

An Coimisiún Pleanála
via online submittal

RE: Proposed Cahermurphy Grid Connection ACP

Application: 324155-26

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to object to the proposed Cahermurphy West wind farm application.

While I support renewable energy in principle, I do not believe this proposal has been demonstrated to be appropriate for this location or for the surrounding community. Having reviewed the application documents and EIAR material, I am concerned by the number of inconsistencies, unresolved issues and areas where important detail has been deferred until after consent. In my opinion, this makes it very difficult for the public, or for An Coimisiún Pleanála, to fully assess the real impacts of the project.

One of my primary concerns is the unprecedented scale of the turbines being proposed. At approximately 185 metres in height, these would be substantially larger than many existing turbines in Clare and among the tallest onshore turbines proposed in Ireland. The visual impact of turbines of this size in an area already heavily affected by wind energy development has not, in my view, been adequately addressed. The cumulative impact on the character of West Clare, its landscape and its residential environment is a serious concern.

I am also concerned about the potential impact on nearby homes and residents, including noise, shadow flicker and the overall loss of residential amenity. While the EIAR concludes that operational noise limits can be complied with, much of the assessment appears heavily dependent on modelling assumptions and mitigation measures rather than real-world operating conditions. I am not satisfied that the application adequately addresses low-frequency noise and infrasound concerns, particularly given the increasing international scrutiny of these issues and the growing body of research questioning whether standard dB(A) measurements fully capture the effects experienced by people living near large industrial turbines.

As the owner of a historic and locally significant home in relatively close proximity to the proposed turbines, I am also concerned about the effect this development would have on the historic rural setting and character of the area. The scale and industrial nature of the proposed turbines would, in my opinion, materially alter the setting and visual environment of historic properties and traditional rural landscapes in this part of West Clare. I do not believe the application adequately addresses these impacts.

I am further concerned that the scale and proximity of the proposed turbines will interfere with the ordinary enjoyment of homes and property in the area. Residents are entitled to reasonable protection of their residential amenity and living environment, and I do not believe the long-term impact of turbines of this scale on nearby households has been adequately considered.

I also have concerns regarding biodiversity and birdlife in the area. Hen Harriers are a species of particular conservation importance in Clare, and I have personally observed Hen Harriers on and

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around my property over a number of years. Given my proximity to the proposed development, I am concerned that the cumulative disturbance and habitat impact associated with turbines of this scale has not been fully understood or adequately assessed.

The application also raises broader environmental concerns. The documentation acknowledges downstream connectivity with Natura 2000 sites and identifies ecological and hydrological sensitivities within the receiving environment. However, many mitigation measures appear to rely on future monitoring, management plans or measures to be refined later. I do not believe sufficient certainty has been provided regarding the long-term environmental effects of the project.

Finally, I am concerned that West Clare is already carrying a disproportionate share of large-scale wind energy development. The cumulative effect of existing and proposed turbines on the landscape, local communities and rural environment has not been adequately recognised.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development.

Respectfully,

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