

The Secretary,
An Coimisiun Pleanala,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.
12/06/2026.

Ballinoe,
Miltown Malbay,
Co Clare,
V95E3Y9.

AN COIMISIUN PLEANALA	
LDG-	288501-28
ACP-	
18 JUN 2026	
Fee: €	57
Time: 11.15	By: [Signature]

An Coimisiun Pleanala case reference number: PAX03.324270.

Dear Secretary,

We wish to lodge an objection to the proposed SID application ref: PAX03.324270 by Slieveacurry Ltd of 9 wind turbines, a permanent extension to the existing Slieve Callan substation at Knockalassa, and associated infrastructure and works on the following grounds;

As members of the community to be impacted by this development we hope our views will be taken into consideration when coming to a decision on this application.

This proposal forms part of an ongoing concentration and proliferation of wind energy development across the Slieveacurry, Slievenalicka, Illaunbaun, Tooreen, Lackamore and adjoining west clare uplands. The area has already been the subject of multiple planning refusals by Clare County Council and An Coimisiun Pleanala, including ACP Case Ref 312728, where serious concerns were identified regarding:

- unacceptable visual impact,
- skyline intrusion,
- cumulative landscape impact,
- peatland disturbance,
- hydrological risk,
- biodiversity impacts,
- and impacts on protected species and European sites.

The current proposal has failed to adequately overcome these previously identified concerns.

This development must not be assessed in isolation. It must be assessed cumulatively alongside:

- the previously refused Slieveacurry proposal,
- the refused Illaunbaun wind farm proposal,
- the slievenalicka proposal,
- existing operational turbines,
- and all associated substations, access roads, grid connections and related infrastructure across the same upland landscape.

We have serious concerns that the cumulative environmental effects of these connected wind energy projects are being fragmented across separate planning applications rather than assessed

comprehensively as a single cumulative wind energy cluster. Under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended), projects cannot be artificially segmented or “project split” in a manner which understates their true cumulative environmental effects. There is obvious non compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive taking into account all the proposed wind energy developments in a small area.

Accordingly, we ask the planning authority to examine:

-O’Grianna & Ors v An Bord Pleanala(2014) and (2017)

-Fitzpatrick v An Bord Pleanala(2019)

-PL93.244006.

Given the overlap in;

-town lands,

-Landscape character areas,

-Ecological corridors,

-Hydrological systems,

-Visual receptors,

-And shared infrastructure,

the cumulative effects of these developments require full integrated assessment. The continued proliferation of large scale wind energy development across this sensitive upland landscape would result in the excessive industrialisation of rural west Clare and would materially damage the visual character and amenity of the area. The previous refusals already identified the landscape as visually sensitive and unsuitable for turbine development of this scale.

-Potential Cumulative Impacts of proposed development particularly during the operating phase. With great respect to the various professionals and the predictive methodologies employed to gauge potential impacts, this community would like to point out that such analysis is unnecessary in our case. We live in the actuality of what exists as opposed to relying on any of your predictions. We know the impacts because we have lived with them for seven years. To our daily and nightly cost, we know noise predictions and analyses were flawed in the Slieve Callan wind farm EIAR. Why should we expect these noise predictions for Slieveacurry to be any different? We cannot but see and hear these turbines several times daily as we go about our lives. We know the negative impacts on residential amenities, we experience sleep deprivation on a regular basis, no community fund is going to offset living under such conditions!

The claim in the EIAR that “the proposed development will not introduce a new or unfamiliar feature to the landscape, as wind turbines are already a strong characteristic of the area” is deeply insulting to this community! The existing turbines were imposed on us, this claim of the developer encapsulates the attitude of the developer to this community! It is reprehensible to suggest that the existing wind farm that has caused so much hardship and strife could somehow be a mitigating factor in helping impose further hardship on the same community. Are we really expected to believe that we

will hardly notice 175 m turbines on elevated ground at less than 700m from our homes? The EIAR is a developer sponsored document prepared with the sole purpose of facilitating the approval of planning permission so we can hardly be surprised that its contents are tailored accordingly.

