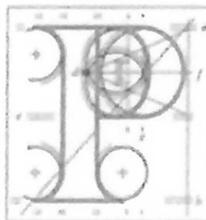


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

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

Date: 26 February 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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Planning Section,
Clare County Council
New Road,
Ennis,
Co Clare

Cloonanass, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare. V95TH90

19/02/2026

Ref Planning: PA92 Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Pipeline Birdhill to Dublin

Dear Planners,

I would like to lodge an objection / Submission to this project for Environmental reasons and because of an overall flawed rationale.

The Shannon above the O'Brien's Bridge Dam is protected as a resource of the ESB to supply Ardnacrusha Generating Station. The associated legislation heavily regulates the extraction of water from this part of the Shannon. This is, in my opinion, the reason for Uisce Éireann the extraction point to be located below the ESB O'Brien's Bridge dam.

In times of low water usually summer there is a complete set of Weirs and Locks along the Shannon River to facilitate the storage of water, and to manage the flow of water in the river.

In times of high water, usually winter, there is no water supply issue indeed there can be flooding issues. In times of high water, especially during winter, the extraction of some water from the Shannon should not, in my opinion, create a major issue. If this is to be carried out under the control of the ESB who already manage the Shannon basin water levels it would bring a definite element of regulation to the project and therefore ensure water was not extracted during times when the water levels in the Shannon are already low.

The environmental concern raised by PA92 locating its extraction point below the O'Brien's Bridge Dam is that there is no regulatory body to control when the water is extracted and in what amount. Remember; in times of low water it is possible, at times, to walk / wade across the Shannon River in the city of Limerick as there is so little water flowing. See Picture.

It is this Flaw in the overall rationale that is most concerning. We are all aware of the Modus Operandi of Uisce Éireann especially pertaining the amount of water lost to leakage from underground pipework in Dublin. I am not arguing that this should be fixed first. I am, however, stating clearly that if this is the ongoing strategy, then contingency needs to be put in place to facilitate this. If appropriately regulated extraction of water from the Shannon is part of this strategy, then adequate new storage facilities for the water also need to be part of the planning and development. Sufficient storage capacity to accommodate all the leakage combined with all of the demand for a period of up to two months needs to be in place before any pipeline to serve extraction from the Shannon is constructed:

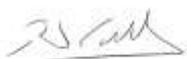
IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE THE JUSTIFICATION OF TAKING WATER FROM THE SHANNON AT TIMES OF LOW WATER COULD BE JUSTIFIED TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF DUBLIN.

The apparent need for Uisce Éireann to have the extraction point below the O'Briens Bridge Weir is very concerning, and is indicative of a want to have unmitigated and unregulated access to the waters of the Shannon. 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.

I object to planning being granted for PA92 the following reasons:

- Adequate storage capacity for water in the greater Dublin area, needs to be in place, before any pipeline to extract water from the Shannon is granted permission. As suggested capacity to meet demand and leakage for a 2-month period. This is to ensure the protection of the Shannon Water way in times of dry spells or drought.
- The location of the Extract point in Birdhill has been chosen specifically to circumvent control by the ESB who regulate the water levels of the Shannon. It would be far better for the Shannon, from an environmental perspective, to have the water being extracted from the ESB controlled part of the Shannon.
- The location of the Extract point has not been selected from a position of minimising environmental impact during construction.
- The location of the Extract point has not been selected from a position of minimising environmental impact during use.

Kindest regards,



Richard Cahill

Cluain an Easa

Cloonanass, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare. V95TH90

