

Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Richard Cahill
Cluain an Easa
Cloonanass
Sixmilebridge
Co. Clare
V95 TH90

Date: 04 August 2026

Re: Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region
in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

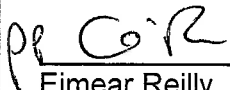
The Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that a copy of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for inspection on the Commission's website at the following link:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/323980>.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,



Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PA09

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Eimear Reilly

From: Communications
Sent: Tuesday 21 July 2026 12:06
To: Eimear Reilly; SIDS
Subject: FW: ACP-323980-25 Attention Eimear Reilly
Attachments: Pipeline Submission 2 RC20260721.pdf

From: Richard Cahill <cahillricharda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Communications <communications@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ACP-323980-25 Attention Eimear Reilly

You don't often get email from cahillricharda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Eimear,

Please find attached further submission as outlined in your communications of June 24th and 26th 2026. I am using email as I went in holidays between the arrival of your letter dated 24th and 26th as such my reply is very much last minute, I had diarised the August date. Hence Email rather than post.

Please confirm receipt of this communication.

Kindest regards,
Richard Cahill

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An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01V902

Cloonanass, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.

Attention: Eimear Reilly, Executive Officer.

21/07/2026

Ref: Case Number ACP-323980-25

Dear Eimear,

In response to your recent communications dated; Feb 28th 2026, June 24th 2026 and June 26th 2026, and the Applicant's response, I wish to make the following further submission:

Applicants ref: 6.2.5 Adequacy of Designed Storage Capacity.

477. The applicant does not agree that additional storage, in addition to the 75 Ml proposed at the TPR is necessary.

Yesterday's figures, July 20th 2026:

Water flow in the Shannon 11 Cubic M / second → 950,400 Cubic M per day. (ESB)

Greater Dublin Area (GDA) requirement 693,000 Cubic M per day (Uisce Eireann)

50% of GDA needs to be met by pipeline → 346,500 Cubic M per day (Uisce Eireann)

Uisce Eireann require 36.46% of the current flow of the River Shannon at Parteen Weir and Ardnacrusha Power Station.

I acknowledge this is a time of low rainfall: But this is the exact time and scenario where damage to the Shannon River will be risked to serve the needs of the GDA. This is just one day, every for the past two to three weeks, at low tide, you could walk across the Shannon at King John's Castle, and you can clearly see the bottom of the Abbey River there is so little water in it Photos included. NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD IN CONTINGENCIES. Not when the River Shannon is actually being damaged.

75,000 Cubic M storage

(Uisce Éireann)

Being generous

85,000 Cubic M of storage if you include the two overflow tanks.

(Uisce Éireann)

Uisce Éireann plan to construct new storage capable of 24.5% of 1 days usage in the GDA

It is my concern that it appears that Uisce Éireann perceives the Shannon River as a Water Storage Device for the GDA. And this 'Storage Facility' is to be drawn from whenever the need arises.

The Shannon River has already been greatly damaged by the construction of the Parteen Weir for the its design purpose of electricity generation at Ardnacrusha. It is not a perfect system but the ESB do a reasonable job managing the river system (Weirs and Salmon hatcheries etc). The system is designed to store sufficient water for Ardnacrusha Generating Station to function and in time of low water even this is minimised to protect water levels in the Shannon. The River management system was NOT EVER designed for an additional extraction of 36.46% of the river flow in times of drought.

It is in times of drought that the GDA will require most water from the Shannon.

Uisce Éireann do allude to an extraction licence from the EPA. However the world and its aunt is aware that Local Authorities and now Uisce Éireann have been the organisations found to be most frequently in breach of EPA rules and regulations (I do not have current figures on this or time to research before your deadline). This MO of flouting EPA rules does not imbibe any confidence in Uisce Éireann or other political body to safeguard the Shannon River by adhering to EPA rules and regulations.

479. The Proposed Project including the TPR needs to be viewed in the wider context of the supply of water in the Eastern and Midlands Region and would work in parallel with all the other existing strategic storage reservoirs. Therefore, the Applicant does have the capacity, elsewhere, to store water for drinking supply purpose but this is not provided by the TPR, and it is not designed to do so.

This is simply a deliberately misleading statement: If there was adequate storage why is there a need for hosepipe bans at the moment. Ireland has experienced a wet winter and a late spring. We have had 1 month of relatively dry weather and we are banning hosepipes in the GDA... Why; because storage facilities are running low. It is a deliberately misleading statement, and in my opinion an untruth, to state the Applicant does have the capacity, elsewhere, to store water for drinking supply

purpose. This is not about storing 'drinking water' specifically; it is about storing adequate water for the needs of the GDA. be that treated or untreated.

5.2.8 Alternative Abstraction Location / Shortest Route

5.2.8.1 Applicants Response:

401. An abstraction from Lough Derg was considered in the Regional Water Resources Plan - Eastern Midlands Plan. However, it was discounted as the option was determined to have a high likelihood of significant impact on the aquatic ecology of the Lough. The Regional Water Resources Plan also considered abstraction from Lough Ree, but as set out in Section 5.2.2 of this report, that option was also discounted.

No matter where you extract the water it will "have a high likelihood of significant impact on the aquatic ecology." The point at 401. is a throw away statement. The largest expenditure most projects have over their lifetime is cost of energy. I repeat the case stated in my original submission, which has not been addressed from an energy consumption level over the predicted lifespan of the pipeline.

This factor is profoundly emphasised by the simple measurement of Athlone being 100km from the Phoenix park and Birdhill being a full 50% further away at 150Km. Coupled with this is the factor that the pipe line is proposed to be routed north, for some distance, in a route almost parallel to Lough Derg, probably to be justified by topography. From the perspective of minimising environmental impact and cost, should the shortest route be of primary consideration? Outside of the environmental impact of the construction; the energy costs of pumping the water a distance 50% greater than needed should warrant examination. Add to this the topography between Birdhill and Dublin, anyone driving the M7 knows you encounter hilly ground; compare this to the topography on the M6 which is to almost flat for its entire route. Research shows the routes of the two canals, Royal and Grand, connecting the Shannon with Dublin has already identified flattest route.

Please note; The examples of the Canals and the motorways was simply to indicate the relatively flat topography not to suggest a precise route.

Further, for the purpose of energy consumption calculations, the lifespan of the pipeline will be 50 years minimum and probably considerably longer with appropriate maintenance and indexation should be applied.

Cluain an Easa

Cloonanass, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.

I must also take this opportunity to iterate my serious concerns on the matter of Data Centres potentially being allowed to become the biggest customers of Uisce Eireann. Fiduciary duty can be used as an excuse to justify a decision to ignore the needs of the people of Ireland over the profitability of the company you are a director of. Data centres should be required to be designed to be self-contained from a water cooling perspective, and not allowed to become a drain on natural resources that the people of Ireland need to live their lives. 'The Common Good' and all that.

Kindest regards,



Richard Cahill.

0866019970

