Leeanne Doyle (MARA)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday 16 October 2026 15:24
To: MARA Licence
Subject: Concerns about the proposed Lahinch and Ennistymon wastewater treatment scheme

Categories: Leeanne

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Dear Project Team,

I am writing as a local resident whose home overlooks Cregg Beach, and as a documentary filmmaker whose work explores the natural world and our relationship with it.

We fully support the urgent provision of effective wastewater treatment for Lahinch and Ennistymon. My concern is whether the proposed location, treatment standard and marine outfall offer the best long-term protection for our water, wildlife and community.

Through my work on films including *The Silver Branch*, *Burren: Heart of Stone* and *Kerry: Tides of Time*, I have spent years observing the intricate connections that sustain life. That same extraordinary richness exists beside our home. Cregg Beach and the wider Lahinch coastline are places of constant discovery, changing with every tide and season.

The wider bay and estuary support wintering waders including curlew, dunlin, oystercatchers, ringed plovers, redshank and turnstones. Bass and flounder inhabit the local coastal waters, while seals feed in the bay. Beneath the surface and within the sand and rock pools, countless smaller creatures sustain this interconnected community of life.

Water connects all of it. The river, estuary, beach and open bay are parts of one living system. The quality of that water matters to every bird feeding along the shore, every fish developing in the shallows, and every person swimming or surfing here.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed reliance on secondary treatment. I ask that tertiary treatment, together with appropriate disinfection and nutrient removal, be fully assessed and provided to protect this sensitive coastal environment.

Moving an outfall offshore does not, by itself, demonstrate that the beaches and bay will be protected. My concern is that tides, currents and onshore winds could carry discharged effluent back towards the shoreline. Please publish clear, independently reviewed modelling showing how the discharge would behave across seasons, during storms and heavy rainfall, and at peak summer loading. This should address both ecological impacts and the safety of people using the water.

I also ask that upgrading and expanding the existing Ennistymon treatment site be transparently reassessed. If this option has been ruled out, the community deserves a clear explanation supported by the engineering, environmental and cost assessments.

The proposal to pump Ennistymon's wastewater to Lahinch raises serious questions about continuing energy consumption, carbon emissions, maintenance and resilience during power

failures or extreme weather. Please publish a comparison of these lifetime costs and risks against the alternatives.

We need infrastructure that serves both communities for generations. That requires an approach which protects the river as well as the sea, provides the highest appropriate treatment standard, and demonstrates why the chosen location is the best available option.

For me, this is deeply personal. This shore is beside our home, part of our daily lives, and a place of extraordinary natural wonder. Its future deserves careful observation, sound science and decisions that place the health of the water at their centre.

Please record these concerns and provide a written response addressing treatment standards, outfall modelling, biodiversity, pumping requirements and the assessment of the Ennistymon alternative.

Kind regards,

