

Karen Moran,  
Geesala,  
Ballina,  
Co. Mayo.

My name is Karen Moran and I have a home in Geesala, County Mayo. I am deeply concerned about the proposed Muingmore Windfarm ref PAX.324387.

I strongly urge due consideration to be taken for the concerns outlined below before decisions are made regarding this proposal.

I am writing as someone who has lived in this area all my life and who cares deeply about its future. I appreciate the importance of renewable energy and understand that Ireland needs to increase its use of clean electricity. However, I believe this particular development is in the wrong location, and I respectfully ask that planning permission be refused.

My main concern is the visual impact of the proposed turbines. At almost 180 metres high, they would become the dominant feature of the landscape and permanently change the character of this part of Erris. One of the greatest strengths of our area is its unspoilt scenery, open bogland and Atlantic views. These are not just important to local people—they are also a major reason why visitors come here. As part of the Wild Atlantic Way, this area has built its reputation on its natural beauty and sense of remoteness. I believe a large industrial-scale wind farm would damage that appeal and could have a lasting impact on local tourism and the businesses that depend on it. Similar planning decisions elsewhere in Ireland have recognised that the visual impact of large wind farms on scenic landscapes and Wild Atlantic Way routes can be a legitimate planning concern. ([An Coimisiún Pleanála -](#))

I am also very concerned about the proposed Battery Energy Storage System. This is not a small addition to the project but a substantial industrial installation alongside the turbines. While I understand that battery storage has an important role in supporting renewable energy, I have concerns about the potential risks if something were to go wrong. In particular, I would like reassurance about fire safety, the ability of local emergency services to deal with any incident, and the possible environmental effects if contaminated firefighting water or pollutants were to enter nearby streams or bogland. These concerns deserve careful examination before any decision is made. The proposed wind farm would have a significant impact on the landscape, tourism value and community character of Erris. This area is renowned for its peaceful rural environment, expansive open views, bogland habitats, dark skies, Atlantic coastal landscape and the unique character that makes Erris such a special place to live and visit. Many local residents have chosen to live here because of the peace and quiet, the health and wellbeing benefits of an unspoilt natural environment, the rich wildlife and the strong sense of community. The scale and visibility of the proposed turbines would alter views from homes, local roads, villages, walking routes, bogland areas and scenic viewpoints throughout the region, fundamentally changing the landscape character. There are also serious concerns about the potential impact on tourism, particularly given the area's association with the Wild Atlantic Way and its reputation as a wild, natural and unspoilt destination. Visitors are drawn to the scenery, tranquillity and sense of remoteness that distinguish Erris from other locations. Furthermore, the industrialisation of the landscape raises concerns about potential negative effects on local property values, creating uncertainty for homeowners and families who have invested in the area. For these reasons, the proposal poses a significant threat to the landscape, tourism economy and community wellbeing of Erris.

Finally, I worry that granting permission for this project could make it much easier for further expansion in the future. Even if this proposal is considered acceptable on its own, it may create a precedent for additional turbines or associated infrastructure over time. The cumulative impact of developments can be much greater than the impact of any single project, and this is something planning authorities are expected to consider. I fear that what is now being presented as one development could gradually lead to the industrialisation of a much larger area, changing the landscape beyond recognition.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed development. I believe that protecting the unique landscape, the tourism potential and the long-term character of this area is in the best interests of both the local community and future generations.