

Nora Cosgrove
Muingmore
Bunnahowen
Ballina
Co Mayo
F26 R5V6

07 August 2026

Case Number: PAX16.324387

Planning Objection

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Nora Cosgrove and I have a home in Muingmore, Bunnahowen, Ballina, Co. Mayo. I am writing to you in my capacity as a resident of the place in which this wind farm is proposed to be built. This is not an abstract planning issue for me. It concerns the landscape around my home, the roads I use, the wildlife and bogland that form part of the area, and the future character of the community in which I live.

I appreciate the need for renewable energy and I am not opposed to wind energy, in principle. My objection is to locating a development of this scale in Muingmore. I am deeply concerned that the proposed development would change the area permanently and that the people who live here would be left to experience the consequences long after the construction phase has ended.

The area

Muingmore is a quiet, open and scenic rural area. Its character comes from its bogland, coastline, wildlife, open skies and scattered residences. The landscape is not simply a view to be measured from selected points. It is the setting in which local people live their ordinary day-to-day lives, and it is part of what makes this area distinctive.

As a resident and together with my family and neighbours, I value the sense of space, peace and natural beauty that is in Muingmore and has been here all of my life. I am concerned that 13 turbines, each reaching approximately 179 to 180 metres, together with access roads, hardstandings, a substation, battery storage compound, lighting and other infrastructure, would dominate that landscape. Structures of that height and scale could not meaningfully blend into or be screened from an open landscape. In my view, they would turn an area known for its natural and rural character into an industrial energy site.

The peatland, water connections, coastal setting, proximity to homes, open landscape and limited rural roads all point to a location that has significant constraints for a development of this proposed magnitude.

Even if your assessment concludes that the proposed development can support our renewable energy policies, that does not mean that the proposed development is right for the place in which it is proposed. The scale of these turbines, the extent of the accompanying infrastructure and the length of the construction and operating periods would amount to a very long-term change to Muingmore.

I would ask that you consider whether Ireland's renewable energy objectives could be met in a less sensitive location. Ireland has many rural landscapes located further away from residential properties, in less scenic and more suitable geographical locations. The fact that the applicant has selected this site should not mean that the local landscape and community must carry impacts that could be avoided elsewhere.

Cumulative impact on Erris and the wider area

This proposal should not be assessed as though it would exist in isolation. Erris and north Mayo have already carried significant energy and infrastructure development, and the cumulative effect on landscape, roads, communities, wildlife and public confidence must be considered. The question is not only whether 13 turbines can technically be placed on this site. The question is whether it is fair, sustainable or proportionate to impose a development of this scale on this particular community and landscape, having regard to the existing burden already carried by the wider area. I am concerned that if permission is granted here, it will reinforce a pattern where remote rural communities are treated as convenient locations for infrastructure that has very significant local consequences. The planning system should ensure that rural communities are not asked to absorb disproportionate impacts simply because the population is small or because the landscape is open.

Wildlife, bogland and water

The local bogland is a defining part of Muingmore. Even where areas have previously been cut or worked, the bog remains connected to the wider environment and to the drainage and water systems of the area. The application documents themselves describe the site as including cutover lowland blanket bog, worked and unworked peatland, forestry and small streams.

Excavation for turbine foundations, new roads, drainage, cabling and compounds would have a detrimental impact on the peatland and its hydrology. There would be severe

disturbance to birds, other wildlife and habitats, and I would be very concerned about sediment or pollution reaching local streams and the wider coastal waters into which they flow. Once peatland has been excavated, drained or fragmented, it is not easily put back, and I ask the Commission not to treat this land as empty or expendable merely because parts of it have been cut over the years. Please examine the biodiversity surveys, peat depth and stability information, drainage proposals, water protection measures and habitat plans with great care and with proper allowance for uncertainty. If there is doubt about the ability to avoid significant harm, that doubt should weigh against permission being granted in this case.

