

# OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Tessa Jennings

12 Pairc na ri

Athenry

Galway

H65 AV24

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, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in Athenry town and believe this community will be unduly detrimentally impacted by the substation and electricity cabling. The work will have negative impact on Athenry and the surrounding areas due to road closures. This will affect our ability to commute to work and school. It also has potential to negatively impact local flora & fauna including bats and hedgerows.

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

## **Incompatible with Rural Character and Galway CDP**

In my view, the scale, appearance and industrial nature of the proposed infrastructure are not compatible with the surrounding residential and agricultural landscape. I do not believe the proposal is consistent with the

principles of proper planning and sustainable development or with the protection of rural character and landscape objectives contained within the Galway County Development Plan.

### **Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic**

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the impact prolonged trenching works, excavation, road occupation, traffic management systems and heavy construction traffic would have on narrow rural roads and the communities that rely on them daily. The application documentation confirms significant road closures, stop/go traffic systems and substantial HGV movements during construction, which could result in serious disruption and ongoing inconvenience for local residents and road users.

### **Emergency Services and Limited Alternative Routes**

I am concerned about the impact the proposed cable and construction works could have on emergency access and daily movement throughout the area. The affected rural roads are used daily by ambulances, emergency services, carers, school transport, farmers, local businesses and residents, and many of these roads have limited alternative access routes available.

### **Habitats and Ecological Corridors for Wildlife**

Hedgerows and roadside vegetation within the area provide important habitats and ecological corridors for birds, pollinators and local wildlife. I am concerned that prolonged construction activity and vegetation disturbance could negatively affect biodiversity and the ecological character of the surrounding rural landscape.

### **Narrow Roads, HGV Traffic and Increased Congestion**

The roads surrounding Lisheenkyle National School are already heavily used by local traffic, school transport and agricultural vehicles. These roads are narrow, have restricted visibility and lack proper public hard shoulders. The only widened sections are private parking bays located outside newer houses, which remain the responsibility of homeowners and are not intended for pedestrian use or roadside safety. The introduction of heavy construction traffic, HGVs and stop/go traffic systems would significantly increase congestion and road safety risks for schoolchildren, residents and all road users.

### **Cumulative Industrialisation of the Wider Cashla Peaker Project**

In my view, the cumulative industrialisation associated with the wider Cashla Peaker Project, including substations, underground infrastructure, lighting, fencing and associated works, would have a significant negative impact on rural amenity, residential character and the long-term sustainability of surrounding rural communities. I am also concerned about the long-term effect this level of industrialisation could have on the quality of life, enjoyment of property and future viability of surrounding homes and agricultural landholdings.

### **Inadequate Consultation Across Connected Applications**

I do not believe adequate consultation or engagement has taken place with residents and communities affected by the wider Cashla Peaker Project. Although the peaker plant, substation and cable route are being progressed through separate applications, they form part of one overall development with significant impacts on the surrounding area.

### **Likely Scale and Duration of Disruption Not Fully Reflected**

I am concerned that the application does not fully reflect the likely scale, duration and intensity of disruption associated with prolonged construction works, trenching activity, traffic management systems, road restrictions, rock-breaking and associated infrastructure works across multiple rural communities. Given the nature of the local road network and surrounding residential areas, I believe the likely impact during the construction phase has been significantly underestimated.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons outlined above, I believe the proposed development would have significant adverse impacts on the local community, rural environment, farms, roads, groundwater conditions and surrounding residential areas. In my view, the application has not adequately demonstrated that the proposed development can proceed without unacceptable impacts on rural amenity, traffic safety, environmental protection and community wellbeing. I do not believe the proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tessa Jennings', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Name: Tessa Jennings

Date: 26 May 2026