

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED MASSIVE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT CLONSHAUGH

From: _____ To: Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager

Address: _____

Date: _____

I strongly object to the greater design drainage proposed waste water treatment plant (WWTP) at Clonshaugh, Co. Dublin on the following grounds.

1. **Location** of a massive 700,000 PE WWTP adjacent to densely populated areas. 300m or 500m separation distance to receptors are wholly inadequate for such a large plant.
2. **Odours**: There will be odour originating regardless of the odour suppression measures taken by the design. Inadequate design maintenance and operation of the plant will give rise to increased odour problems.
3. **Design, build** and potentially operate nature of the contract for this project. Recent history has proven that this is a flawed model. One example of this would be the odour problems at Ringsend treatment plant which presented after its opening. Delays and disputes arose due to the structure of the procurement. Meanwhile the adjacent residents were left with the sickening odour problems.
4. **Environmental risk**: Recent experience of a smaller WWTP in Balbriggan has shown that raw sewage will be discharged when procedures and systems fail. Should the proposed Clonshaugh plant discharge raw sewage to sea this can only result in detrimental environmental effects on SAC, SPA, designated shellfish waters of the Dublin coastline.
5. **Disruption of the local environment**: Local wildlife such as hunting birds and other animals will be impacted by such a large scale WWTP.
6. **A cost benefit analysis** has not been produced for this site during the site selection process.
7. **Impact on the local community**: Properties will be devalued should this proposed WWTP proceed. This is grossly unfair to families who have invested in this area through house purchases, investment in local businesses, farms and the hospitality trade. There will be dozens of large lorry movements daily during the construction and operation of this plant. The first screening of the sewage and sludge would need to be transported by road, contributing to odour problems. The burden of treating sewage from the GDSDS area on the Clonshaugh, Portmarnock and wider coastal communities is an unfair burden.
8. **Proposed location of the WWTP on prime agricultural land**: This WWTP is proposed to compulsory purchase approximately 1/3 of a productive family farm. Large regional infrastructure such as this should be located on land of poorer value and at least 5km away from densely populated areas.
9. **Detrimental impact on tourism in Dublin Coastal Areas**: WWTP have in the last 7 years caused serious environmental problems when they failed and discharged raw sewage into receiving waters. This plant will receive negative publicity and the already vulnerable tourism, sea fishing and water recreation industries will suffer the consequences. It is unlikely that the EIA will adequately address such issues.
10. **Visual impact**: Millions of air passengers use Dublin Airport. The first/last vision these passengers will have is not of natural countryside but of a sewage treatment plant. This proposed vista is not a good advert of the Emerald Isle.