Addendum 3 – Response to Q18 of SID Application Form

Pre-Planning Consultation

Kilkenny County Council

First Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives of KCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via Microsoft (MS) Teams on the 7th of September 2022. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC:

- Deirdre Byrne

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

Brian Keville - MKO
John Willoughby - MKO
Jonny Fearon - MKO
Eoin McCarthy - MKO
John Tierney - Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

Introduction to the Proposed Project, the Applicant and the project team
Overview of the Site location and site selection process
Proposed Wind Farm design, Proposed Grid Connection design, and the proposed haul route
Site constraints, environmental designations, and habitats
Surveys completed to date
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Planning policy context
Proposed Project timeline

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of KCC. Matters discussed included:

National planning policy context
Local planning policy context including the Draft Ministerial Direction and the Wind Energy Strategy
Significance of overriding public interest
Permitted works to the N77 and the Proposed Grid Connection Route
Scoping, community consultation and community benefit
Site constraints
Ecology
Landscape and visual
Archaeology
Planning application contents

Second Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives of KCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via MS Teams on the 17th of June 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC:

Deirdre Breen
Owen Shine
Shane Wall

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

Francesca Rowson– MKO
Mike Amiel Mekell– MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO
Jonny Fearon – MKO
Neil O'Brien – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited
John Tierney – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

Introduction, Agenda, Proposed Project progress, and the previous pre-planning meetings held with KCC and ACP
Need for the Proposed Project to achieve European and national targets
SID policy context, RED III, national, regional and local policy, KCCDP (as varied) Wind Strategy Areas
Community benefit and engagement
Site background, Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Grid Connection
Site selection and constraints
Proposed Grid connection route
Designated sites and biodiversity
EIA Scoping exercise, connectivity to designated sites and biodiversity
Ornithology, including key ornithological receptors and potential impacts
Water
Geology and karst investigations
Noise and shadow flicker
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Other material assets, transport delivery route and temporary construction entrance
Planning application documents and drawings
Project timeline and conclusion

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of KCC. Matters discussed included:

Local planning policy context including the KCCDP (as varied) Wind Energy Strategy
EIA Scoping exercise and KCC response
Proposed Grid Connection route and construction methodology

Groundwater considerations
Drainage
Noise monitoring and policy context
Cumulative visual impact of the Proposed Wind Farm and exiting Wind Farms

An Coimisiún Pleanála

First Pre-Application Meeting (Section 182E & 37B)

The Applicant engaged with ACP, then An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182E of the Planning Act, as to whether the Proposed Grid Connection would meet the thresholds of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning Act. The Applicant opened pre-application consultations with ACP in July 2022 (ACP Case Ref. 314187) in relation to the Proposed Grid Connection which will facilitate the connection of the Proposed Wind Farm to the existing 110kV Ballyragget substation in County Kilkenny.

The Applicant also engaged with ACP, under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning Act, as to whether the Proposed Wind Farm would meet the thresholds of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning Act. The Applicant opened pre-application consultations with ACP in July 2022 (ACP Case Ref. 314186) in relation to the Proposed Wind Farm.

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives of ACP in accordance with Section 182E and Section 37B via MS Teams on the 13th of October 2022 to discuss the Proposed Grid Connection and the Proposed Wind Farm, respectively. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

Sarah Caulfield
Alaine Clarke
Ciara Kellet

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

Brian Keville - MKO
John Willoughby - MKO
Gus McCarthy - MKO
Jonny Fearon – MKO
Mary Kelleher – MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO
John Tierney - Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a presentation which set out the following information:

Introduction from ACP and various procedures involved
Introduction to the Proposed Project, the Applicant and the project team
Description of SID criteria
Policy context, Wind Energy Strategy, Draft Ministerial Direction, and Landscape Character Assessment
Site Selection
Design process
Project timeline

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of ACP. Matters discussed included:

Planning strategy and justification, including submission of a Section 182A SID planning application for the Proposed Grid Connection and a Section 37E SID planning application for the Proposed Wind Farm
Local planning policy context, Ministerial Direction, Wind Energy Strategy and the location of the Proposed Wind Farm turbines
Archaeology
Ecology and NIS
Land, Soils and geology
Cumulative Impact Assessment of Proposed Wind Farm and existing wind energy developments
Proposed Wind Farm turbine specifications

Second Pre-Application Meeting (Section 37B)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives of ACP in accordance with Section 37B via MS Teams on the 22nd of June 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

Ellen Moss
Una Crosse
Alaine Clarke
Finbarr Quigley
Fiona Patterson
Maeve Maher-McWilliams

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

Francesca Rowson – MKO
Mike Amiel Mekell – MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO
Neil O'Brien – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited
John Tierney – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

Introduction to the Proposed Project, the Applicant and the project team
Meeting Agenda, 1st pre-planning meeting and the Proposed Project progress to date
Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Grid Connection
Withdrawal of Section 182E pre-application consultation
Community engagement undertaken to date
SID planning policy context, RED III, national, regional and local policy, Wind Energy Strategy Areas, site level constraints, and the reduction of viable areas, with viable areas being within areas deemed as not normally permissible.
EIA Scoping, pre-application consultation and public consultation
Designated sites and biodiversity, river crossing, significant European sites
Ornithology, stated importance of cumulative assessment for birds
Hydrology
Geology and karst investigations
Noise and shadow flicker
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Other material assets, traffic and transport, transport delivery route and proposed site entrance
Proposed Project timeline

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of ACP. Matters discussed included:

