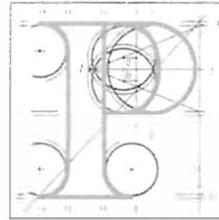


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25
Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Tony O'Brien
Cross Roads
Killaloe
Co. Clare
V94 N9WF

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.

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

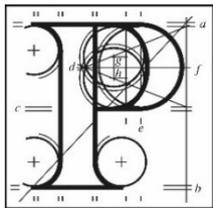
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Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

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

Tony O Brien

(b) Observer's postal address

Cross Roads
Killaloe
Co. Clare
V94N9WF

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 Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

323980

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

Water Supply Project Eastern and MidlandsRegion

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

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

Lough Derg Ballina 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).

I am asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission to Uisce Eireann to proceed with the Eastern and Midlands water supply project. I base my objection on the following.

The river Shannon is the greatest single natural resource that drives Economic development, Tourism, and Recreation in its hinterland. The proposed application by Uisce Eireann has the potential to destroy and ruin all the investment and plans that are put in place to best utilise the Shannon river. The local authorities bordering the river along with other state agencies such as Failte Ireland and Waterways Ireland have invested heavily in the region and plan significant further investment into the future, all of these plans are in jeopardy if this proposed abstraction is permitted. In 2018 according to data supplied by the ESB they were forced to shut down electricity production at Ardnacrusha for a total of 75 days, all because they had not enough water to keep the turbines running whilst continuing their statutory obligation of maintaining the old river Shannon course from Parteen weir into Limerick. If as outlined in the planning application that 2% of that flow were to go on the abstraction there would not only be insufficient water for power generation at Ardnacrusha but also the minimum statutory required amount of water to sustain the ecology and habitats in the old river course would not be met.

Within the planning application I am unable to find any assessment of the long term operational costs and I am also concerned that the proposed

5. Grounds

capital investment of close on 7 Billion euros is money that could be and should be invested in a more sound and resilient sustainable plan to supply the Eastern and Midlands region.

I would like to point out as part of my submission that I believe that the Eastern and Midlands region and the greater Dublin area is entitled to and must have a strong resilient dependable supply of fresh water as should all regions of our country, but transporting water from the river Shannon to the river Liffey via a 170KLM pipe is not the way. Other such alternatives which to my knowledge have not been fully explored or considered as a water source are the Poulaphuca (Blessington lakes) reservoir which was built specifically for the purpose of supplying water to the greater Dublin area. The Eastern rivers system consisting of the rivers Liffey, Slaney, Boyne and the Barrow were never explored exhaustively.

New ground water sources in Kildare, Meath and the greater Dublin area only 30KLMS from Dublin were never fully explored and were dismissed at a very early stage of the process.

Leakage is a huge contributory factor in the need to find extra sources of water. Uisce Eireann would get a better return with a long term investment plan repairing and replacing the ageing system currently in Dublin. In fact so successful is their first fix free scheme as far back as 2021 they were saving in excess of 155 million litres of water per day. Whilst there is no specific data for the greater Dublin area one can conclude that because of population density a huge portion of this comes from the greater Dublin area this combined with the Find and Fix mains net work programme which in just 4 major repairs (Long Mile road, James Street, Malahide Road, Merrion Row) saved a total of 4.5 million litres per day. This also brings into question the figures put forward by Uisce Eireann outlining the long term requirements for water in the Eastern and Midlands water supply project.

5. Grounds

Fixing leaks, upgrading the network and not pumping treated water into an old and crumbling infrastructure is what is required here.

I read with amazement the self congratulatory comments on Uisce Eireann's website where they congratulate themselves on putting forward this project. They state that it is a once in a generation project will ensure a sustainable secure and resilient supply of water to the greater Dublin area and wider Eastern and Midlands region. They also state that this water supply project will bring significant socio economic and environmental benefits for communities in the Eastern and Midlands region. Minister Jack Chambers stated That it is a major milestone that will unlock housing in the Eastern and Midlands region. I mention the above comments to emphasise that there are no benefits to any other region or area, and that this project conflicts and contradicts the National Planning Framework (NPF) which is Ireland's long term strategic planning document forming a core part of project Ireland 2040. The NPF promotes balanced regional development to counter over concentration in Dublin and the Eastern and Midland region. Under the heading "Core Objectives" in the NPF the following paragraph is written "The NPF aims to plan for and implement a better distribution of regional growth in jobs and prosperity, while regenerating rural Ireland through sustainable patterns. It supports stronger urban centres outside Dublin like Cork Limerick Galway and Waterford each growing by 50% to 60% in population and jobs". I contend that this project as put forward by Uisce Eireann contravenes the ethos and aims of the NPF.

If this project goes ahead over 400 land owners are going to be impacted with 170 kilometres of land running right through the spine of our country under some form of sterilisation and restriction. This means no development no investment and no progression for landowners or

5. Grounds

communities. I ask how does that benefit rural communities and I also ask how does that comply with the NPF aims and criteria.

In a time of global warming and climate change and in a time of protecting already under threat natural habitats this proposed project has the potential to destroy what has taken lifetime to create. The water quality of the river Shannon is in serious decline over the past number of years, the fish life has deteriorated enormously, and the recreational activities are being curtailed by the appearance on a regular basis of no swimming notices issued by the local authorities.

In conclusion I am appealing to you to reject this proposal to abstract water from the river Shannon at the Parteen basin for all the reasons I have outlined and the many more reasons that more learned and professional people will put forward. Please don't let the river Shannon be the next Murray Darling.

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 Board 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