

Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Yvonne Moloney
Grange Road
Ballina
Co. Tipperary

Date: 17 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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Submission Objecting to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region

Applicant: Uisce Éireann Planning Authority / Local Authorities: Tipperary CC, Offaly CC, Kildare CC, South Dublin CC, Clare CC, Limerick CC Case Type: Private Development

Name – Yvonne Moloney

Address – Grange Road, Ballina, Tipperary

Objection Statement

The Killaloe / Ballina communities 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 Parteen Basin lies within the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), threatening critical habitats and protected species, including pollan, salmon, and trout.
- Modelling indicates that even under current proposals, Lough Derg and Parteen Basin could experience dangerously low water levels during drought conditions, risking ecological collapse.
- 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 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 Killaloe and Lough Derg, will be adversely affected, with potential damage to boating, sailing, and recreational amenities.

3. Community Impact with No Benefit

- The proposal fails to prioritise the communities most affected. While a Community Gain Fund is proposed, no commitment is made to ring-fence funding for Killaloe, Ballina, Parteen, or Birdhill, the areas bearing the greatest disruption.

- Local infrastructure, environmental monitoring, and tourism protection measures are inadequate to offset the burden placed on these communities.

For these reasons, the Killaloe / Ballina communities object in full to the proposed development. The environmental, social, and economic impacts are significant, irreversible in some cases, and place an unfair burden on our community for bearing the environmental risk for Dublin's growth. We request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for this project in its current form.

If Planning is not refused outright then the following mitigation measures need to be put in place.

Mitigation Measures in the Event Planning is Granted

A. Community Benefit Scheme - Ring-fence a significant portion of the Community Gain Investment Fund specifically for the Killaloe, Ballina, Parteen, and Birdhill communities. Allocate funding to economic, environmental, and educational initiatives, including: Enhanced wastewater treatment for Killaloe. Tourism infrastructure improvements to offset construction disruption. Environmental monitoring programs for the Lower River Shannon SAC.

B. Employment and Economic Benefits - Establish local employment quotas, ensuring a minimum percentage of construction person-weeks are filled by new entrants or long-term unemployed from the Clare/Tipperary region. Provide funded training schemes for local residents in skills such as welding, plant operation, and metalwork to qualify for site work. Require that at least 5% of the project team (contractors and consultants) are SMEs from the local region. Host "Meet the Buyer" events in Killaloe/Nenagh to ensure local contractors have access to subcontracting opportunities.

C. Traffic and Construction Management - Approve a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) with Clare County Council oversight, including: - Restricted haulage hours to avoid tourist peak periods and school runs. Mandatory wheel-washing facilities at compound exits. Clear signage and traffic marshals at key junctions. Advance notice to local businesses of road closures. Optimise construction traffic routes to use the M7/N7 corridor where possible, avoiding Killaloe village. Require road condition bonds to ensure rural roads damaged by heavy plant are restored to pre-construction or better condition.

D. Environmental Mitigation - Implement independent water level monitoring at Parteen Basin during construction and initial operation, with regular public reporting. Establish a legally binding drought protocol to pause construction-related abstraction if Lough Derg levels drop below defined thresholds. Apply enhanced sediment control measures, including double silt curtains and settlement ponds, with penalties for any sediment escape in SAC areas.

E. Tourism and Amenity Protection - Enforce construction exclusion zones within 200m of the shoreline during July and August peak tourist season. Design permanent infrastructure at Parteen Basin to minimise visual impact, including landscaping with native species.

Provide compensation through the Community Gain Fund for tourism businesses that suffer demonstrable losses due to construction disruption.

F. Operational Safeguards - Ensure fair compensation for landowners affected by the 20m permanent wayleave, including restrictions on tree planting and deep cultivation, with corridor management to prevent invasive species. Clarify emergency response protocols for leaks or bursts in the Shannon area, ensuring local services are integrated with remote monitoring and automated valve systems.