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Co. Clare

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28/10/2025

AN COIMISIUN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	28 3780-25
ACP-	
30 OCT 2025	
Fee: €	50 Type: 1/2
Time: 9.15	By: [Signature]

To whom it concerns,

Please find attached my objection to the proposed wind farm listed overleaf, this contains the technical details as to why this development should be refused but I would like to add some observations that are more personal, and how this development will affect the many people both local and visitors who use the area around Gortglass Lake for recreational purposes. This area has been long used by me and many others as a quiet and peaceful area for walking, rowing, fishing and canoeing. People come here for a bit of peace and tranquillity either before or after work. If this project goes ahead all this will change, added to that will be the fact that both my neighbours and I will have to live with the noise and visual disruption that this project will bring.

I have walked and hunted this whole area of bog/wetland as boy and man and seen grouse, plover, curlew, pheasant, woodcock and in more recent years, both hen harrier and march harrier. The bogland is also home to sphagnum moss, bog cotton and sundew to name but a few, these may not be endangered species of flora but to think of their desecration is upsetting to say the least.

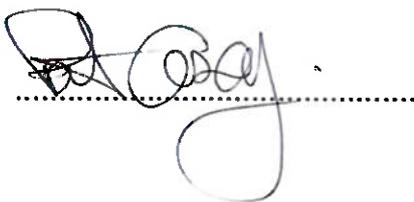
The project benefits none of the locals other than those that have signed land contracts with the company, but we will all have to live with the effects.

Please also find attached a list of 180 names of people who support our objection and have signed a petition against this development on Change.org

(<https://c.org/QyW2q9qMw2>)

Sincerely yours.

Pat Casey



# Formal Objection to the Proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm (SID)

To:

The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1, D01 V902

Date: 28/10/2025

Subject:

Objection under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) - Cloonkett Wind Farm, County Clare (14 turbines, 150 m tip height) File Number: PC03.317616

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Pat Casey, hereby lodge a formal objection to the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm at Cloonkett and Burrenfadda, County Clare. This submission represents a comprehensive analysis of the environmental, hydrological, ecological, public health, visual, and legal implications of the proposed development.

It draws directly from the developer's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), the Irish Aviation Authority submission, and the applicant's planning and landscape documentation.

## 1. Introduction and Context

*The site occupies upland peatland and wetland that drains via streams and drains to Gortglass Lough and onward to the Lower River Shannon SAC (002165). The landscape supports Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Curlew, Barn Owl, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, and Marsh Fritillary Butterfly. The ecological and hydrological connectivity between the bog, the river network, Gortglass Lough*

and the SAC means that disturbance can propagate cumulative, long-term impacts that cannot be dismissed by generic mitigation.

## **2. Project Overview and Statutory Status**

The proposal consists of 14 turbines at 150 m tip height, site roads, substation, grid infrastructure, forestry felling and ancillary works, with a 40-year operational life, submitted as a Strategic Infrastructure Development under Section 37E. Given the scale, location and sensitive receptors, the standard of assessment must satisfy the strict requirements of the EIA Directive and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## **3. Protected Avifauna - Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier and Curlew**

- EIAR data record 65 Hen Harrier observations and over 15,500 flight-seconds in or adjacent to the turbine envelope, yet provide no robust flightline mapping, barrier effect analysis, or cumulative collision risk model.
- There is no Marsh Harrier specific dataset, despite local presence and use of the lake-bog corridor.
- Curlew, red-listed in Ireland, are recorded within the bogland mosaic and are highly sensitive to disturbance and displacement.

Without species-specific, seasonally robust vantage point and flightline data for all three species, An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot lawfully conclude no adverse effects beyond reasonable scientific doubt under Article 6(3). Reliance on generic mitigation or timing measures at screening is prohibited by People Over Wind (C-323/17). The Sliabh Luachra and West Clare decisions further demonstrate that unresolved raptor risk warrants refusal.

## **4. Bats and Other Protected Fauna**

The EIAR acknowledges Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Barn Owl but does not provide repeat-season, weather-controlled, detector-based bat activity mapping commensurate with a 14-turbine scheme in

a complex lake-bog landscape. Substituting generic measures for site-specific risk evidence is insufficient for Appropriate Assessment and EIA conclusions.

