

An Coimisiún Pleanála

RE: Proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm

Application: 324155-26

I wish to submit an objection to the Cahermurphy West Wind Farm proposal.

My concern with this application is not simply the fact that a wind farm is being proposed, but the lack of confidence I have in the quality and completeness of the information submitted. Having gone through a significant amount of the planning documentation, I was struck by how many aspects of the project appear to remain unresolved or dependent on future agreement. Important details relating to mitigation, environmental protection and operational impacts seem to be deferred until after permission would already have been granted.

I am also concerned that the scale of the proposed turbines is out of proportion with the receiving landscape. Turbines of approximately 185 metres are of a very different order to many existing wind farms in Clare, and I do not believe the visual and cumulative impact of structures of this size has been honestly reflected in the application material.

Another issue which I do not believe has been satisfactorily addressed is noise. The reports rely heavily on standard modelling and compliance limits, yet there is increasing discussion internationally regarding low-frequency noise and infrasound from very large turbines and whether current measurement methods fully capture their effects on nearby residents. Given the scale of the turbines proposed here, I do not think these concerns should be dismissed so readily.

The environmental assessment also leaves unanswered questions. The application itself acknowledges connections to sensitive habitats and protected European sites, yet much of the response appears to rely on monitoring and mitigation measures that would only be developed or refined later. In my opinion, that approach does not provide enough certainty for a development of this scale.

More broadly, I believe there has been insufficient consideration of the cumulative burden already placed on West Clare by large-scale wind energy development. There comes a point where the character of a rural area is fundamentally altered, and I believe this proposal risks pushing the area beyond that point.

For these reasons, I ask that permission for the proposed development be refused.

Respectfully,
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