From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday 26 October 2026 16:44
To: MARA Licence
Subject: MUL260006 Objection

Categories: Filed to eDocs

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The licence sought is to survey, over a 24 month period, the suitability of Cregg Beach using underwater mapping, sonar and sediment sampling in the area. This underwater exploratory works involves boring deep holes into the sea bed as well as trial pits, and upheaving the natural environment and shoreline and surroundings of Cregg Beach. I feel the exploratory works will have a detrimental effect on marine wildlife and their habitats.

Cregg beach is a well loved local beach. Having grown up in Cregg, two minutes from this beach, I myself, have a lifelong connection to this part of Liscannor Bay in particular. The reasons for protecting this part of the greater Lahinch Beach are tenfold. Some of which include environmental factors like water quality, marine life and bird life. As well as this, its rich historical and locally significant use by my great grandparents of foraging seaweed, up to present day use of bathers, sea swimmers, surfers and other leisure activities in the water.
The bay's marine life includes Basking Sharks, Otters, Dolphins and Grey Seals. Fishermen often catch seabass, brown trout and perch here. The recent TG4 documentary Cill Stuifín illustrated the magnificent beauty of this bay and it's importance to the local marine ecosystem.

I do not object to an upgrade of our current waste water treatment plant, in fact I support it completely, as our current system is definitely not fit for purpose. Lahinch losing its Blue Flag this year adds to this point. Lahinch is a thriving seaside village, hugely dependant on clean waters to support the large volumes of tourists who holiday here. A functioning waste water treatment plant is essential for the future of the bay and the economy of the area. This is well understood.

What isn't being understood is the concerns from local people. I with many others are seeking careful consideration by you at MARA, Uisce Eireann and Clare Co.Council

where such a plant should be located. My question stems from - why should we pump waste from the current treatment plant 4km, then uphill to Calluragh, and out to sea at Cregg beach? - When due consideration should be given to upgrading the system in Ennistymon, looking to the increasing population in the area in the coming years. Ideally, an environmentally acceptable treatment system should be installed, which is cost effective, has minimal negative impact on the environment and will be functional for future generations.