



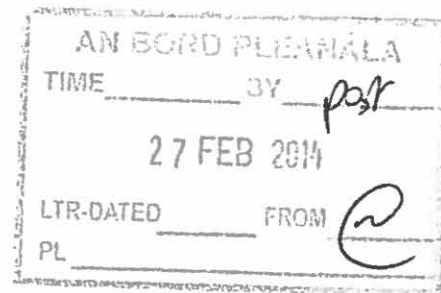
PO Box 391,
G.P.O.,
Eglinton Street,
Galway.

An Bord Pleanála
64, Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

21st February 2014

Dear Sirs,



I refer to the Planning Application made by the Galway Harbour Company for the extension of Galway Port and wish to make a submission on behalf of the Galway City Business Association.

The Galway City Business Association supports the planning application. Galway Harbour is a key infrastructural component of the economy of the West of Ireland, and its expansion is vital to the economic growth of the region.

Galway City Business Association Limited is a company whose objective is to promote and develop business and employment in Galway City Centre. The area the association covers is known locally as 'The Heart of Galway'. Our membership is drawn from retail, hospitality and service business in the City Centre. We represent 70 businesses, including large department Stores, high street chain stores, specialist tourist stores, jewellers, accountants, solicitors, hotels, restaurants and bars. The total number of employees of our membership is 1750.

We believe that the extension of the port will deliver a huge positive economic and social dividend to the City of Galway and the western region for the following reasons:

- **Potential for growth in the City Centre:** Galway city centre is compact and is in real need of expansion. The development of the new port will free up space adjacent to the city centre, and allow the city centre to expand. Such expansion will create additional jobs and will boost the local and regional economy.

- **Retail Potential:** Expansion of the city centre into the dock area will allow the retail sector to expand and will create jobs for citizens residing in the entire western region.
- **Inner Dock Potential:** The expansion of the port will enable the existing inner dock to be developed into a waterfront centre of excellence. This will create additional revenue and establish the city centre marina as a tourist attraction & destination. This will also deliver a positive economic and social impact to the local community.
- **Positive impact on Tourism:** One of the unique aspects of the plan is its proximity to the city centre. Both visitors and crew from Cruise Ships will be able to walk the short distance to the city centre. These visitors will have a positive economic impact and will contribute to the growth of Galway City Centre.
- **Employment Potential:** All or the above will result in the creation of additional permanent employment in the city. The development will also secure the jobs of the existing employees of the Galway Harbour Company.
- **Quality of life:** The development will enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Galway.

For all the above reasons, the Galway City Business Association supports the planning application by the Galway Harbour Company for the extension of Galway Port, and would welcome a positive outcome to the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony M. Ryan', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony M. Ryan,

Chairman.

Galway City Business Association Limited.

Enc €50

