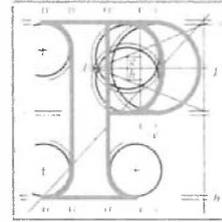


**Our Case Number:** ACP-323980-25

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Michael Barker & Company  
Riverpoint  
Lower Mallow Street  
Limerick  
Co. Limerick

**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](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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An Coimisiun Pleanála,  
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Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902

## Submission to Public Consultation –

**Objection / Observation to the Shannon to Dublin Water Supply Project  
Re: Proposed Water Supply Project (Shannon to Dublin Region)  
ACP Case number 2025 / 323980**

A Chara,

I wish to formally register my objection to the proposed Shannon to Dublin Water Supply Project.

While I recognise the importance of ensuring a secure and resilient water supply for the growing population, this proposal represents an overly centralised, environmentally intrusive, and strategically unbalanced solution to a problem that should first be addressed through demand management, infrastructure repair, and regional planning reform.

### **1. Failure to adequately prioritise leakage reduction and infrastructure repair**

Ireland continues to experience significant levels of treated water loss through leakage in the Greater Dublin Area. It is widely acknowledged that a substantial proportion of treated potable water is lost before reaching end users due to ageing and inadequate infrastructure. It is neither economically nor environmentally responsible to construct a cross-country pipeline extracting water from the Shannon catchment before fully resolving preventable losses within the existing network.

Investment must be prioritised toward:

- Comprehensive repair and replacement of ageing water mains (ESSENTIAL)
- Achieving best-practice leakage rates comparable to other European cities (ESSENTIAL)
- Network monitoring, smart metering, and demand management (ESSENTIAL)

Extracting additional water without addressing the existing systemic inefficiencies risks perpetuating and extending the existing unsustainable consumption patterns

### **2. More sustainable and locally appropriate alternatives exist**

A number of modern and proven alternatives should be fully explored and implemented before pursuing a project of this scale and permanence, including:

- Consideration to harvest the Shannon water below the Parteen weir will reduce the impact on the lake
- Rainwater harvesting requirements for all new public buildings and major developments
- Mandatory grey-water reuse systems for toilets, irrigation, and non-potable uses
- Expansion of water recycling and reuse infrastructure
- Demand-side conservation measures and building regulations promoting water efficiency

These approaches reduce dependency on a single remote source and align with contemporary best practice in water resilience planning.

### 3. Environmental and ecological risks to the Shannon catchment

The River Shannon is Ireland's largest and most ecologically significant river system. It supports sensitive habitats, fisheries, tourism, recreation, and regional economies across multiple counties.

Large-scale abstraction carries inherent risks, including:

- Alteration of hydrological regimes and downstream flows
- Potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity
- Cumulative long-term ecological consequences that may not be fully reversible
- Increased vulnerability during periods of drought or climate variability

The precautionary principle should apply where uncertainty exists regarding long-term environmental impacts.

### 4. Reinforcement of unsustainable regional imbalance

This proposal risks reinforcing an already disproportionate concentration of population, infrastructure, and economic activity within the Greater Dublin Area.

Rather than continuously expanding infrastructure to support unchecked metropolitan growth, national policy should promote more balanced regional development, strengthening cities and towns across Ireland. Major infrastructure decisions should align with the National Planning Framework's objective of achieving regional parity, rather than further concentrating strategic resources.

### 5. Scale, cost, and permanence of the intervention

This is a project of exceptional scale, cost, and permanence, with long-term environmental, economic, and spatial implications.

Such an intervention should only proceed where it is demonstrably the most sustainable and proportionate option available. At present, it is not clear that all less invasive, decentralised, and lower-risk alternatives have been fully exhausted or implemented.

### Conclusion

In summary, I respectfully object to the Shannon to Dublin Water Supply Project on the grounds that:

- Existing leakage and infrastructure deficiencies have not been fully resolved
- More sustainable and decentralised alternatives are available
- There are legitimate concerns regarding ecological and environmental impacts
- The project risks reinforcing unsustainable regional imbalance
- The scale and permanence of the proposal are disproportionate at this stage

Ireland is not a water-scarce nation. The challenge is not in the supply of the water, of which there is plenty, but in management, conservation, and strategic planning.

I urge Irish Water / Uisce Éireann and the relevant authorities to prioritise infrastructure repair, conservation, reuse, and decentralised supply solutions before pursuing large-scale abstraction from the Shannon catchment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Mise le meas,



Michael Barker  
25 February 2026

