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Seskin
Bantry
Co Cork
P75 FF97

12th May 2026

SID Planning
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Planning Application Reference Number: ACP-324165-26

Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco

Description of Development: 10 year planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines, a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection and associated works

Location: Maughanaclea, County Cork

I live in Bantry with my husband Patrick. We moved to West Cork recently because of the landscape, biodiversity, peace and quality of life that places like this still offer.

I work as a massage therapist and I also spend a great deal of time outdoors walking in the hills and natural landscapes around Bantry and West Cork. These places are extremely important to my physical and mental wellbeing. The quietness, dark skies, openness and sense of connection to nature are part of what makes this area so special.

Walking in the hills is not just recreation for me. It is part of my health, fitness, meditation and mental renewal. The Cork County Development Plan itself recognises that landscapes contribute to people's wellbeing and sense of belonging, and that a healthy environment provides places for "recreational and spiritual enjoyment" for residents and visitors alike.

I believe very strongly that healthy ecosystems are closely connected to healthy people. Increasingly, people seek places like West Cork because they offer something that is becoming rare: intact landscapes, biodiversity, tranquillity and freedom from industrialisation.

In our own home we already use rooftop solar PV with battery storage, and our only car is an EV which we charge from solar where possible. We have tried to reduce our own energy demand and live responsibly. However, I do not believe every landscape is suitable for industrial scale wind energy development, particularly where cumulative impacts are already becoming overwhelming.

The proposed Maughanaclea development would introduce 14 turbines at a height of 169 metres into a highly sensitive area. These structures are enormous in scale and would fundamentally alter the character of this area. They would dominate the skyline over a wide area and would industrialise a landscape currently valued for its openness, wildness and tranquillity.

Although we do not live immediately beside the proposed site, the mountains around Maughanaclea, Kealkill and Bantry form part of a connected and highly visible landscape system experienced across a wide area of West Cork. The cumulative industrialisation of these upland ridgelines affects not only those living closest to the turbines, but also the wider character and identity of the region.

The Cork County Development Plan recognises the international importance of West Cork's scenic landscapes to tourism and the local economy. It also recognises that these landscapes are of enormous amenity value to both residents and visitors. In my opinion, developments of this scale risk undermining the very qualities that attract people to West Cork in the first place.

This part of West Cork is increasingly important not only environmentally but socially and economically. More and more people come here because it remains relatively unspoilt. The area forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and supports a growing eco-tourism and wellness economy built around nature, walking, wildlife, dark skies and landscape quality. Once these landscapes are industrialised, they cannot easily be restored.

I am also deeply concerned about the ecological impacts of this proposal. The mountains and boglands around Maughanaclea support sensitive habitats, peatland systems and wildlife that depend on relatively undisturbed conditions. The EIAR repeatedly acknowledges significant effects on blanket bog habitat, while at the same time claiming that high quality habitats have been avoided. I do not find these conclusions reassuring.

The proposal also appears to underestimate the cumulative impact of multiple wind farms already existing or proposed across the wider Bantry and Kealkill area. There comes a point where the landscape can no longer absorb additional large-scale infrastructure without losing the very qualities that make it valuable.

I am particularly concerned by contradictions within the applicant's own documents. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment identifies significant visual effects at several viewpoints while simultaneously concluding that the overall effects are not significant. Likewise, the Tourism Impact Assessment identifies important tourism and heritage assets in the area while downplaying the tourism value of the landscape itself.

I also increasingly question the direction of Ireland's energy policy, particularly where rural landscapes and communities are expected to absorb the impacts of very large-scale energy developments while much of the resulting electricity demand is driven by expanding data centre infrastructure and private commercial growth.

In my view, there should be far greater emphasis on reducing demand, improving efficiency and helping households and communities generate and store their own renewable energy locally, rather than concentrating industrial-scale developments in some of Ireland's most sensitive landscapes.

Too often, local communities are asked to carry the environmental and visual burden while the primary financial benefits flow elsewhere. That does not feel like a fair or sustainable long-term approach.

West Cork should not become a sacrifice zone simply because it is rural and sparsely populated. Cork already carries a disproportionate share of Ireland's wind energy infrastructure. There must be limits to what these landscapes can reasonably absorb.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Yours sincerely



Meghan Keith-Hynes

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