



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Public Consultation FAQ's on the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (WEDGs)

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

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Public Consultation Process

1. Why we are launching this consultation?

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process being undertaken in relation to the revision of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) involves a public consultation process which allows members of the public, interested bodies and organisations an opportunity to express their views on the draft revisions to the 2006 Guidelines and the associated environmental reports before the assessment is completed and the new Guidelines are adopted. Therefore, the draft revised Guidelines will be fully informed by the SEA process prior to their publication by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

2. How long will the consultation last?

The public consultation will run for ten weeks from Thursday 12 December 2019 to 17:00hrs on Wednesday 19 February 2020.

3. How do I make a submission?

Submissions can be sent by email or post.

Email Address: WEDGReview@housing.gov.ie

Postal Address: WEDG Review,

Planning Policy & Legislation Section,

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,

Custom House,

Dublin 1,

D01 W6X0.

4. What documents are available as part of the public consultation?

The following documents are available for review as part of the public consultation on the proposed revisions to the Wind Energy Development Guidelines:

- Consultation on the revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines- December 2019
- Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Report and Non-Technical Summary
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report
- AA Determination
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

- Flood Risk Statement
- Transboundary Statement
- Code of Practice for Wind Energy Developments – Guidelines for Community Engagement
- RPS Report on Wind Turbine Noise Analysis

5. Will my submission be published?

The Department intends on publishing all submissions received as part of the public consultation in line with the privacy statement set out for this consultation at www.housing.gov.ie

6. Where do I get further information?

All information in relation to the review of the WEDG is available at www.housing.gov.ie

The Review Process

7. What parts of the 2006 Guidelines have been reviewed?

The review is addressing a number of key aspects of the 2006 Guidelines including sound or noise, visual amenity setback, shadow flicker, consultation obligations, community dividend and grid connections.

The review also includes textual updates and policy guidance updates.

8. Why are the 2006 Guidelines being revised?

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) reflected an industry far removed from that of today and it is therefore necessary to update the 2006 Guidelines to reflect the developments made in the intervening years and to be responsive to future changes also.

Furthermore, the 2006 Guidelines are being revised to take account of current national and EU renewable energy policy and targets and to provide greater consistency of approach in planning for onshore wind energy development, as well as providing greater certainty and clarity to the planning system, to the wind industry and to local communities.

9. Why have these revisions taken so long to publish?

This is a highly complex and technical area which required input from subject matter experts, the general public and an understanding of international best practice on these issues. As wind energy technology is continually evolving the proposals must also be responsive to industry development and community concerns.

The review began with a draft document issued by the then Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for public consultation in December 2013. The public consultation resulted in a considerable level of public response (some 7,500 responses) highlighting the need to adequately balance the concerns of local communities while maintaining a stable investment environment for renewable energy.

The measures proposed address the need to balance the genuine concerns of local communities with the need to allow for the cost-effective deployment of appropriate renewable energy projects in Ireland, where the proposals are in keeping with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

While the draft revised guidelines were to be published in Quarter 1 2019, some delays to the planned schedule arose, due to the publication of updated World Health Organisation (WHO) noise standards and the need to focus on certain Brexit-related planning issues. The updated WHO noise standards required detailed consideration by both the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, assisted by acoustic experts engaged by DCCA to advise on these technical. The WHO Guidance included specific recommendations in relation to wind turbine noise, for the first time and the Wind Energy Development Guidelines had to be adapted to reflect these recommendations

10. What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

SEA is a process by which environmental considerations are integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes which act as frameworks for development consent, prior to their final adoption, with public consultation as part of that process. SEA is a requirement of the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

The consideration of alternatives in the SEA process provides the opportunity to identify and explore different ways to deliver the objectives of a plan or programme while addressing environmental issues.

The SEA process included a scoping exercise which has involved consultation with the prescribed statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment. The main objective of this scoping exercise was to identify key issues of concern that should be addressed in the assessment of the proposals from an environmental perspective and the appropriate level of detail to which they should be considered.

The SEA process informed the preparation of draft revised WEDGs based on the 'preferred draft approach'. The findings of the SEA are expressed in the Environmental Report, which accompanies the Draft Guidelines on public display.

When the Draft Guidelines are finalised following the public consultation exercise and taking into account submissions received, an SEA Statement will be prepared which will summarise, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Guidelines.

11. Who carried out the SEA?

The SEA was carried out by CAAS Ltd on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. CAAS were appointed following the completion of a tendering process in December 2017.

12. What is an Appropriate Assessment?

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives. A screening exercise was undertaken and it was determined that a Stage 2 AA was required. The assessment is informed by the Natura Impact Statement, which accompanies the Draft Guidelines on public display.

13. What is a Flood Risk Statement?

The Flood Risk Statement prepared as part of the review of the 2006 Guidelines outlines the need for wind energy development proposals to comply with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) and includes details on the approach to flood risk management that should be followed by prospective applicants.

14. What is an SPPR?

Specific planning policy requirements, also known as SPPRs, are provided for under section 28(1C) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to apply any specific planning policy requirements of guidelines in carrying out their functions.

Noise

15. What is the new noise limit for Wind Energy Development Noise?

The draft revised Guidelines proposes noise restriction limits consistent with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, proposing a relative rated noise limit of 5dB(A) above existing background noise within the range of 35 to 43dB(A), with 43dB(A) being the maximum noise limit permitted, day or night. The noise limits will apply to outdoor locations at any residential or noise sensitive properties.

