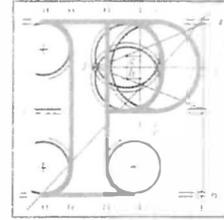


**Our Case Number:** ACP-323980-25

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

John Fingleton  
Mountrath Road  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois  
RE32 FKW0

**Date:** 03 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](http://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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64 Marlborough Street,  
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24<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

A Chara,

Re: Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Regions  
Case Reference Number 323980

I have set out below my submission to the Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Regions.

### **Summary**

The proposal to provide a water supply from the River Shannon will contribute to the security of the water supply for the Eastern and Midlands Regions.

Following an evaluation of the project I am suggesting that the costs of the project can be reduced by c.20%. with a similar reduction in the environmental impact on the pipeline wayleave.

### **Route**

I cannot understand the logic of pumping the water from the Parteen Weir end of Lough Derg.

Extracting the water at the North East end of Lough Derg and pumping from there to the proposed booster pumping station East of Birr Co. Offaly and continuing on the route to the Termination Point Reservoir at Peamount, Co Dublin would seem a more sustainable solution.

This route would reduce the pipeline length from c.172km to c.135km. The pumps would pump directly from the treatment plant to the reservoir at Peamount.

The statement in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), "It also avoids the need to build a new impoundment " is difficult to understand.

Why would an impoundment in the NE of Lough Derg be needed? In both cases the water will be extracted from Lough Derg (surface area over 110km<sup>2</sup>).

## **Design**

The proposed new route would reduce the pipeline length by over 35km and eliminate the need for break pressure tanks, booster pumping station and flow control valve.

The use of variable speed drives, with uninterruptible power supply, ensures pump starting and stopping with minimum pressure surges.

The statement in the EIAR, "Optimising gravity pressure for transporting treated water through the pipeline to reduce energy demand and related emissions from pumping " is both misleading and incorrect.

While under certain conditions the water will flow by gravity from the high point to the Termination Point Reservoir, in all cases the energy to pump to the high point will exceed the energy reduced by using gravity.

Pumping energy costs depend on the static head and the friction loss.

The static head is determined by the difference in elevation from the source (Lough Derg) to the delivery point. This is fixed. The friction loss depends on flow, pipe size and pipe length

Once the flow and pipe size is determined the only variable is the pipe length.

The shorter the length the lower the friction. By pumping to a high point and using gravity the length is increased and therefore the energy is increased. In addition the flow control valve will be dissipating some of the energy used to pump to the high point.

In addition to the maximum friction pressure loss being reduced in proportion to the overall length, by controlling the flow to meet the demand at Peamount the additional power required to pump to the break tanks and operate the flow control valve would be avoided.

The overall capital costs would be reduced by more than the pro rata length of 20%.

The friction pumping energy costs would also be reduced by more than 20%.

The shorter length would have a proportional reduced environmental impact on the pipeline wayleave.

## **Pipe Size and Fittings**

I note that the proposed pipeline diameter has been reduced from 2000mm for the section from the Break Pressure Tank to the Termination point Reservoir to 1600mm and reduced from 1700mm for the Section from the High Lift Pumping station to Break Pressure Tank to 1600mm.

The selection of pipe diameter requires a full lifetime evaluation of capital costs and

operating costs.

I have not seen any analysis but the reduction in diameter would seem to be a good change. Reducing the diameter further to 1500 mm should be examined.

The raw water pipeline is proposed to be 1500mm

In my experience most leaks in pipelines occur at fittings. The rationale for the number of isolating valves, air valves and drain valves should be re-evaluated. 51 line valves and 321 air valves seems a very high number.

I note that the isolating valves are proposed to be butterfly valves.

Butterfly valves have cost advantage but have a pressure loss and are more likely to have a sudden closure with resultant pressure surge.

Consideration should be given to full bore ball valves that will have significantly less pressure loss, less likelihood to sudden closure and would facilitate pigging of the pipeline which would have the benefit of better pipeline inspection and significantly reduce the need for the line valves and air valves.

### **Recommendation**

Consideration should be given to:

- o Extracting the water from the point in Lough Derg nearest to the demand.
- o Eliminating the high lift section.
- o Using variable speed drives to pump direct from Lough Derg to Dublin.

Cost /benefit analyses should be carried out on the following,

- o Reducing the line size to 1500mm.
- o Using full bore ball valves instead of Butterfly valves.
- o Reducing the number of line valves, air valves and washout valves.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Fingleton', written in a cursive style.

John Fingleton BE CEng FIEI