEN)

Dated:

21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025