

Observation on Planning Application Case No. 324387

Proposed Wind Farm Development in the Geesala/Erris Area

Names: Brian Monaghan & Katherine Monaghan

Address: Dooyork, Geesala, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 Y1T2

Case Number: 324387

Observation

We respectfully object to the proposed wind farm development in the Geesala/Erris area.

We made the life-changing decision to return home to Erris from the United Kingdom before we got married and started our family. We chose to build our future here because of the outstanding natural beauty, peaceful rural setting, spectacular coastline and strong sense of community. We invested our savings in our home believing it would provide the ideal environment to raise our children.

Our home is where we are raising our family and where we intend to spend the rest of our lives. We believe the proposed wind farm would fundamentally and permanently change the landscape surrounding our home and have an unacceptable impact on our family, our enjoyment of our property and the environment in which our children will grow up.

1. Impact on Our Home, Family and Quality of Life

One of the greatest qualities of our home is the uninterrupted view of the surrounding countryside and the natural beauty of the Erris landscape. Every day we look out from our windows across this peaceful rural setting, and these views are an important part of our enjoyment of our home and our quality of life.

The proposed wind turbines, at approximately 180 metres in height, would become dominant features in the landscape visible from our home. Rather than looking out onto an unspoilt natural environment, we would be faced with large industrial structures every day. This would fundamentally and permanently alter the outlook from our home and significantly diminish the residential amenity that influenced our decision to return to Erris.

The beaches at Dooyork and Doolough are an important part of our daily lives. We walk these beaches almost every day as a family, and they provide peace, tranquillity and an opportunity to spend quality time together in one of Ireland's most beautiful natural environments. These daily walks contribute greatly to our wellbeing by allowing us to enjoy nature, exercise outdoors and spend valuable time together as a family.

The proposed wind farm would permanently alter the views from these beaches and the wider coastal landscape that we enjoy every day. We believe the loss of this unspoilt environment would significantly affect our family's quality of life and wellbeing and diminish one of the principal reasons we chose to return home to Erris.

2. Residential Amenity

The proposal would introduce dominant industrial structures into a peaceful rural landscape. We are concerned about the combined effects of visual intrusion, operational noise, shadow flicker, aviation warning lights and the permanent industrialisation of the landscape. Together these impacts would significantly reduce our enjoyment of our home and the environment in which our children are growing up.

3. Landscape Character

The Erris Peninsula is recognised for its exceptional coastal scenery and forms an important part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The proposed 180-metre-high turbines would become prominent features across the landscape and would be visible over a considerable distance. Their scale would fundamentally alter the character of this unique coastal environment. Once introduced, this change would be permanent.

4. Tourism and the Local Economy

Visitors are drawn to Erris because of its beaches, scenery, tranquillity and the Wild Atlantic Way experience. We believe the industrialisation of this landscape risks damaging tourism and the local businesses and employment that depend upon it.

5. Community Sustainability

We are concerned that developments of this scale may discourage young families from returning to Erris to build homes and raise children. Planning decisions made today will shape the future of this community for generations, with implications for local schools, businesses, clubs and rural life.

6. Property and Residential Investment

Our home represents one of the largest investments we have ever made. We are concerned that the proposal would diminish the attractiveness of our property through the loss of residential amenity and the permanent change to the surrounding landscape.

7. Environmental and Cumulative Impact

We ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to carefully consider impacts on biodiversity, habitats, bird populations, peatlands, watercourses and the cumulative effect of existing and proposed wind farms throughout the wider Erris area.

Conclusion

We respectfully submit that the adverse impacts of this proposal significantly outweigh any perceived benefits.

We returned home from the United Kingdom because we believed Erris was the ideal place to get married, raise our children and build our future. We invested our lives and savings in this community because of its peace, outstanding natural beauty and exceptional quality of life.

The proposed 180-metre-high wind turbines would permanently alter the landscape surrounding our home, dominate the views from our property and change the experience of the places we use and value every day, including Dooyork Beach and Doolough Beach. We believe this proposal would have a significant and lasting impact on our family, our home, our enjoyment of the local environment and the future character of the Erris Peninsula.

Planning decisions made today will shape this area for generations. We respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to give significant weight to the impact on families, homes, landscape, biodiversity, tourism and the future of this rural community.

For all of the reasons outlined above, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for Planning Application Case No. 324387.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Monaghan & Katherine Monaghan