

SITE NOTICE

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN COIMISIUN PLEANALA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNTY KILKENNY

In accordance with section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), **ECOPOWER DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED** gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for permission for a windfarm and ancillary works (**Gathabawn Windfarm**) in the townlands of **Coolnacrutta; Glashare; Ballylehaun; Gorteennamuck; Rathlogan; Ballyring Upper; Ballyring Lower; and Tentore** and temporary access road and temporary road widening in **Foyle South, Coolcashin and Garrydague townlands, all in County Kilkenny.**

This development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive (EU) 2023/2413) and it is important to note that the Planning Application is subject to a completeness check under section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. When a notice issues in accordance with section 37JA(b), the provisions of article 216A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2026 shall apply.

The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

- **Twelve (12) wind turbines** with a rotor diameter of 136m. Two hub heights are proposed – 82m for Turbine T6, T7 & T9, and 102m for all other turbines, thus giving an uppermost tip height of 150m for T6, T7 & T9, and 170m for all other turbines. Construction of 12 No. turbine foundations and adjacent hardstandings;
- **Site roads** of 8km in total length, comprising 6.7km in length of new roads and the upgrading and widening of 1.3km of existing private farm tracks;
- **Two (2) electrical Control Buildings** - one in the Ballylehaun area and one in the Ballyring area. The buildings measure 20m x 10m, with a height of 7m and contain electrical and communications equipment, along with a storage room, canteen and welfare facilities;
- **Underground electrical cabling** linking the wind turbines together into a turbine ‘string’ and ultimately connect these strings to the two Control Buildings;
- **One (1) 30m lattice tower mast** and **one (1) LiDAR unit** for measuring on-site meteorological conditions;
- **Seven (7) site entrances** from the public road, comprising both existing and newly created entrances;
- **Temporary works to facilitate the transport of the large components to the turbine locations.** These works comprise temporary access roads; some minor public road widening; temporary hardstanding areas; and temporary widening of existing field entrances off the public road;
- Installation of an **integrated drainage system** to manage surface water run-off during all phases of the proposed development;
- **All associated infrastructure, services and ancillary site works** including excavation, earthworks, temporary and permanent overburden storage berms; temporary and permanent fencing; and hedgerow and tree removal, reinstatement and enhancement;
- **Two (2) temporary construction compounds and two (2) on-site temporary borrow pits;**
- Creation of **Biodiversity Areas** for the protection, enhancement and creation of habitats to serve as a functioning high level biodiversity resource for local flora and fauna communities.

The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm. **An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.**

The grid connection point for the proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, has not yet being confirmed by Eirgrid but is likely to be the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, to the east of the proposed windfarm site. This proposed grid connection (to be called Candidate Gathabawn Gird Connection in the Gathabawn Windfarm application documents) comprises the construction of a new substation and substation compound at Parksgrove townland c.5km to the east of the windfarm site; underground cabling along the public road c. 5.6km in length between the Ballylehaun and Ballyring Control Buildings under the L5818, L5821, L5820, L1806, and L18062 public roads; an 8.8km cross-country underground cable route from the Ballyring Control Building to Parksgrove townland, with three public roads crossings of the L1808, L1811 and L1807. Completing the grid connection by 1.5km of underground cabling and a crossing of the N77 National Road and the River Nore, from the new substation at Parksgrove to the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation at Moatpark, just north of Ballyragget town. **The Candidate Gathabawn Grid Connection as described above, is not included as part of this Planning Application,** it will be subject to a separate Planning Application, but this proposed grid connection is considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Appropriate Assessment Report, in order to facilitate the cumulative evaluation of the whole Gathabawn Windfarm project.

The turbines will be delivered from the port of entry using the motorway network as far as Portlaoise. Some temporary street furniture removal will be required on the M7/N77 interchange at Portlaoise. These off-site activities do not form part of the subject application but are considered herein for in-combination effects. From the Portlaoise M7/N77 interchange, the turbines will be transported down the **N77, straight through Abbeyleix and Durrow towns, onto the R639 and straight through Cullahill village before turning left off the R639 onto the L58141 at Coolnacrutta.** No works or activities are required in Abbeyleix, Durrow or Cullahill to facilitate the movement of the turbine components through these settlements.

The Planning Application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) may be inspected, free of charge, or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of **seven weeks commencing on 7th October 2026** at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902;
- The Offices of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny R95 A39T.

The Planning Application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: www.gathabawnwindfarmplanning.ie

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Commission) 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902, in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks, relating to;

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development;
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations **must be accompanied by a fee of €50** (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission **not later than 5.30pm. on the 25th November 2026**. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf (if any) and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent, and
- the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2021 (as amended) refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission. The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie). The Commission may in respect of an application for permission/approval, decide to:-

1. grant the permission, or
2. make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
3. grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the forgoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
4. refuse to grant the permission

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. (01) 858 8100 or Lo-call 1800 275 175).

A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading 'Legal Notices - Judicial Review Notices' on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

Signed:  Pat Brett, Director, Ecopower Developments Limited

Date of erection of Site Notice: 28 September 2026