## **5. Hydrology, Peat Stability and Downstream Sensitivity**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 11 - Hydrology and Water Quality and FRA)

The project overlays deep blanket peat draining into tributaries that feed Gortglass Lough and the Lower River Shannon SAC. Chapter 11 confirms direct run-off pathways and reliance on cut-off drains, settlement ponds and silt controls, but presents no calibrated catchment hydrological model, no quantitative sediment yield model, and no peat stability analysis with event-based scenarios. This approach conflicts with the lessons of Derrybrien (C-215/06; C-261/18), where insufficient peat and hydrology assessment led to environmental damage and EU liability. In the absence of calibrated modelling and enforceable turbidity triggers with stop-work protocols, the Board cannot exclude adverse effects beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

## **6. Public Drinking Water Supply - Gortglass Lough**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Ch. 11; Population and Human Health Ch. 6)

Gortglass Lough is used as a public water abstraction for the Killadysert Public Water Supply. Water is pumped to a treatment plant and serves hundreds of homes. Surface waters from the development area drain toward this lake. Chapter 6 treats human health primarily as residential proximity to turbines and omits the public water abstraction receptor. Under the Water Framework Directive and the EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184, deterioration at abstraction points must be prevented. The correct test is precautionary: without a credible, calibrated model demonstrating no deterioration risk, permission cannot lawfully be granted.

## **7. Freshwater Pearl Mussel - Lower River Shannon SAC**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Ch. 11; NIS Vol. 6)

Freshwater Pearl Mussel is a Qualifying Interest of the SAC and is highly sensitive to fine sediment and nutrient pulses. The NIS relies on mitigation and timing to exclude likely significant effects.

People Over Wind (C-323/17) prohibits reliance on mitigation at screening. Without quantitative evidence demonstrating no deterioration downstream, the Appropriate Assessment cannot conclude no adverse effect on integrity.

## **8. Turbine Blade Erosion, Microplastics and Chemical Release**

Glass-fibre and epoxy blades with polyurethane coatings undergo leading-edge erosion. Peer-reviewed literature indicates losses of several grams to tens of grams per blade per year onshore. In a catchment draining to a public water reservoir and European site, the EIAR should quantify blade erosion emissions, fate and transport to the intake and SAC receptors, and evaluate removal performance at the treatment plant. It does not. This omission engages public health and Water Framework obligations.

## **9. Fisheries and Recreational Amenity**

Gortglass Lough is heavily fished and locally stocked. Reduced water quality, turbidity pulses or chemical residues from construction and operation would harm fisheries and local amenity. The EIAR omits a dual-sensitivity assessment that recognises both drinking water and amenity receptors. These are material planning and EIA omissions.

## **10. Landscape and Visual Impact - Review of EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 15 and Photomontage Book**

(Ch. 15 Landscape and Visual; Volume 5 Photomontages Book 1)

- The LVIA claims overall no significant visual effects, while recording Substantial-moderate effects at several near-range viewpoints including VP 7 at Gortglass Lough. Under EPA EIA Guidelines 2022 and GLVIA3, a Substantial-moderate effect is significant unless compelling mitigation or design response is shown. None is provided.
- The photomontage book from lake viewpoints clearly depicts a dominant turbine skyline and material alteration of the lake-bog horizon, confirming a significant adverse effect for high-value public receptors.
- The LVIA undervalues Gortglass Lough as merely a pleasant view, disregarding its dual role as a public water supply and a recreational fishery. Sensitivity is high, not medium.
- Night-time cumulative effects and aviation lighting have not been presented, despite IAA engagement.

- The omission of long-established houses from receptor mapping further undermines viewpoint selection and significance judgements.

These defects render the LVIA's conclusions unsound and inconsistent with the Clare County Development Plan's protection of scenic landscapes and views along the Shannon Estuary corridor.

## **11. Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 14)

Chapter 14 lists known assets, including the Shannon Estuary cultural landscape and sites such as Canon Island Abbey, yet it concludes imperceptible effects. This conclusion does not account for cumulative visual intrusion from a 14-turbine skyline visible from heritage settings and approaches. A proper setting analysis and intervisibility mapping are required. Without them, the cultural heritage assessment is incomplete.

