



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:

William Lawrence Hodges
50 Lakelands
Cullenagh
Ballina
Co. Tipperary
V94 P0E4

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
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Submission Objecting to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region - SHANNON to DUBLIN WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (Ref. PA92.323980)

Applicant: Uisce Éireann

NAME: William Lawrence Hodges

ADDRESS: 50 Lakelands, Cullenagh, Ballina, Co. Tipperary V94P0E4

I, William Hodges, formally object, to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region. The project, as currently proposed, presents unacceptable environmental, social, and economic impacts for local communities, with the perceived benefits overwhelmingly accruing to Dublin, while the local area bears disproportionate risks

1. Environmental Impacts

- The proposed abstraction at the Parteen Basin lies within the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), threatening critical habitats and protected species, including pollan, salmon, and trout, as well as the habitats of endangered species of water birds.
- Modelling indicates that even under current proposals, Lough Derg and the Parteen Basin could experience dangerously low water levels during drought conditions, risking ecological collapse. Climate change analysis by the ICARUS Institute at Maynooth University have shown that in a short number of years, Ireland and the Mid West could experience increased times of drought during the summer months. This would mean that the proposed 2% water abstraction would in fact become a 30% abstraction due to the lowered levels of the river.
- Potential impacts on water quality and river resilience are significant, particularly during low flows, which could affect both biodiversity and downstream communities.
- The development does not adequately safeguard against long-term environmental degradation, and the mitigation measures proposed are insufficient and non-binding.

2. Construction and Traffic Impacts

- The five-year construction period will cause severe disruption to local communities, including heavy traffic on regional and rural roads, temporary road closures, and risks to public safety.
- The scale of works, including large construction compounds and abnormal load movements will generate significant noise, dust, and loss of agricultural access, with impacts lasting up to 24 months per land parcel.
- Local tourism, a vital economic driver for Lough Derg's towns and villages It will be adversely affected, with potential damage to boating, sailing, water parks, fishing, and other recreational pursuits. This will cause economic hardship to numerous small business owners and their dependents.
- Recreational use of the lake could be majorly impacted - There will be a small reduction of water volume in Lough Derg, yet the same amount as presently of agricultural run off into the lake. This will concentrate the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen in Lough Derg's water & surrounding waterways, promoting toxic algae. As it stands, there are already seasonal flare-ups of toxic algae in the lake, which can be harmful to humans and animals, and impact amenity value. Such episodes lead, correctly, to formal warnings and restrictions on lake usage, for safety purposes.

My understanding from an engineer on the water extraction project is that mitigating this is not their remit, and is therefore largely disregarded as an issue at the design or management plan stage. Toxic algae (cyanobacteria) in lakes are primarily caused by an overabundance of nutrients—specifically

phosphorus and nitrogen—combined with warm, slow-moving water and ample sunlight. These conditions, often triggered by agricultural runoff, sewage, and climate change, cause rapid blooms that can produce harmful toxins.

The effect of this on Lough Neagh has been catastrophic, and impacts connected waterways and Lough Erne. Lough Derg & other local waterways could be similarly affected, given the lack of mitigation against increased concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen resulting from the water extraction project. A tiny change in concentration could tip the delicate ecological balance into an irreversible local catastrophe.

For the stated reasons, I hereby object in the strongest possible terms to the planning application by Uisce Eireann.