



An Coimisiún Pleanála
Strategic Infrastructure Development
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Our ref: 230843

Your ref: ACP 315645-23

Date: 20th March 2026

Re: Section 182A Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for Proposed 110kV electrical infrastructure and connection to the National Grid at the existing 110kV Moneypoint substation in the townlands of Cahermurphy, Cloonwhite South, Sheeaun, Leitrim, Cloonreddan, Kilmacduane East, Clooncullin, Lissanair, Teernaglohan, Brisla East, Brisla West, Gowerhass, Tullagower, Garraunnatooha, Knockerry West, Carrowfree, Derrylough, Dunneill, Doonnagurroge, Pouladarree, Carrowdotia South, Carrowdotia North Co. Clare.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Cahermurphy Renewables Designated Activity Company (DAC), please find enclosed a copy of an application for the proposed grid connection which comprises of the provision of c.25km of underground 110kV electrical cabling from the Proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development to the existing Moneypoint 110kV electrical substation to facilitate connection to the national grid and all related site works and ancillary development considered necessary to facilitate the Proposed Project.

Background

The Application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) as ‘Strategic Infrastructure Development’ (SID) under the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (“the Act”). This position was confirmed by An Coimisiún Pleanála in correspondence dated the 26th of November 2025, following pre-application consultations with the Commission (case reference ACP-315645-23).

The Applicant for the Proposed Project, Cahermurphy Renewables Designated Activity Company., is a joint venture between FuturEnergy Ireland and Mid Clare Renewable Energy (MCRE) Ltd. Further details about the applicant are available in Chapter 1 of the accompanying EIAR.

The development subject of this application will facilitate the connection of the proposed 8 no. wind turbine Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development to the national electricity grid. A separate, concurrent planning application for the Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development is also being lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

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McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No: 462657. VAT No: IE9693052R

MKO Water Limited t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No: 338589. VAT No: IE6358589Q

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Proposed Grid Connection

The Proposed Grid Connection, as per the public notices is as follows:

The proposed development will comprise:

- i. The provision of c.25km of underground electrical cabling (110kV) from the proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development to the existing Moneypoint 110kV electrical substation to facilitate the connection to the national grid;*
- ii. Provision of 36 no. joint bays, communication chambers and earth sheath links along the proposed underground electrical cabling route;*
- iii. Permanent and temporary Site Drainage;*
- iv. Reinstatement of land, road and track surface above the proposed cabling trench;*
- v. All related site works and ancillary development considered necessary to facilitate the Proposed Project.*

A ten-year planning permission is being sought.

The development subject of this application will facilitate the connection of the proposed 8 no. wind turbine Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development to the national electricity grid. A separate, concurrent planning application for the Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development is also being lodged to An Coimisiun Pleanala.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this application.

The EIAR and NIS assess both the full extent of the proposed development as described above in i-v., as well as integral elements of the wider project infrastructure for the Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development including the construction of 8 no. wind turbines with a blade tip height range from 180m to 185m inclusive, a hub height range from 98.5m to 110.5m inclusive and a rotor diameter range from 149m to 163m inclusive with associated foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas; the construction of 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation including 2 no. control buildings lightning protection, welfare facilities, car parking, and all associated electrical plant and apparatus, security fencing, external lighting, underground cabling, wastewater holding tank and all associated infrastructure, apparatus and landscaping; underground electrical cabling (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed on site 110kV electrical substation and associated ancillary works; erection of 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 100m metres above existing ground level, including a lightning rod; construction of new permanent access roads and upgrade of existing roads; upgrade of 1 no. new existing agricultural access to the site; development of 2 no. borrow pits; construction of 2 no. temporary construction compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure; temporary works at 6 no. locations along the N68 national road, R484 regional road and L-2074, L-2082 and L-2048 local roads associated with the facilitation of turbine component and abnormal load delivery to site; permanent and temporary Site Drainage; operational Stage Site Signage; Biodiversity enhancement measures; and all related site works and ancillary development including landscaping considered necessary to facilitate the proposed development located in the townlands of Cahermurphy, Carrowmagry South, Castlepark, Caheraghacullin, Doolough, Drummin, Kilmihil, Knockalough, Knocknahila More South, Co. Clare, all of which are essential infrastructure associated with the operation of the proposed development and which, as referenced above, are subject to a separate, concurrent planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

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Overview of Planning Policy

The Proposed Project is strongly supported by EU and national policy and legislation. At an EU level the Proposed Project is supported by the EU Renewable Energy Directive and RePowerEU. At a national level, the Proposed Project is supported by the National Planning Framework First Revision, the Climate Action Plan 2025, the National Energy Security Framework, among other national climate and energy policies. Planning Authorities have clear legal obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) when assessing planning applications for renewable wind energy developments. They are required to make decisions consistent with national climate policies and objectives, including the latest climate action plan, national adaptation frameworks, and the overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This obligation takes precedence over the requirement to simply "have regard to" local planning policies.