Battery storage, fire risk and emergency response

The inclusion of a battery energy storage facility is also a serious concern for me. I ask the Commission to examine, in detail, the arrangements for fire safety, emergency access, water supply, containment of contaminated run-off, emergency response times and the ability of local services to deal with any incident in a remote peatland location. A battery storage compound is not a minor add-on to the wind farm. It is a substantial piece of infrastructure with its own risks, and those risks should be independently and transparently assessed before any permission is considered.

Living beside a development of this scale

My home is less than 1 km away from the nearest turbine (please note that the application documents state that the nearest home is approximately 740 metres from the nearest turbine). That gives me real concern when the proposed turbines could reach approximately 180 metres in height. In a quiet rural area, background noise and nighttime conditions are very different from those in an urban or industrial setting.

As a local resident, I have deep seated uncertainty and apprehension about potential noise, low frequency components of noise, shadow flicker, lighting or the general loss of peace and privacy around my home if this development goes ahead. I ask that the effect on residents be assessed conservatively and in real local conditions, including at night, in different wind conditions and for the full range of turbine models that could ultimately be installed. The assessment should also consider the combined effect of noise, moving blades, shadow flicker and aviation lighting, rather than looking at each issue in isolation.

My concern about health is a genuine concern about the wellbeing of people asked to live close to this development. I am not claiming that a particular medical outcome is certain. I am asking the Commission to be satisfied, on independent and current

evidence, that public health, sleep, comfort and residential amenity would be properly protected before any permission is granted.

Traffic, local roads and lasting damage

The local roads around Muingmore are part of everyday life here. They were not designed for prolonged construction traffic and repeated abnormal loads of the scale required for turbines of this size. The proposed delivery route and the use of small local roads (which are barely coping with their existing traffic-load) cause me serious concern.

I am worried about road safety, disruption to residents, noise, dust, damage to road surfaces and verges, interference with drainage, and permanent alteration of roadside features and adjoining bogland. Describing works as temporary does not guarantee that the area will be returned to its previous condition. Road widening, accommodation works and repeated heavy traffic will leave permanent physical and visual damage.

The value and enjoyment of local homes

A home in Muingmore is much more than a financial asset for me. I have grown up in Muingmore and have chosen to have a home here for its setting, peace, privacy and connection to the area. I am concerned that the presence of very large turbines and associated infrastructure, together with the potential for noise, shadow flicker, lighting and altered views, could make my home and nearby homes uninhabitable (and should that unimaginable situation come to pass, you will appreciate that this would also make our homes less attractive to future buyers and harder to sell).

I recognise that any effect on property values would need proper evidence and I do not present a reduction as an established fact. However, it is a reasonable and important concern for residents, and it should not be dismissed simply because the precise effect is difficult to predict before construction. Please consider both the possible market impact and the, less measurable, loss of enjoyment and sense of place.

Tourism, local identity and sense of place

Muingmore and the wider Erris area are valued for their wild, open and unspoilt character. This is not only important to those of us who live here. It is also part of the attraction of north Mayo for visitors, walkers, cyclists, anglers, families returning home, and people who come for the coastline, bogland, views, quietness and sense of remoteness. A development of this size would alter that identity. The impact would not be limited to selected viewpoints or photomontages. It would be felt in the ordinary

experience of travelling through the area, looking out from homes, using local roads, visiting nearby scenic places and living in a landscape that would be fundamentally changed.

Request

I respectfully ask you to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development. In my view, the likely change to the landscape and rural character of Muingmore, the risks to bogland, wildlife and water, the proximity to homes, the pressure on local roads, the cumulative impact on the wider Erris area and the unresolved concerns around battery storage and emergency response are too significant for this location.

I want renewable energy development in Ireland to be responsible and properly located. I do not believe that approving this proposal at Muingmore, at the scale presented, would strike a fair balance between national energy objectives and the protection of the people, landscape and environment directly affected.

Thank you for considering my personal submission.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora Cosgrove". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Nora" and last name "Cosgrove" clearly legible.

Nora Cosgrove