

Yvonne and Michael Conway,

Clonina, Cree,

Kilrush,

Co.Clare

15th May 2026

An Coimisiun Pleanala,

64 Marlborough St,

Dublin 1

Planning Ref no : ACP 324155-26

RE: Objection to Planning Application ACP 324155-26 Proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm

Dear Sir / Madam

We live 1km south of the proposed wind farm. We have lived here all of our life and have watched successive wind farms being constructed in the West Clare area. We understand that we need to move away from fossil fuels and that renewables will form a major part of that. The Eu 2030 climate action is a legally binding target under Eu Climate Law and under that there are many target areas including scaling up renewable energy , energy efficiency and emissions trading. Ireland faces significant challenges and in my opinion is because of lack of serious efforts by consecutive governments to tackle climate crisis in Ireland that we are where we are today. We trail behind other countries regarding the number of AD plants , our grants to encourage householders to go solar are abysmal. Very little financial incentive for ordinary people yet wind farm companies are highly subsidised in this country hence the plethora of planning applications even in my area. Unfortunately, there seems to be a consensus in Government and elsewhere that we push planning through regardless .

West Clare has an excessive concentration of wind development- 119 operational and a further 42 proposed. In the case of Cahermurphy West wind farm the proposal is for 8 turbines up to 185 m high - industrial by any scale, on an elevated site. These will totally dominate the vista from miles away in an area which is part of the Wild Atlantic Way and an important tourist area on which the local economy depends.

Living in this area local people feel disenfranchised because of the serious lack of community engagement and involvement. As a Strategic Infrastructure Development, the application goes directly to ACP, bypassing Clare County Council. Community engagement takes the form of dropping leaflets to houses, supposed to be within a 2km radius of turbines, 2 information evenings in local hall -where lots of questions were not answered satisfactorily. People have concerns re shadow flicker and noise but feel these won't be addressed. The planning application itself is not user friendly. It presumes that all have access to computers and are computer savvy. Even if you are

AN COIMISIUN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>252 952-26</u>
ACP-	_____
18 MAY 2026	
Fee: €	<u>50</u> Type: <u>CASH</u>
Time: <u>12:39</u>	By: <u>NMD</u>

computer savvy I found it very difficult to access some documents on ACP website, they seemed not to exist! I failed to open Vol 1 and Vol 3 of planning documents! The planning document requires a fair level of background knowledge to understand it and I found it was full of contradictory statements and very hard to decipher. Clare County Council were supposed to have hard copies of planning application but they did not have the photomontages to view .

In the last 10 to 15 years there has been quite a few new houses built within 1.5 km of this proposed wind farm site. It is so heartening to see young people populating the area and starting families. It gives us hope for this part of rural Ireland where we see rural depopulation in so many places. However, I feel so sorry for them if this application is granted because without doubt their properties will be devalued and then the prospect of shadow flicker and noise affecting them and having these large industrial turbines looming over their properties will surely make them regret ever building there. The bigger worry now is that local people could be prevented from building a house with an objection from the windfarm company as happened recently in Tipperary.

The site is located within the tributary of Annageeragh River subcatchment while the southern part is located within the Creegh river subcatchment . These rivers are traditionally salmon and trout rivers but are under pressure from forestry and agriculture but even more reason that they are protected from runoff, soil erosion and chemical spills that can occur during construction. We are not confident that this planning document has sufficient mitigation measures to ensure their protection.

If this application is granted we would have serious concerns for the biodiversity in this area. The site is a mix of forestry over peat and exposed peat as well. There is a lot of wildlife in the forest foxes, bats, red squirrel and pine martin as I'm sure is documented in the applicants documents We are very concerned about the Hen harrier. As farmers we along with other farmers in the area were in the Hen harrier programme which has been replaced by ACRES . In this programme farmers manage land for the hen Harrier by conserving upland habitats -bogs, upland heather and grassland. Hen Harrier population in Ireland has declined by 33% since 2015 ! This area is a well documented breeding and foraging area for the hen harrier. But if this windfarm application is successful, it will be the death knell for this bird.

I wrote earlier about the EU climate targets for 2030 but there is also an EU biodiversity strategy for 2030. It highlights “ needs to step up efforts to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity and nature loss”. How do we balance that up with this drive for large scale renewables infrastructure ?

Wetland Surveys have an online map of Ireland and there are 3 wetlands identified as part of site for Cahermurphy West wind farm 1.Cahermurphy cutover
2.Caheraghacullin cutover 3.Knocknahila More North bog . Each would have a C rating ;local conservation value(high Value) Even though these sites do not have a special status Ireland has obligations under the Ramsar Convention which focuses on “ wise

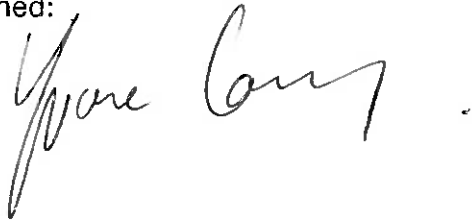
use of wetlands to protect biodiversity.” I didn’t find any reference to these wetlands on planning documents. They surely warrant a mention or at least mitigation measures?

We are very concerned with the expected large volume of traffic for this site in its construction phase. The roads are narrow and are already in poor repair. We saw a statistic of 8000 trucks /artics carrying heavy loads of stone gravel concrete steel etc . This raises a lot of safety issues with road users and local residents. The local infrastructure will not cope with such weight and volumes.

Finally bad enough having an industrial wind farm in our area the grid connection for the wind farm is planned to connect with Moneypoint ESB station- 25km on narrow “ legacy roads “ according to applicant! We intend to send a submission on the grid connection as well.

Therefore we ask that you refuse the planning application of Cahermurphy West Wind Farm.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maire Conry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M J Conry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.