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19th June 2026

Objection Submission to An Coimisiun Pleanala

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 wind turbines, a permanent 110kv substation, 110kv underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower and Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn Carrickanass, Carrowmore3, Castlelacken Demense, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposed Tirawley Windfarm. Has the applicant adequately demonstrated that this development can be permitted without causing unacceptable impacts on landscape; residential amenity; ecology; heritage; tourism and the wider public interest? I also suggest that the Coimisiun members come to visit the area first hand before making a decision.

I worked for Greenpeace on the Rainbow Warrior; installed geothermal 25yrs ago, and have solar panels. I am a passionate supporter of renewables. This is not a “NIMBY” objection. I’m 4.6km by Eircode from the nearest 135 meter turbine; will be affected by flicker and as a nearby resident, I am directly affected by the proposal. I am strongly objecting on the following grounds: -

- 1) Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Our North Mayo coast has several SACs designated under the EU Habitats Directive including areas associated with Atlantic coastal habitats; blanket bog; heathland; sand dune systems, marine habitats.
- 2) Natura 2000 Sites. The Tirawley application itself acknowledges that it is close enough to European-designated sites to require a Natura Impact Statement and Appropriate Assessment. So, the developer knows that protected habitats and species are a planning issue.
- 3) Scenic Landscape Protection. The Mayo County Development Plan specifically contains policies protecting: - Coastal landscapes; scenic routes; scenic views (you’d really need to see the breathtaking view of

Kilcummin Backstrand that is now under threat of being dominated and completely surrounded by huge turbines). Areas of high landscape sensitivity. An Bord Pleanála has previously attached importance to developments being visible from scenic routes and viewpoints. Look at the Tirawley photomontages of the looming turbines over Rathfran Graveyard and Abbey, and Kilcummin Backstrand.

- 4) Ceide Fields Landscape. We have a world-renowned archaeological landscape. Academics and tourists come here to see history, not turbines. There is a cumulative impact when combined with existing or approved wind farms in North Mayo creating excessive industrialisation. Tirawley windfarm has a huge spread and footprint for its operations buildings, BESS, and turbines.
- 5) Archaeological and Heritage Constraints. The Tirawley application confirms that the development affects or is close to recorded monuments and heritage assets. It has provided no viewpoint from Lacken Hill cemetery in the submission. Many Fairy Forts and Wells dot this area, and Rathlacken Court Tomb is under 2km from a turbine.
- 6) Palmerstown Bridge. Idyllic. But structurally, how on earth will it cope with thousands of lorries in and out? There's been no proper engineering survey that fully inspected the bridge, as at the time of the last one – Jan 2023 – the water was too high. Palmerstown Bridge is protected and Mayo County Council have expressed concerns in terms of impact. This is the only way to and from the proposed development. The heronries of Little Egrets and Herons that are on this stretch of river will be blasted by the passing of high sided vehicles continually.
- 7) Increased Traffic and Road Damage During Construction, as raised by Mayo County Council.
- 8) Wildlife. You've only to see what my Merlin App has recorded, as to the abundance of birds, some rare and protected like the Hen Harrier and Merlin. I'd so hoped to see the return of the Corncrake to my field, but turbine flicker and the upheaval and noise in the area will make that an impossibility. All that lost hedgerow is lost habitat. The bats will be utterly confused too. Did you know we've had Basking Sharks and Minke Whales in the bay in Kilcummin this month? What about run off and sedimentation into the salt marsh which is habitat, and the sea via streams and rivers during construction? The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly is a species of significant importance in Ireland. It is protected under the EU Habitats Directive (Annex II), and is protected under Irish Legislation. It has been sighted around proposed turbine cluster 6 to 16.

- 9) Impact on Tourism. The clue is in the title – The WILD Atlantic Way. Massive impact on tranquillity and rural character. I will be offering Air B & B from my newly rebuilt pyrite home. How can I say it is “serene” and “wild” when the area is one big windfarm? Recent visitors from France said that the stand out view was going over the brow of the hill down to Kilcummin Backstrand. I showed them the Tirawley photomontage and they said how would this be allowed by Irish Planners as it would put visitors off and scar the landscape. All the turbines will be visible from the future Ceide Coastal Walk and Kilcummin Head Loop Walk.

Based on all of the above, I respectfully ask the Board to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully

Clair O'Connor