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To: The Planning Department

Re: Formal Objection to Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development. Case Number 324387

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development on the grounds of significant adverse impacts on residential amenity, landscape character, family wellbeing, mental health, visual intrusion, cumulative impact, and the long-term sustainability of our home and community.

My partner and I are a young family with two young children. We recently returned home to the area and built a new family house approximately 2 km from the proposed site. This was a major life and financial commitment made in good faith, based on the expectation that the surrounding rural landscape, peace, and residential environment would be preserved and protected. We both work from home extensively, meaning we are exposed to the surrounding environment for prolonged periods every day, unlike transient road users or occasional visitors.

The proposed development would fundamentally alter the character of the area and materially diminish our quality of life.

The applicant's own Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment acknowledges that residents at home are among the most sensitive visual receptors. The report also recognises that visual receptors include "Residents at home" and communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. As permanent residents who live and work in the area daily, our sensitivity to these impacts is exceptionally high.

The turbines proposed are extremely large, with tip heights of up to 180 metres. The applicant states that there is potential for "comprehensive visibility" of the turbines across large parts of the surrounding area, including the Doohoma Peninsula and nearby coastal landscapes. At a distance of approximately 2 km, the turbines would become dominant and unavoidable visual features within our daily living environment.

The development site is located within a landscape policy area identified by the Mayo County Development Plan as having "High" sensitivity in relation to wind farm development. The Plan specifically states that such areas have a "High potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character" and that it is "unlikely that such impacts can be reduced to a widely acceptable

level.” This is a significant planning concern and should be afforded substantial weight in any assessment.

The Mayo County Development Plan also contains clear policy objectives to:

- “Protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Mayo”; and
- Ensure developments are consistent with the Landscape Sensitivity Matrix.

In our view, the proposed development conflicts with these objectives due to the scale, height, and industrial nature of the turbines within a sensitive coastal landscape.

Of particular concern is the impact on mental health and family wellbeing. Working from home means we cannot escape the constant visual movement, shadow flicker, aviation lighting, and industrialisation of the landscape. The proposal would replace a peaceful rural setting with a highly intrusive industrial energy development visible from our home environment throughout the day and night.

For families with young children, the importance of a calm, healthy, and stable living environment cannot be overstated. Continuous turbine movement, noise, light pollution, and visual dominance can contribute to stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, and reduced enjoyment of the home. These impacts are amplified where residents spend the majority of their time at home due to remote working arrangements.

The applicant’s own assessment notes the importance of tranquillity, remoteness, scenic quality, naturalness, and sense of place in determining landscape sensitivity. These are precisely the qualities that attracted us to return home and invest in this area for the long term.

There are also serious concerns regarding cumulative impact. The assessment acknowledges the visibility of other wind farm developments in the wider area and notes the importance of ensuring developments do not “crowd and dominate the flat landscape.” The addition of another major wind farm risks creating an unacceptable cumulative industrialisation of the landscape and coastal setting.

Furthermore, the Draft Variation to the Mayo County Development Plan now identifies the site, and much of County Mayo, as “Unsuitable” for wind energy development. This change reflects growing recognition of landscape sensitivity, cumulative impact, and environmental constraints within the county. It raises serious questions about whether this proposal remains appropriate or sustainable in planning terms.

Additional concerns include:

- Potential noise impacts and low-frequency noise affecting residential amenity;
- Shadow flicker impacts on nearby homes;
- Impact on property value and long-term marketability of family homes;
- Negative effects on tourism and the scenic coastal environment;
- Loss of rural character and visual amenity;
- Impact on wildlife, peatland, and sensitive ecological areas nearby;

- Safety concerns associated with turbine proximity during severe weather conditions;
- The precedent this development may create for further industrialisation of the area.

While we support renewable energy in principle, it must be appropriately located and balanced against the rights and wellbeing of local residents and families. In this case, the scale and siting of the proposed development are incompatible with the sensitive landscape and residential environment surrounding Muingmore, Mount Jubilee, Geesala and Doohoma.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Justin Cassidy