The timely approval of well-planned, appropriately located renewable energy projects, such as the Proposed Project is essential to Ireland's ability to meet Climate Action Plan 2025 targets and also its legal commitments under national and EU law. Failure to meet EU climate targets could result in financial penalties, increased carbon credit costs, and greater reliance on fossil fuel imports, undermining energy security and economic stability. Moreover, prolonged planning delays create uncertainty for investors, threatening job creation and regional economic growth. Without a shift in approach to ensure alignment with national climate objectives, Ireland risks missing its climate targets, incurring financial consequences, and undermining its energy security. Every viable renewable energy project plays a crucial role in meeting Ireland's climate targets. The approval of well-planned projects, such as the Proposed Project is not just beneficial, it is an imperative. Without decisive action to facilitate renewable energy deployment, Ireland risks missing national and EU commitments, incurring financial penalties, and undermining energy security.

The development of sites viable for wind energy development is essential to meet European, national, and local climate and renewable energy targets. Ireland needs to scale up onshore wind energy development at an unprecedented rate to achieve our 9GW target and 80% RESE target set out in the Climate Action Plan 2025. If permitted, the Proposed Project could be installed and operational before the end of the decade, with the potential of adding 57.6MW of renewable, clean energy generating capacity to our national grid. This will not only contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector but will play a role in the decarbonisation of other sectors and the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy.

This application is accompanied by a detailed Planning Report and Chapter 2 of the EIAR, which clearly outline the Proposed Project's compliance with planning policy across all levels—local, regional, national, and international.

Contents of Application

Site Notice

Site notices with yellow backgrounds were erected on the 20th March 2026, in accordance with 19(4) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended ("the 2001 Regulations"). The site notices have been erected as per the locations shown on the site location map series included in the planning drawing pack.

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The requirement for site notices with a yellow background arises in relation to a valid planning applications that was submitted within the last 6 months which intersect with the red line boundary of this planning application.

Newspaper Notice

A newspaper notice was advertised locally in the Clare Champion, published 19th March 2026 and dated 20th March 2026, and nationally in the Irish Examiner, published and dated 20th March 2026, in accordance with Article 18 of the 2001 Regulations.

Landowner Consent

As the application includes lands under the ownership of third parties, letters of consent from each of the landowners within the red line boundary are provided separately with this application. A landowner identification map for the letters of consent is also included.

In relation to works along the public road the provisions Article 22(2)(g)(ii) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 applies. A letter confirming that the Development is to be undertaken by a statutory undertaker having right or interest to provide services in connection with the Development is provided with this application.

Planning Fee

The planning fee has been paid by EFT payment on 11th March 2026, see details below:

- Payment of SID Application Fee: €100,000
- Payee Message: FEI Payment
- Payment Reference No. – 3796218649

Planning Application Drawings

A full set of planning application drawings and a drawing schedule have been prepared by MKO in accordance with the 2001 Regulations and are included with this application.

Planning Report

A planning report has been prepared in support of the Proposed Project. The planning report provides an assessment of the proposed development against the relevant planning policy.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

An EIAR has been prepared and is included with this application.

The EIAR is structured as follows:

- Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report.
- Volume 2 – Photomontage Booklet.
- Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices

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EIA Portal Confirmation Notice

The EIA Portal was notified of this planning application on 16/03/2026. The EIA Portal ID reference is 2026037. The email confirmation of the EIAR ID reference is provided separately.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

An AA Screening Report and NIS has been prepared by MKO and accompanies this application.

I trust that ACP now have all the information required to progress the application. If, however, there is anything further or you have any query on any matter in relation to this application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Clancy

Alan Clancy BA, MPlan, MIPI

Senior Planner, MKO

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