## **12. Population and Human Health**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 6)

Chapter 6 focuses on noise, shadow and construction nuisance, but omits the primary human health receptor in this landscape, namely the public abstraction at Gortglass Lough. Given the direct hydrological link and the scale of peatland intervention, the absence of a drinking-water risk assessment is a material flaw. The precautionary principle and drinking-water legislation mandate refusal where risk cannot be excluded.

## **13. Biodiversity**

(EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 9; NIS Vol. 6)

The biodiversity chapter acknowledges sensitive species but leans on standard mitigation and judgement-based significance statements, without quantitative risk modelling for raptors and bats or

multi-season survey evidence. The NIS approach is similarly mitigation-led. Under Article 6(3) and People Over Wind, this is insufficient to avoid AA or to sustain a no adverse effects conclusion.

## **14. Aviation Safeguarding and Public Safety**

The Irish Aviation Authority has been consulted as a prescribed body. At 150 m tip height, turbines exceed safeguarding significance thresholds. The applicant must show obstacle limitation surface compliance, radar and navigation safeguarding, and night-time lighting impacts. The EIAR's material assets and aviation discussion does not provide comprehensive obstacle analysis, radar reflection modelling, or explicit IAA compliance confirmation. In the absence of clear evidence and conditions agreed with the IAA, aviation safety concerns remain unresolved and precaution applies.

## **15. Mapping and Survey Deficiencies**

The application relies on outdated Ordnance Survey maps that omit numerous dwellings, including houses present for over two decades. This undermines receptor identification for noise, shadow flicker, visual and traffic safety and prejudices public participation. County validation standards and OPR guidance require up-to-date mapping of all receptors within at least 100 m. The deficiency is material and vitiates the reliability of multiple EIAR chapters.

## **16. Telecommunications and Grid Connection**

*O'Grianna v An Bord Pleanála* [2014] IEHC 632 prohibits project splitting. The grid connection and any off-site enabling works are part of the same project and must be assessed cumulatively for EIA and AA purposes. Any deferral to later consent or outline description is unlawful.

## **17. Critical Review of the Applicant's Planning Statement**

The Planning Statement advances high-level policy support for renewable energy but omits environmental and public health safeguards that condition that support. It mischaracterises the site's sensitivity, overlooks the hydrological link to a public water reservoir, and fails to engage with Annex I birds, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, peat stability and visual policy constraints. Policy support cannot override Article 6(3), the Water Framework Directive or drinking-water obligations. Accordingly, the Planning Statement does not establish policy compliance in the circumstances of this site.

## **18. Planning Policy - Conditional Compliance Only**

The National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan objectives to expand renewable electricity are conditional on protecting biodiversity, water and landscape assets. The Clare County Development Plan supports renewables only where compatible with these protections. In a drinking water catchment, hydrologically connected to a European site, hosting Annex I birds and red-listed species, and with significant visual effects at Gortglass Lough, the preconditions for acceptability are not satisfied.

## **19. Legal Framework and Case Law**

- People Over Wind (C-323/17) - Mitigation cannot be used at screening to avoid Appropriate Assessment.
- Sweetman (C-258/11) - No reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of adverse effects on integrity.
- O’Grianna v An Bord Pleanála [2014] IEHC 632 - The entire project, including grid connection, must be assessed together.
- Derrybrien (C-215/06; C-261/18) - Ireland liable for deficient peatland EIA; rigorous peat stability and hydrology assessment required.
- Sliabh Luachra Wind Farm (HC 2019) and West Clare Wind Farm (ABP 303945-19) - Permissions refused or quashed where raptor risk and data gaps remained unresolved.

Applied here, unresolved risks to European sites, protected species, a public abstraction and peat stability mean the legal threshold is not met.

## **20. Procedural Fairness and Precautionary Principle**

Under Section 37E the Board must consider proper planning and sustainable development. In a setting with a live drinking water abstraction, a downstream SAC receptor, Annex I birds present, and significant visual effects on a high-value public receptor, the precautionary principle must be applied. Where doubt persists due to missing models, incomplete surveys, outdated mapping or reliance on generic mitigation, refusal is the only lawful outcome.

## **21. Relief Sought Previously Set Out**

As previously requested, permission should be refused for the reasons set out above unless the applicant provides full, independently verified evidence of no adverse effects beyond reasonable scientific doubt on biodiversity, peat stability, hydrology, water quality, aviation safety, landscape and residential amenity.

