

+ 353 (0)49 555 5050

Clondargan, Stradone, Cavan, H12 NV06, Ireland

www.galetechenergyservices.com



Preface

Cush Wind Limited is applying to Offaly County Council for planning permission for Cush Wind Farm Phase II, comprising a three-turbine extension to the permitted Cush Wind Farm Phase I and associated site development works in the townlands of Galros East, Whigsborough, Ballycollin and Eglish, Co. Offaly.

The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which describes the project and assesses its likely significant effects on the environment during construction, operation and decommissioning. The EIAR provides information to assist Offaly County Council in undertaking its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and determining the planning application. It also enables members of the public and other interested parties to understand the project, evaluate its likely environmental effects and participate in the planning process.

The EIAR has been prepared by Galetech Energy Services on behalf of Cush Wind Limited, with contributions from appropriately qualified specialist and technical consultants. It is arranged into fifteen chapters describing the project, the reasonable alternatives considered, the environmental components likely to be affected and the interactions between them. Supporting technical reports, surveys and management plans are provided in the accompanying annexes.

The assessment addresses the project as a whole, including the proposed wind farm and associated infrastructure, the electrical switch room, approximately 5km of underground electricity line connecting to the proposed Mullanafawnia 110kV substation, and the turbine haul route accommodation works. The underground electricity line will be the subject of a separate future planning application but is assessed as an integral component of the project within this EIAR. The proposed Mullanafawnia 110kV substation is being progressed by a separate developer and does not form part of this project or planning application; its potential cumulative effects are considered where relevant. The assessment also considers cumulative effects with the permitted Cush Wind Farm Phase I and other relevant existing, permitted and proposed developments.

The EIAR should be read in conjunction with all plans and particulars submitted with the planning application, including the planning drawings and supporting technical documentation. A separate Non-Technical Summary and an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement have also been prepared.

The EIAR identifies the measures required to avoid, reduce and manage potential adverse environmental effects and describes the residual effects predicted following their implementation. These findings are presented in the individual assessment chapters, including the landscape, visual and cultural heritage effects associated with the presence of the turbines. Positive effects include the generation of renewable electricity, the displacement of fossil-fuel electricity generation and associated employment, local expenditure and community benefits. The assessment findings and mitigation and monitoring commitments inform the overall consideration of the project, subject to the independent assessment and determination of Offaly County Council.