

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Karla and Patrick Byrne

Castlelambert

Athenry

Galway

H65R940

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 26 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed grid connection for the Cashla Peak Plant, and over 8km of underground cable.

The proposed works would cause a huge disruption to local traffic, with road closures and diversions. It would be a real inconvenience for local residents on their daily commute and school run, not to mention the local farmers.

This area is a karst limestone area. A 22 tonne rock breaker would have to be used for the proposed works, which would be in very close proximity to many homes. No vibration assessment or pre-construction structural survey has been offered.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development

Inadequate Assessment of Disruption to Communities

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the effect prolonged trenching works, stop/go traffic systems, temporary road closures and traffic diversions would have on the normal functioning of local communities. I do not believe adequate assessment has been provided regarding the likely impact of prolonged disruption on residents, emergency access, school transport, farms and daily community movement, particularly given the scale of the proposed construction activity and associated HGV traffic on local roads including the L3103.

Delays to Emergency Response and Defibrillator Access

The proposed works could cause significant delays and disruption for emergency vehicles, home-support services, school transport, agricultural traffic and daily commuters. I am also concerned about possible delays in accessing community defibrillators and emergency response assistance in rural areas where rapid access can be critical for medical emergencies.

Cumulative Impact on Community Access Routes

The roads affected by the proposed cable route are important community access routes serving homes, farms, schools and businesses across the wider Athenry area. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged construction activity, HGV traffic, road closures and disruption on daily community movement has not been adequately addressed within the application documentation.

EMF Exposure and Long-Term Impact on Animal Health

I am also concerned that insufficient information has been provided regarding the possible long-term impact of major underground infrastructure and electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure on livestock and animal health in an active farming area. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged construction works, groundwater disturbance and underground infrastructure on farms and rural properties has not been fully addressed within the application.

Facilitating Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Against Climate Policy

The proposed substation, mast and underground cable infrastructure are intended to support the operation of new gas-fired electricity generation infrastructure. I am concerned that the proposed development would facilitate long-term fossil fuel energy infrastructure at a time when national and EU climate policy requires significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and greater transition towards sustainable and lower-carbon energy systems.

Residents and Landowners Not Individually Engaged

I am concerned that many residents, landowners and businesses affected by the proposed development were not individually engaged regarding the practical impact the project could have on homes, farms, local roads, property access and daily community life. No clear information appears to have been provided regarding issues such as noise, vibration, road closures, rock-breaking, groundwater impacts or future maintenance requirements.

Further Assessment Required and Precautionary Approach Needed

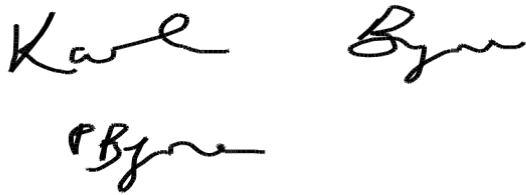
I believe further assessment is required regarding the long-term impact of the proposed infrastructure on rural amenity, groundwater protection, traffic safety, agricultural activity and future development within the area. I am also concerned that no detailed vibration assessment appears to have been carried out in relation to

trenching works, rock-breaking, excavation activity or heavy construction traffic along the proposed cable route. Given the sensitive karst limestone geology within the area, vibrations may travel further and affect nearby homes, boundary walls, agricultural structures and local roads. I do not believe sufficient baseline studies, including structural surveys, road condition assessments, vibration monitoring proposals or mitigation measures, have been provided prior to works commencing. Given these uncertainties and the potential for lasting impacts on surrounding rural communities, I believe a precautionary approach should be applied in the assessment of this application.

Conclusion

Given the scale of the proposed development and the uncertainty regarding construction impacts, groundwater disturbance, traffic disruption, vibration impacts and long-term infrastructure effects, I do not believe this proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development. In light of the unresolved concerns regarding cumulative impacts, groundwater protection, traffic safety, environmental effects and the adequacy of the supporting assessments, I believe a precautionary approach should be applied in the assessment of this application. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development.

Yours Sincerely,

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. The top two are 'Karl' and 'Byrne' written side-by-side. Below them, centered, is a third signature that appears to be 'P Byrne'.

Name: Karla and Patrick Byrne

Date: 26 May 2026