## **22. Misrepresentation, Omission and Downplaying of Impacts**

This analysis is offered in good faith and in the public interest and relates solely to the content of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and associated documents, not to any individual or professional.

A review of the applicant's EIAR and supporting documentation reveals multiple instances where key environmental effects are understated or omitted. These deficiencies materially undermine the integrity of the assessment and risk misleading the competent authority.

### **a) Selective reporting of visual impacts**

Chapter 15 asserts no significant visual effect overall while internally recording substantial-moderate effects at several near-range receptors including Gortglass Lough. The photomontage book visually demonstrates dominance and skyline intrusion inconsistent with that conclusion. This internal contradiction fails the transparency requirement of the EIA Directive and EPA Guidelines 2022.

### **b) Omission of drinking water receptor**

Chapter 6 omits the Gortglass Lough public abstraction point despite its direct hydrological linkage and statutory protection under the EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184. This omission underrepresents human-health and hydrological risk.

### **c) Downplaying of protected species**

Chapter 9 records Hen Harrier activity yet labels it not significant without quantitative risk modelling, and provides no Marsh Harrier dataset while Curlew presence is acknowledged but not properly assessed for displacement effects. This approach conflicts with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

d) Lack of transparency in hydrological assessment

Chapter 11 provides qualitative assurances without calibrated hydrological modelling, sediment load estimation or peat stability analysis. Reliance on unverified assumptions rather than modelled evidence is a material omission in a peatland catchment context, particularly in light of Derrybrien.

e) Reliance on generic mitigation

Across the EIAR, mitigation is invoked to screen out likely significant effects. Under People Over Wind (C-323/17), mitigation cannot be used at screening to avoid Appropriate Assessment.

f) Outdated and incomplete mapping

Mapping omits long-established dwellings, undermining the validity of noise, shadow flicker and visual analyses for those receptors. Use of outdated mapping contravenes Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

g) Potential to mislead the competent authority

Taken together, these omissions and inconsistencies risk presenting an incomplete and misleading environmental baseline. Under Regulation 94 of the Planning and Development Regulations and Article 5(3) of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU, the developer must provide accurate, up-to-date and complete information. The EIAR fails this test and the Board should attach little or no weight to its conclusions.

## 23. Relief Sought

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm. If the applicant seeks to re-apply, any future proposal must, at minimum, include:

- A calibrated catchment hydrology and sediment transport model integrated with peat stability analysis, with event-based scenarios, turbidity triggers and stop-work protocols.
- A drinking-water source protection risk assessment for Gortglass Lough, prepared with Uisce Éireann, demonstrating no deterioration at abstraction.
- Full season, multi-year vantage point, flightline and activity modelling for Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier and Curlew, and detector-based bat mapping, with cumulative analysis and explicit collision and displacement risk quantification.
- A quantified turbine blade erosion emissions inventory and a fate-and-transport assessment to the lake intake and SAC receptors, including treatability at the plant.

- Updated, licensed mapping showing all residential and public receptors, with revised noise, shadow, traffic safety and LVIA modelling; verified photomontages from Gortglass Lough and designated scenic routes, including night-time aviation lighting.
- A comprehensive aviation safeguarding assessment demonstrating obstacle, radar and navigation compliance to the satisfaction of the IAA.

Until such evidence exists and shows the absence of adverse effects beyond reasonable scientific doubt, permission would breach EU environmental law, national legislation and the State's duty to protect public health, biodiversity and water resources.

Yours faithfully,

Pat Casey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Casey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Name	City	State
Save Gortglass		
Bernie Fole	kildysart	
Michael Murrin		
Catherine Quinn		
Aine Kerwick		
Gary Brook	Reading	
Daire Casey		
Ian Malone		
Tanya Randalow		
Irene Brook	Ennis	
Micheal Brooks		
Keith Randalow		
Peter Randalow		
Kathryn Dil	plymouth	
Lisa McCar	Cork	
Alan Mangan		
Sean Costello		
Jacinta Cla	Ennis	
Caroline Mooney		
Cathal B		
Rosemarie Power		
Kevin Case	Ennis	
Susana Mu	Madrid	
Karen Haye	Ennis	
Phillippa Oshea		
Jamie Brooks		
Kevin Bane		
Shane Brooks		
Deirdre Cullinan	Cullinan	
Eilish Cusack		
Eamonn M	limerick	
Ciara Foley		
Mary Coste	Dublin	
Christina N	Clare	
Michelle Downes		
Cheryl Ginnane		
Louise Hea	Galway	
John Cavanagh		
Ciaran Mol	Dublin	
Olive Rana	Ennis	
De Villiers	I Querrin, Kilkee, Co Clare,	
Charmaine Ryan		
Sonya Clancy		
Ciara Garry		
Dermot Mccarthy		
Ann Howe	Ennis	
Ciara Kenny		

