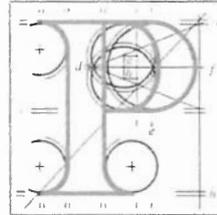


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Shane Mathews
Rathrobin
Tullamore
Co. Offaly

Date: 06 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 submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of this 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

PA09

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	communications@pleanala.ie

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

13th February 2026
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
ACP- _____	
16 FEB 2026	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: 9.15	By: <i>Deagpost</i>

RE: Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region

Reference IW/WSP/CPO/56

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Shane Mathews of Rathrobin, Blueball, Tullamore, County Offaly, wish to formally object to the planned compulsory purchase order of land and rights over land for the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region Order 2025.

Project Cost Concerns

The original estimated cost for the pipeline was €1.2 billion, but this has escalated significantly and is now expected to be in the region of €5–€6 billion, with the possibility of exceeding €10 billion. This increase represents an unnecessary financial burden on the taxpayer. I believe the project can be completed at a much lower cost. I submit that this is a flawed project and represents an unnecessary waste of public and taxpayers' money.

Alternative Approaches to Water Supply

Dublin and Irish Water should consider a diversified, multi-pronged approach—often referred to as the "4-5 finger approach"—to address the water supply issue. As part of planning permission requirements, all data centres, industrial estates, housing estates, and private residences should be required to harvest rainwater. Irish Water should seek sources closer to Dublin, including revisiting the idea of a desalination plant, which could ensure there are no issues with supply volumes or restrictions from Parteen Weir by the ESB. The brine byproduct from such a plant could be used for road maintenance during winter. Additionally, water should be harvested from rivers and groundwater sources nearer to Dublin, such as aquifers, and larger reservoirs should be constructed using the Dublin mountains catchment area.

Reducing Water Waste and Leaks

Irish Water must work to reduce leaks to less than 10%, instead of the current figure of 20%. The organisation should also focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling treated drinking water to be more self-sufficient, rather than allowing it to flow back to the sea. A significant portion of treated water is used for non-essential purposes such as washing cars, watering plants, and flushing toilets. This is an unnecessary expense, especially when rainwater would be adequate and is freely available.

Environmental and Health Risks

Irish Water has not adequately considered the environmental risks along the pipeline route, including the spread of diseases such as cattle TB and anthrax. These diseases pose a serious threat to the farming community. Construction works may expose bacteria in the soil, as well as dead animal carcasses buried over the years, increasing the risk of disease transmission.

Water Source Reliability and Contamination

The ESB uses Parteen Weir for power generation. In dry years, the volume of water available for Irish Water could be compromised. There has also been no mention of potential contamination from historic mines, such as the Silver Mines, which contain lead, zinc, and other dangerous chemicals that could impact water quality for human consumption. These mines are located upriver from Parteen Weir and dangerous chemicals may leach into the Shannon.

Flooding and Sewage Concerns

The Shannon basin, including Athlone town and surrounding areas, is prone to flooding during very wet seasons. During such events, floodwaters can mix with human sewage (including E.coli and other bacteria), which is extremely hazardous to human health.

Yours faithfully,

Shane Mathews