

Objection to Planning Permission Application 323778 – Proposed Tirawley Windfarm, on lands including Ballynaleck, Co. Mayo

To whom it may concern,

I hereby submit this formal objection to Planning Permission Application 323778 in respect of the proposed Tirawley Windfarm development in the townlands, including Ballynaleck, Co. Mayo where I reside. I respectfully submit that the proposed development is contrary to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, by reason of its likely significant adverse effects on the receiving environment, the rural landscape, residential amenity, and the local community during both the construction and operational phases.

1. Significant adverse impact on landscape character, visual amenities, and the rural setting of the area.
2. Potential for serious adverse effects on biodiversity, habitats, soils, peat stability, drainage, and water quality.
3. Unacceptable construction-phase impacts on the local community, including traffic hazard, road safety risk, noise, dust, vibration, and disruption to daily life.
4. Serious injury to residential amenities arising from visual dominance, turbine noise, shadow flicker, and loss of quiet enjoyment of homes.
5. Failure to demonstrate that development can be accommodated without disproportionate environmental harm in a sensitive rural area.
6. Unacceptable cumulative impact when considered in conjunction with existing and proposed development pressures in North Mayo.

The proposed development constitutes a substantial industrialisation of an inherently rural and environmentally sensitive area. The erection of 16 wind turbines, together with a permanent 110kV substation, underground cabling, grid connection infrastructure and associated ancillary works, would introduce a development of considerable scale, height and visual dominance into a landscape that derives its value from its openness, scenic quality, and rural character. The resulting landscape and visual effects would, in my submission, be profound and enduring, and would materially injure the character and appearance of the area. Such an outcome would be inconsistent with the proper protection of landscape value, visual amenity, and the established character of the locality.

There is also serious and legitimate concern regarding the potential for significant adverse effects on biodiversity, habitats, soils, peat stability, drainage patterns and water quality

arising from the construction and operation of the proposed development. A project of this scale, involving extensive excavation, access works, turbine foundations, cable installation and associated infrastructure, has the capacity to disrupt sensitive ecological receptors, fragment habitats, and increase the risk of sedimentation, runoff and hydrological disturbance. In a receiving environment of acknowledged environmental sensitivity, any uncertainty, deficiency or lack of robust assessment in respect of these matters must be weighed against the grant of permission. The planning authority must be satisfied, beyond reasonable doubt, that the proposed development would not give rise to unacceptable or inadequately mitigated impacts on the natural environment.

The likely impacts of the construction phase on the local community are also of very serious concern. The transport of heavy construction vehicles, abnormal loads, plant, materials and turbine components on local and regional roads would generate significant disruption over a prolonged period, with likely adverse consequences for road safety, traffic movement, pedestrian safety, access to homes and farms, and the general convenience of residents. Rural roads in the locality are not designed to accommodate sustained industrial-scale traffic of this nature. In addition, the construction phase would be expected to generate noise, dust, vibration and general disturbance at a level that would materially diminish the amenities of adjoining and nearby residential properties and place an unreasonable burden on those living within the affected area.

The proposed development would also give rise to unacceptable impacts on residential amenities. The proximity of large-scale turbines and associated infrastructure to established homes raises serious concerns regarding visual overbearing effects, turbine noise, shadow flicker, and the cumulative erosion of the quiet enjoyment of residential properties. These are not trivial or isolated matters; rather, they go directly to the quality of life of residents and the long-term liveability of the area. The cumulative effect of prolonged construction disturbance followed by permanent operational impacts would, in my respectful submission, amount to an unreasonable and disproportionate interference with residential amenities.

While the importance of renewable energy development is acknowledged, it does not follow that every proposal is appropriate in every location. Wind energy development must be planned and assessed in a manner that properly safeguards environmental integrity, residential amenity, landscape character and community welfare. In this instance, the proposed development appears to be of such scale, intensity and character that it would result in significant and unacceptable adverse effects on the area, both in its own right and when considered cumulatively with existing and proposed development pressures in North

Mayo. In those circumstances, a refusal of permission would be justified and necessary in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed development would give rise to significant adverse effects on the environment, the character and visual amenity of the area, residential amenities, and the wellbeing of the local community. The scale, intensity and location of the proposal are such that the development would represent an excessive and inappropriate intervention in a sensitive rural setting and would not, in my submission, agree with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

I therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiun Pleanala and Mayo County Council and refuse planning permission for Application 323778. In the alternative, and only in the event that the planning authority is minded not to refuse permission, I request that no decision be made unless and until the authority is fully satisfied that all environmental effects, construction-phase impacts, traffic and road safety risks, hydrological effects, biodiversity impacts, and effects on residential amenity have been comprehensively assessed and can be avoided or satisfactorily mitigated by way of enforceable conditions. In the absence of such certainty, permission should be refused.

Yours faithfully,



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