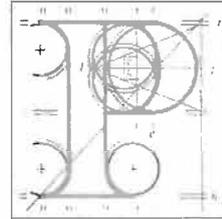


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Senator Dee Ryan
Leinster House
Kildare Street

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.

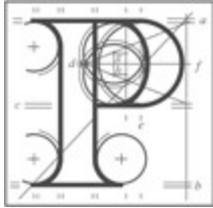
Yours faithfully,


Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PA04

Teil (01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil 1890 275 175
Facs (01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's
name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Senator Dee Ryan

(b) Observer's
postal address

Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal
address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Coimisiún Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**

(for example: 300000)

ABP-322447-25.

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Water Supply Project for Eastern and MidLands Region (Shannon to Dublin)

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Parteen Basin, Co. Tipperary to Dublin

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word limit** as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Concerns have been raised by many constituents and different groups in Limerick as to the impact of water extraction from the Parteen Basin on

- 1 Flow and water levels on the Lower Shannon (Old Course) and into Limerick City and consequent impact on local environment and on the leisure and tourism use of the lower Shannon
- 2 On renewable energy generation at Ardnacrusha and achieving our Climate Action targets
- 3 On water supply for residences and businesses in Limerick city, county and parts of county Clare which is extracted from the lower Shannon outside of Castleconnell Co. Limerick at the Clareville Water Works.
- 4 On limitations to the future economic development of Limerick city and region by any reduction in water supply for industry in the region.

Critics warn that during periods of drought or low flow, such abstraction could reduce water availability in the Shannon system, with knock-on effects for the Ardnacrusha hydro plant, for navigation, for ecology, and for the river communities downstream in the following ways:

- The Old Course of the Shannon is a natural asset for recreational, leisure and tourism activities. There are on-going efforts by local authorities in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary to support and develop the use of the Shannon through blueway and greenway projects and successive tourism strategies. Any reduction to the water levels and flow of the Shannon on the Old Course could detrimentally impact on these efforts.
- Ardnacrusha, which was the largest hydroelectric project in the world when it opened, is still operational and is responsible for 2% of our annual electricity generation. The State has committed to achieving 80 percent renewable electricity by 2030. During periods of drought (summer months) Ardnacrusha stops generating electricity because of requirements to maintain a minimum flow to the Lower Shannon (Shannon Fisheries Act, 1935). Concerns locally are that a further extraction of water from the Parteen Basin, which also supplies water for hydroelectricity generation at Ardnacrusha, would result in a further reduction in renewable energy

5. Grounds

generation and would negatively impact on achieving climate action targets.

- The water supply for Limerick City comes from the River Shannon and is treated at the Clareville Water Works. The plant currently produces between 45 to 50 MLD (over 10 million gallons per day) of clean drinking water, which is comfortably below its supply potential of 87 MLD. The majority of this output is pumped directly to Limerick City where it fills the Newcastle Reservoir in Castletroy which keeps the city with a constant supply of potable water. The rest of the output is pumped locally to Castleconnell and South-East Clare. There is roughly 1.5 days storage of treated water within the Newcastle Reservoir. More housing is needed and concerns are that this could be negatively impacted by the extraction from the Parteen basin.
- Concerns exist in local business community that any reduction in supply or reduction in reliability of supply of water for the Limerick city area would negatively impact on our on-going efforts to attract and retain investment in the area.

While Uisce Éireann maintains that the abstraction represents no more than about 2 percent of the long-term average flow, local groups rightly point out that averages mean little during the critical summer months, when every cubic metre of water counts.

We must ensure that energy generation, environmental stewardship, and water management are treated as interdependent parts of one national system — because they are.

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to request the Coimisiún to hold an oral hearing, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes