

Diarmuid Lyons

Kilmore,

Via Limerick,

Co. Clare

V94TF7A

Re: Knockshanvo Wind Farm – 320705

Objection to Proposed Development

I wish to submit this objection to the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm based on concerns that remain after reviewing the applicant's Response to Observations.

While the applicant has provided responses to the issues raised by members of the public and statutory consultees, I remain unconvinced that these responses adequately demonstrate that the proposed development can proceed without causing significant adverse effects on the local environment, landscape and surrounding communities.

Firstly, there are continuing concerns regarding the cumulative impact of this development when considered alongside existing and proposed wind farms in the wider area. Although the applicant states that cumulative assessments have been completed, the scale of wind energy development proposed within the region raises legitimate concerns regarding the combined impacts on landscape character, biodiversity, visual amenity and the overall capacity of the area to accommodate further large-scale infrastructure.

Secondly, biodiversity remains a significant issue. The document acknowledges concerns regarding peatlands, wet heath, woodland habitats, bats, protected birds, marsh fritillary, otter, aquatic habitats and other protected species before concluding that mitigation measures are sufficient. However, the effectiveness of future mitigation and habitat enhancement cannot be guaranteed. Once sensitive habitats are disturbed or removed, restoration may take decades or may never fully replicate the ecological value of the original habitats.

The proposal would also introduce turbines of considerable height into an established rural landscape. Even where visual assessments conclude that impacts are acceptable, these assessments are inherently subjective. Local residents and visitors may experience a substantial alteration to the character of the area, with adverse effects on scenic views, recreational amenities and the overall sense of place.

I also remain concerned about the potential impacts on residential amenity. Issues relating to noise, shadow flicker, visual dominance and the cumulative effect of multiple turbines deserve careful consideration. While the applicant states that the project complies with existing guidelines, compliance with minimum standards does not necessarily eliminate impacts on the daily lives of nearby residents.

Construction impacts also warrant further scrutiny. Increased heavy vehicle movements, road safety concerns, disruption to local communities and potential effects on watercourses and peat stability should not be underestimated, particularly in a rural environment where road infrastructure may have limited capacity.

Furthermore, several responses throughout the document rely heavily on proposed mitigation measures, future monitoring and management plans. While these commitments are welcome, they do not remove the risk of unforeseen impacts or guarantee that mitigation measures will be fully effective over the lifetime of the development.

Given the scale of the proposed wind farm and the sensitivity of the receiving environment, I respectfully submit that the precautionary principle should be applied. Where uncertainty remains regarding cumulative impacts, biodiversity, landscape character and residential amenity, the burden should rest with the applicant to demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that significant adverse impacts will not occur.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development or alternatively require further independent assessment of the outstanding environmental, ecological, visual and community impacts before any decision is made.

Yours faithfully,

Diarmuid Lyons