-Too close to our homes, the nearest turbine to some homes will be 600 metres, this is too close! The WHO recommends a distance of 1km. The proposed turbines are too large and too close to existing residential dwellings, turbines of this size should not be anywhere near residential settings. It should be noted that the turbines are to be located on elevated ground which hugely increases their relative heights as compared to dwellings and will lead to a dominance of the surrounding landscape. They will be too visually overbearing on family homes with a severe proliferation of them in a small area as we are already near the Slieve Callan wind farm. This will lead to the degradation of the rural living environment and the residential desirability and value of homes within the surrounding communities. We also fear depopulation in the area as people will move away from these turbines, this will have a knock on effect on schools/businesses etc. Also our children will be denied planning permission for homes on family land as they will be too close to a wind farm. Miltown Malbay is slowly being surrounded by these developments if they are granted planning permission which contradicts the County Development plan 2023-29. It states that it is a town "well positioned" in terms of tourism and is a designated Architectural Conservation Area. Furthermore if the proposed development goes ahead, we are highly aware of the fact that the wind developer owns the whole area so they can add more turbines as they deem fit!

- Noise and shadow flicker, we are already affected by the Slieve Callan turbines so are in dread from the disturbance these proposed turbines that are essentially an extension of Slieve Callan will cause. Many of the local residents have health issues which we are sure this development will only exacerbate! It will put populations with sensory impairment and medical impairments at risk! Our son is on the autism spectrum, he is non verbal and has huge sensory issues with sounds and lights, which can lead to meltdowns due to sensory overload. As he is an adult this is not safe for his or our safety or wellbeing. Our home is his safe place which this development will take away from him if granted permission. Being told to put up blackout blinds and basically keep him indoors by the developer is not what we would call consultative by any means! Our autistic community, those with tumours, underlying neurological conditions can all be affected by sensory processing dysfunction which will only be enhanced by these intrusions. Miltown Malbay has embraced the autistic community by erecting communication boards, sensory gardens and seating around the area to enhance their daily routines, this proposed development will only disrupt all that hard work and affect everyone's health and wellbeing.

-Biodiversity/wildlife in the area. This is a beautiful place full of wildlife including hen harrier(protected under Annex I of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), Golden Plover, Curlew, pine

marten, bats, red squirrel, Marsh Fritillary butterfly(protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) etc, there are numerous water courses that we are in no doubt will be ruined by this development contrary to what the developer may have in their EIAR. In our view the risk of pollution will be extremely high! Just down the road in Clooneyogan there is a new initiative "Kestrel Conservation in Action", the Kestrel is designated as a red listed species so surely this should be a huge concern as they are at risk of extinction. We are being encouraged daily to support biodiversity which this development will clearly not do. A lot of the land on which the development is proposed is also peat which has led to slippage etc in the past. We do not want another disaster like Meenbog in Donegal to occur. Given the scale and concentration of wind energy development now proposed within the same upland landscape and adjoining town lands there is significant uncertainty regarding cumulative ornithological impacts, habitat fragmentation, peat stability, hydrological impacts and downstream impacts on European sites. The proposed development would materially conflict with the landscape protection, biodiversity protection and residential amenity objectives of the Clare County Development Plan.

-Wifi and tv reception, wifi is poor anyway in this rural area and since the covid pandemic a lot of people in the area work from home so these turbines will severely disrupt that! There are masts in the area supplying Miltown Malbay, Moy and Lahinch. Slieve Callan residents can attest to this fact. It should be noted that disruption is so severe in Slieve Callan there is a constant stream of tv/wifi repairmen at dwellings in that area.

-The Updated National Wind Energy Guidelines are still not in place, no development should be even considered until they are! Clare county Councillors passed a motion calling for a moratorium on all wind farm developments in June 2025 supporting this so subsequently this development should be turned down on that basis as the councillors are meant to reflect the opinions of the public that elected them.

We feel wind turbines need to be going offshore and not disrupting small local communities and leaving people existing, because you certainly could not call it living, in areas overshadowed by turbines, Clare has enough of these on land, it is rapidly becoming known as the wind farm county and not the Banner county!

We trust you will take all these points into consideration when reaching a decision and respectfully request that An Coimisiun Pleanala refuse permission for this development.

Yours Sincerely,



Patrick MacMahon



Laura MacMahon