

John Farrell
Fallataggart,
Carrowmore-Lacken
Ballina,
Co Mayo
F26N2R8
Date 30/05/2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

I wish to object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development under Planning Reference PAX16.324258.

I am a resident of Lacken and my home is located approximately 2.6 km from proposed turbine AT01 and approximately 2.5 km from the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and substation. I am making this submission due to serious concerns regarding the scale, suitability and long-term impacts of this development on my community, property and quality of life.

Lack of Community Engagement

I am particularly concerned that I was never contacted by the developer regarding this proposal. Despite living within the wider affected area, I had no knowledge of the true extent of the development until it was brought to my attention by concerned neighbours. Given the scale of what is proposed, I do not believe that meaningful community engagement has taken place. Residents should have been properly informed and consulted before an application of this magnitude was submitted.

Traffic and Road Safety Concerns

I have significant concerns regarding the volume of construction traffic that will be generated by this project and the impact this will have on local roads and infrastructure. In particular, I am concerned about the suitability of Palmerstown Bridge and the narrow rural roads that serve the area.

In my opinion, the existing road network is not capable of safely accommodating the abnormal loads, heavy goods vehicles and construction traffic associated with a development of this scale. The potential impacts on road safety, local access, road conditions and the daily lives of residents require much greater scrutiny.

Cumulative Impact on the Mayo Landscape

From my home I am already affected by the aviation warning lights associated with the existing Oweninny Wind Farm to the rear of my property. The visual presence of these lights demonstrates how wind energy developments can have impacts over considerable distances, particularly during the hours of darkness.

In addition, from the front of my property I can already see wind turbines located in the Killala, Bonniclon and Sligo areas. Attached to this submission is a photograph taken from my property on 31 May 2026 which clearly demonstrates the extent to which wind energy developments are already visible within the surrounding landscape. Even on a cloudy, hazy day, a significant number of turbines remain clearly visible across the horizon.

The attached photograph highlights the cumulative impact that existing wind energy developments are already having on the visual character of this part of County Mayo and neighbouring areas. The landscape is increasingly becoming dominated by large-scale energy infrastructure, with turbines now visible across multiple locations and counties.

I am therefore deeply concerned about the cumulative effect that the continued proliferation of wind farms throughout County Mayo and the wider region will have on the landscape, rural character and visual amenity of the area. The proposed Tirawley Wind Farm would add a further 16 turbines, together with a substantial Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substation and associated infrastructure, to a landscape that is already experiencing significant pressure from existing wind energy developments.

The cumulative visual impact of existing and proposed developments has not, in my opinion, been adequately considered. There comes a point where the concentration of turbines across a landscape fundamentally alters its character. The scenic quality, openness and sense of place that define this part of Mayo are being steadily eroded by the increasing industrialisation of the countryside.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála give particular consideration to the cumulative visual impact of this proposal, not only in isolation but in the context of the existing wind farms already visible from the area and the broader concentration of wind energy developments throughout County Mayo and adjoining counties.

Scale and Character of the Development

The proposed development is extensive and spread across a vast area of our community. The sheer scale of the proposal is entirely out of keeping with the character of Lacken and the surrounding landscape.

In addition to the turbines themselves, the project includes a substantial Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a large substation and associated infrastructure. Collectively these elements represent a significant industrialisation of a rural area that has traditionally been valued for its scenic beauty, tranquillity and unspoilt character.

Lacken is a rural community. The introduction of an industrial energy complex of this magnitude is wholly inappropriate and would permanently alter the

character of the area. The development would fundamentally change the landscape and scenic qualities that make this part of Mayo unique.

Impact on Property Value

I am also concerned about the potential impact this development may have on the value and marketability of my property.

While the developer stands to generate significant profits from this project, local residents will bear the consequences of living in close proximity to the development. I fear that the presence of large wind turbines, a BESS facility and associated infrastructure will make properties in the area less attractive to prospective purchasers.

As a homeowner located approximately 2.6 km from AT01 and 2.5 km from the BESS and substation, I am concerned that I could be left with a property that is significantly diminished in value as a result of this development.

Noise Impacts

I am concerned that the noise impacts on my property have not been adequately assessed. Although my residence is located beyond the immediate vicinity of the turbines, the scale of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure raises legitimate concerns regarding noise propagation across the wider area.

As the owner of farm animals, I also have grave concerns regarding the potential impact that turbine noise and other operational noise associated with the development may have on livestock and animal welfare. The long-term effects of exposure to noise and disturbance on animals should be properly examined and assessed.

Turbine Selection and Noise Assessment

I believe An Coimisiún Pleanála should closely examine the type of turbine selected by the developer and the assumptions used in the noise assessment.

The proposed turbine model has the capability of generating electricity at wind speeds of up to 23 metres per second. However, the developer's noise calculations appear to have been based on wind speeds of only up to 9 metres per second.

This raises concerns as to whether the assessment accurately reflects the potential operational characteristics of the turbines under higher wind speed

conditions. If the turbines continue operating and generating power at substantially higher wind speeds, this may have implications for noise emissions that have not been fully considered within the application documentation.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála carefully examine this issue and seek clarification from the developer as to whether the noise assessment adequately represents the full operational range of the proposed turbines.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, including the lack of meaningful community engagement, concerns regarding traffic and road safety, cumulative landscape impacts, the industrial scale of the development, potential effects on property values, concerns regarding noise impacts and questions surrounding the turbine noise assessment. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

Yours faithfully,

John Farrell

Picture taken from F26N2R8 31/05/26