Patrick Mooney	
Ann Keane	
Yolanda Sc Wittenbach	
Liz Wylie	
Alan MacG Hamilton	Scotland
Michelle Casey	
Clare Murphy	
Michaela Jc Dublin	
Ciara Keeg, Kilcock	
Ciara Keegan	
angelika+ thomas wegner	
Elena Chepukova	
Aoife Murta ennis	
Eleanor Ha co clare	
Joe Carroll Dublin	
Ellen Malone	
Niamh Conway	
Fiona Carrc dublin	
Eimear Cor Ennis	
Henry wilki Dublin	
John Carroll	
David Haye London	
Cathal Mac Clare	
Jennifer Keegan	
Owen Kelly Dublin	
Jenny Carrc Dublin	
Jeremiah Mahoney	
Nuala Shee Ennis	
David Wilkinson	
Liza McCann	
Edel Keane Clare	
Mary B Keane	
Mary Hayes	
Michael Kirrane	
Richard Kic Carlow	
Alan Sheehan	
Rachel Oconnor	
Josephine ( Blackwood	Wales; Cymru
Raleigh Kor St Paul	Minnesota
Lance Armor	Hawaii
Jon Inwood Brooklyn	New York
Zoe Hardy Perth	
Pauline Duggan	
Sinead McCann	
Claire Brooks	
Karen Fletc Ennis	
Sue Cone Hull	England
Mary Deeve Dublin	

Lorraine Bu Newmarket-on-Fergus	
Karen Brad Cavan	
David Condon	
Sean Moore	
Phil O Conduin	
Dave Hudson	
Terry HYNES	
Jane Casey	
Ann McGann	
shirley swa Birmingham	England
Grace Whelan	
Christine Condon	
joyce alexa Edinburgh	Scotland
Janette Mo' Dublin	
Sarah Kean Dublin	
Yvonne Ranalow	
Katalin Kón Szatymaz	
Madelein B Lake Dallas	Texas
Gerry Collir Ennis	
Jackie Etger	
Niamh Doy Ennis	
Rosa Cabre Hospitalet de Llobregat	
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christine hε Saint feliu d'Avall	
Noreen Holland	
Sinead cus ennis	
Eric Hittra St Briouc	
Sarah Casey	
Mark Devaney	
Louis O'Sul Dublin	
Joe Littleton	
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Anne Cahill	
Charles Jof Atlanta	Georgia
Andréa Bra Sao Paulo	
Leah Cronin	
Darren Mangan	
Kieran Garry	
Caitriona M Birr	
Chelsea Troy	
Analía Caia Rosario. Santa Fe	
Éimear Mu Wexford	
Susan Casε La Mure	
Eoin Ander: Sydney	

Una Donnellan  
Anna Leahy  
Cathal O'hEidhin  
Nathan Ker Ennis  
Rachel Cor Kildysart  
Majella Mu Ennis  
Dermot Clancy  
Christine O'Brien  
David Quin Dublin  
Lee-Anne V Dublin  
Raphaël PCTOULOUSE  
Christophe Shobdon  
Dylan O'Malley  
Thomas Keane  
Brendan Casey  
Peter McLa Luimneach  
Cecily DONNELLAN  
Alysia McGrath  
Patricia Bræ Kildysert  
Susan King Kilrush  
Marian Dyb Ennis  
John Hicke' Cork  
Ruth Melea Meath  
Nuria Estev Meano  
Frank O'Re cork  
Marian Kelly  
Connie Tyrri Ennis  
John Hayes  
Laura Bane Ennis  
Mark O Cor Sydney  
Patricia Mo Clare  
Craig Kearney  
Conor Moloney  
Megan Rya Dublin  
Valerie Rya Clare  
Mary browr Clare  
Amie Sheehy



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