

Mary Gallagher,
Derrynamuck,
Ballina,
County Mayo
marietgal@yahoo.ie
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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure

Development 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.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

Although I do not reside within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, I have a strong personal connection to the area and am deeply concerned about the cumulative impact that this and other wind farm developments are having on the region. I believe that the wider consequences of these developments extend far beyond the immediate application site and must be considered in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Cumulative Impact of Wind Farm Development in North Mayo

My primary concern relates to the cumulative effect of the growing number of wind energy developments across North Mayo. While each project may be assessed individually, the reality for local communities is that they experience the combined impact of multiple developments occurring across the same landscape.

The Tirawley Wind Farm proposal cannot be viewed in isolation. Existing, approved and proposed developments in the wider North Mayo area are resulting in an increasing concentration of large-scale wind energy infrastructure. The cumulative visual, environmental and community impacts of these projects are becoming increasingly significant and risk fundamentally changing the character of the region.

I believe there is a genuine concern that North Mayo is reaching a point where the balance between renewable energy development and protection of landscape, heritage and community interests is being lost.

Impact on Local Families

I am particularly concerned about the impact that this development, together with other wind farms in the area, will have on families living in close proximity to these projects.

My daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren live in the area and will have to live with the consequences of decisions made today. It is easy to discuss large-scale developments in terms of national policy objectives, but it is local families who must experience the day-to-day reality of living beside turbines, construction works, associated infrastructure and the cumulative effects of multiple developments within the same locality.

The concerns of families deserve to be given significant weight in the planning process. People who have chosen to live, work and raise children in rural communities should not be expected to bear an unreasonable burden as a result of the concentration of industrial-scale developments within their local landscape.

I believe that the cumulative impact on residents' quality of life, visual amenity and enjoyment of their surroundings requires much greater consideration than has been demonstrated within the application.

Protection of the Céide Fields and North Mayo Heritage

I am also deeply concerned about the potential impact of continued large-scale wind farm development on the heritage and cultural landscape of North Mayo.

The Céide Fields are internationally recognised as one of Ireland's most important archaeological and cultural treasures. They represent a remarkable link to our past and provide a unique insight into the lives of those who lived and farmed in this landscape thousands of years ago.

The surrounding landscape is not simply a backdrop to the Céide Fields; it forms an integral part of the heritage value and visitor experience associated with this special place. The character and setting of the wider landscape contribute significantly to its cultural significance and attractiveness to visitors.

Generations before us took care to preserve this extraordinary heritage. Because of their stewardship, we have been able to enjoy, learn from and appreciate one of the most important archaeological landscapes in Europe. We have a responsibility to show the same level of care and respect for future generations.

The decisions made today will shape the landscape inherited by our children and grandchildren. Once landscapes of cultural and heritage significance are altered by extensive industrial development, those changes cannot easily be undone.

For that reason, I believe the heritage of the North Mayo region, including the setting and significance of the Céide Fields, must be protected at all costs for future generations, just as previous generations protected it for us.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

My objection is based not only on the individual impacts of this proposal, but on the cumulative effect of multiple wind farm developments across North Mayo and the consequences these developments may have for local families, future generations, heritage landscapes and the long-term character of the region.

I believe that the unique heritage of North Mayo, including the internationally significant Céide Fields and their surrounding landscape, should be safeguarded for future generations. We have inherited this remarkable landscape because previous generations chose to protect it, and we have a responsibility to ensure that the same opportunity is available to those who come after us.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Gallagher