Submission of the Proposed Project which comprises the Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Grid Connection under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning Act
Withdrawal of Section 182E pre-application consultation
Inclusion of Battery Energy Storage System
Further pre-application meetings

Third Pre-Application Meeting (Section 37B)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives of ACP in accordance with Section 37B via MS Teams on the 15th of September 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

Una Crosse
Alaine Clarke
Finbarr Quigley
Fiona Patterson
Sinead White

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

Francesca Rowson – MKO
Mike Amiel Mekell – MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO
Jonny Fearon – MKO
Padraig Desmond – MKO
Kathryn Sheridan – MKO
Miriam Carroll – Tobar Archaeology
David Broderick – Hydro-Environmental Services
Neil O'Brien – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited
John Tierney – Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

Introduction to the Proposed Project
Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Grid Connection
Local Policy Context – Wind Energy Strategy Areas and Draft Ministerial Direction
SID Criteria and Part 4, Chapter 4 of the 2024 Planning Act
EIA Scoping and pre-application consultation
Biodiversity, designated sites, and key ecological receptors
Ornithology and key ornithological receptors
Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and karst
Noise and shadow flicker
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Cultural heritage
Material assets, traffic and transport, other material assets and transport delivery route
Planning Application Documents, Drawings, EIAR and NIS
Proposed Project timeline

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of ACP. Matters discussed included:

Local Policy Context
The Planning and Development Act 2024
Climate Action Plan 2026
Biodiversity, designated sites, and key ecological receptors
Ornithology and key ornithological receptors
Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and karst
Noise and shadow flicker
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Cultural heritage
Traffic and transport
EIAR Chapters and Appendices
Proposed Project timeline and the SID Determination

SID Determination

Following discussions during the first pre-application meeting with ACP, which was held under the provisions of Section 182E and Section 37B of the Planning Act, it was proposed to submit a single SID planning application for the Proposed Project which includes both the Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Grid Connection under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning Act, subject to an SID determination from ACP. This proposal was discussed with ACP during the second pre-application meeting, which held under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning Act. During this discussion the representatives of ACP advised that the Applicant should withdraw the Section 182E pre-application consultation request. On the 18th of August 2026, the Applicant issued a letter to ACP requesting the withdrawal of the Section 182E pre-application consultation request, ACP confirmed the withdrawal of the request in a letter from ACP dated the 19th of August 2026. As such, the SID planning application for the Proposed Project will be submitted to ACP in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning Act 2000.

A letter received from ACP dated the 9th October 2026 stated that under Section 37B, it is the opinion of ACP that the Proposed Project falls within the scope of the paragraphs 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Planning Act. This confirmed that the Proposed Grid Connection constitutes SID and therefore the planning application should be made directly to ACP.

Consultations with the Local Community

The community consultation carried out for the Proposed Project was based around engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner with the aim to not only provide clear and understandable information but also to gain feedback to understand the views of the local community.

To inform residents about the Proposed Project, Mark Higgins of MKO was appointed as Community Liaison Officer (CLO) on the project. In 2026, Declan Dooley of Morland Land Property Services Ltd took over the role as CLO on the project. The CLO had the

responsibility for acting as the first point of contact for members of the public with questions or queries about the Proposed Project.

The CLO provided an introductory information pack which was delivered via door-to-door consultation to all householders within a c.1.5km radius of the Proposed Project site, in April 2026. The information distributed to each household consisted of a company brochure, which provided information on the project, such as the location of the development study area, the estimated project timeline and contact details. Residents were also given a feedback questionnaire (see Appendix 2) and asked to respond with any concerns or questions they may have. The questionnaire asked four questions about the development:

- If the proposed project is developed, what types of benefits should the Killoshulan Wind Farm provide to the local community?
- Do you have any concerns about this proposed wind farm and if so, what are they?
- Have you any further comments in relation to the proposed project?
- Killoshulan Renewable Energy Ltd is committed to keeping the local community informed about the proposed project. Please help us identify any other local groups which you feel should be consulted with.

Following the initial notification of the proposal to the local community, the CLO liaised with interested parties in helping them to understand the proposal and respond to any queries or concerns raised.

In August 2026, the project CLO recommenced a programme of 'door-knocking' and a leaflet drop, including an advertisement for the upcoming Public Information Event (PIE) to be held on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026. The venue chosen for the event was the Graine Community Hall, County Kilkenny, this location was chosen during feedback from the local residents closest to the proposed wind farm site. While revisiting all the houses within a 1.5km distance from the Proposed Project site, alongside all schools and GAA / sports clubs servicing the catchment area, and all local shops & business in the locality the CLO took this time to explain how the Proposed Project had evolved and how feedback from the first Door-to-Door event. The CLO also explained the channels available to the residents to get in touch with the project team remained available and encouraged those who wished to discuss the Proposed Project further to reach out via those channels.

In September 2026, following the feedback from the first PIE, there was supporting information uploaded to a Virtual Consultation Room on the project website to help provide further information on the main concerns raised at the PIE.

The process of community engagement has proven highly valuable as a means of identifying the key concerns of the local community in relation to the Proposed Wind Farm. The developers are committed to maintaining the strong community engagement approach throughout the post-application stage and, if planning permission is granted, will continue to consult with and be available to residents through the construction and operational lifespan of the Killoshulan Wind Farm.

The development of the Killoshulan Wind Farm will provide a direct and prolonged economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm site through the Community Benefit Fund, and through employment opportunities during the construction process. Please refer to the Community Engagement Report at **Appendix 2-2** of the EIAR for further details.