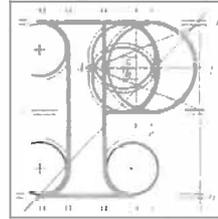


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Ibec
c/o Aidan Sweeney
84/86 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Date: 04 March 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 recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

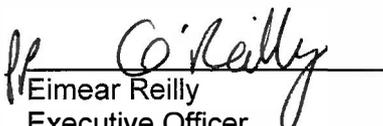
The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

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

PA04

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Láithreán Gréasáin **Website** www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 25th February 2026
Name: Aidan Sweeney
Address: 84-8 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 H720
An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PA92.323980

Ref: Observation in Support of the Proposed Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin

To whom it may concern,

Ibec welcomes the opportunity to provide observations in support of the Strategic Infrastructure Development application for the **Water Supply Project – Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP)**. As Ireland’s largest business representative organisation, Ibec represents over 39 trade associations and thousands of employers across every sector of the economy. A resilient, high-quality and future-proofed public water supply is essential to maintaining competitiveness, enabling sustainable population growth, and ensuring that Ireland’s infrastructure keeps pace with national ambitions.

Ibec strongly supports the progression and approval of this application.

Strategic Need for the Project:

Meeting Future Demand

Uisce Éireann forecasts that by **2044 the Eastern and Midlands Region will require 34% more water** to meet demand in a region expected to grow by more than 25% over the same period. This projection is cited in our NDP submission, which states clearly that **without the Water Supply Project, growth in the region will grind to a halt.**

Reducing Over-Dependence on a Single Source

The Greater Dublin Area relies almost entirely on the River Liffey for drinking water. This single-source dependency is a structural vulnerability that leaves homes and businesses exposed to drought risk, water quality incidents, outages, and infrastructure failures.

The WSP provides the **necessary second strategic source** – a Shannon-based abstraction – ensuring continuity, resilience, and security of supply for up to 50% of the State’s population.

Benefits to Business, Industry, and Competitiveness:

Supporting Housing and Economic Growth

The availability of water infrastructure is a binding constraint on housing development, industrial expansion, and the realisation of the National Planning Framework's population targets. Ibec has consistently highlighted that **water and wastewater capacity are essential enabling infrastructure** underpinning:

- housing delivery,
- compact urban growth,
- industrial development,
- foreign direct investment,
- agri-food and life sciences operations,
- and regional competitiveness.

A failure to deliver the WSP in a timely manner would undermine the NDP's objectives and impede job creation and investment across the Eastern and Midlands region.

Supporting Regulated Industries and High-Quality Water Requirements

Members in food production, pharmaceuticals, precision manufacturing, and other regulated sectors depend on **high-quality, stable, and uninterrupted water supply**. Ibec has emphasised the need for robust treatment standards and resilient network performance to avoid production interruptions or compliance risks.

The WSP's design, with modern treatment facilities and additional storage capacity, aligns with these needs.

Climate Resilience

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of droughts, extreme weather events, and ecological pressures on existing water sources. The WSP is a core climate-adaptation measure that ensures Dublin and the wider region can withstand future shocks, consistent with Ibec's call for **security and resilience in national infrastructure planning**.

Conclusion

Ireland faces growing demographic, climate, and industrial demands that require long-term, strategic water planning. The Water Supply Project – Eastern and Midlands Region is one of the most critical infrastructure projects of this generation. It:

- ensures water security for up to half the State's population,
- unlocks housing and economic development,
- supports high-value industries,
- provides resilience against climate and supply disruptions, and
- aligns with national policy goals and the NPF.

Ibec strongly urges **An Coimisiún Pleanála** to approve the application and enable the timely delivery of this essential strategic project.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Sweeney
Head of Infrastructure &
Environmental Sustainability
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