

Clohanmore
Cree
Co. Clare
V15 RP23

19th of May 2026

Re: Proposed Cahermurphy Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Cahermurphy Wind Farm development in the townlands of Cahermurphy, Carrowmagry South, Castlepark, Caheraghacullin, Doolough, Drummin, Kilmihil and Knocknahila More South, Co. Clare. The planning file publicly describes the proposal as a 10-year planning permission application for 8 wind turbines, a 110kV electrical substation and ancillary development.

I respectfully submit that this proposed development would have serious adverse consequences for the local environment, the rural landscape, residential amenity, and the health and wellbeing of people living in the area. For these reasons, I request that planning permission be refused.

Firstly, the visual impact of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure would be substantial and enduring. This part of west Clare is defined by its open rural landscape, natural beauty and quiet character, and the introduction of large-scale industrial structures would materially alter that character to the detriment of residents and the wider area.

Secondly, there are significant environmental concerns associated with this development. The planning process for wind farm proposals in Cahermurphy has already drawn attention in recent years to issues relating to ornithology, including protected bird species such as the hen harrier, as well as peatland and blanket bog impacts, which shows the ecological sensitivity of the broader area.

Thirdly, I am particularly concerned about the likely effects on the health and wellbeing of nearby residents. Large wind turbines can give rise to persistent noise disturbance, sleep disruption, stress, annoyance, and reduced quality of life for people living close to them, especially in quiet rural areas where background noise levels are otherwise low. Concerns about noise and constant turbine-related disturbance have already been raised by local objectors in relation to wind energy development in the Cahermurphy area.

In addition to audible noise, the effects of shadow flicker and the repetitive movement of turbine blades can create ongoing disturbance for those living nearby. Where homes are exposed to these impacts on a recurring basis, the result can be a genuine interference with residential amenity and with the ordinary enjoyment of one's home.

I am also concerned that existing setback guidance may not adequately reflect the scale of modern turbines now being proposed. Given the size of contemporary wind energy structures, a precautionary approach should be taken where there is any real possibility of adverse health or residential amenity effects on nearby households.

There are also broader concerns regarding cumulative impact. Where a rural community is already experiencing existing or proposed wind energy infrastructure in the wider area, the cumulative burden on visual amenity, environmental sensitivity, and residential wellbeing must be fully assessed rather than considered in isolation. Previous planning decisions relating to Cahermurphy have specifically referred to cumulative adverse ornithological impacts in the area.

While the importance of renewable energy is fully acknowledged, renewable energy development must be located in places where it does not impose an unacceptable burden on local communities, sensitive landscapes, or vulnerable habitats. In this case, I do not believe that the proposed development strikes a fair or lawful balance between national renewable energy objectives and the rights, health, and amenity of local residents.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Cahermurphy Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Dowling