16. What are some examples of noise levels?

Average sound levels in city street traffic would typically be about 65 – 80dBA, while a conversation between a small number of people would be about 60dBA. A quiet office would be in the range 50-65dBA, while the humming of a refrigerator when running would be around 40dBA.

17. What is a Noise Sensitive Location?

A noise sensitive location is defined, in the case of wind energy development, as any location in which the inhabitants may be disturbed by noise from the wind energy development.

This incorporates a dwelling, house, hotel or hostel, health building (providing patient services), nursing/retirement home, educational establishment, place of worship or entertainment, or other facility which may justifiably require for its proper use the absence of noise at levels likely to cause significant effects. This definition may include protected wildlife areas, areas of particular scenic quality or special recreational amenity importance designated in the Development Plan.

18. What are special audible characteristics of Wind Energy Development Noise?

Rather than being equally sensitive at all frequencies, the human ear is tuned to detect within a certain range. Therefore, audibility is not a direct measure of the sound and accounting for the special audible characters of the sound more accurately represents how people perceive it.

There are three categories of special audible characteristics that may arise from wind turbines:

1. Tonal Noise
2. Amplitude Modulation
3. Low Frequency Noise

Tonal noise has been described as containing a discrete frequency component, most often of a mechanical origin. Examples can include the hum from an electrical transformer located at the base of a wind turbine, which can exhibit low frequency tones, the dial tone on a phone, a mid-frequency tone, and whistling which tends to comprise higher frequency tones.

The characteristic sound of a wind turbine might be described by the listener as a regular ‘swish’ or ‘whoomph’ sound. This recurring sound relates to the turbine turning speed and is referred to as amplitude modulation. Such a sound frequently causes annoyance at lower levels than sounds without such a character.

The definition of low frequency noise can vary, but it is generally accepted to be within the range of 10Hz to 160Hz. Traffic noise would be considered to have low frequency content.

The draft revised Guidelines include penalties/ thresholds for these noise characters giving additional protection to local residents.

19. What is a rated noise level and why are we applying it now in contrast to the 2006 Guidelines?

Sounds containing low frequency, tonality and amplitude modulation are known to be more intrusive. Therefore, it is appropriate to lower the permitted sound limit when these are present.

The result is a 'Rated' sound measure, which is the sum of the measured level and a penalty. Adopting a rated sound level is a better way to gauge the impact of a sound level on the listener.

20. What penalties apply for Special Audible Characteristics of Wind Energy Development Noise?

The details of the penalties to apply are set out in section 4.1 of Technical Appendix 1- Special Audible Characteristics of Wind Energy Development Noise of the draft revised Guidelines.

Tonal Noise: An adjustment for Tonal Noise of up to 6dB shall be added to the rated level when it is present

Amplitude Modulation: An adjustment for Amplitude Modulation of up to 5dB shall be added to the rated level when it is present.

Low Frequency: There are no penalty adjustments for Low frequency noise. Rather, if low frequency noise is measured and exceeds the threshold set out in the guidelines, the relevant wind turbines must be taken out of operation until compliance can be proven.

21. How are the noise proposals an improvement over the 2006 guidance?

The 2006 Guidelines provide for a day-time noise limit of 45dB(A) i.e. a decibel related rating, or a maximum increase of 5dB(A) above background, and a 43dB(A) night-time limit. Taking account of the new WHO Guidelines, the draft revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines being issued for public consultation now provide for a relative rated noise limit of 5dB(A) above existing background noise within the range of 35 to 43dB(A), with 43dB(A) being the absolute maximum noise limit permitted, day or night.

The level will take account of certain noise characteristics specific to wind energy projects i.e. tonal, amplitude modulation and low frequency noise and provide penalties for tonal noise and amplitude modulation and a threshold for low frequency noise above specified limits which, if breached, will result in turbine shut down.

22. Who will monitor background noise in my area?

As part of the planning application process, developers will be required to provide a detailed analysis of the background or natural sound level of an area and where permission is granted, a detailed monitoring programme should be established and maintained as a condition of the grant of permission.

23. Who should I report noise complaints to?

Complaints in relation to a breach of any condition of a permission should be made to the relevant planning authority.

24. How will noise be monitored?

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (which has overall responsibility for environmental noise), in conjunction with local authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be responsible for ensuring that there is a robust noise monitoring framework in place. This framework will build on existing structures and powers of the local authorities and the EPA to investigate noise complaints, with the EPA providing a supporting and advisory role to local authorities through its Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE) structure, as well as utilising its powers of independent oversight, where appropriate.

Shadow Flicker

25. What is shadow flicker?

Shadow Flicker occurs when the sun is low in the sky and the rotating blades of a wind turbine casts a moving shadow which, if it passes over a window in a nearby house or other property results in a rapid change or flicker in the incoming sunlight.

26. What do the draft revised Guidelines allow in relation to shadow flicker?

The time period in which a neighbouring property may be affected by shadow flicker is completely predictable. The draft revised Guidelines propose that technology and appropriate modelling at design stage to eradicate the occurrence of shadow flicker must be confirmed in all planning applications for wind energy development.

27. What happens if shadow flicker occurs?

If Shadow Flicker is not eliminated through modelling and design, then measures for automatic wind turbine shut down should be included as a condition of planning permission. In effect, no neighbouring property will experience the occurrence of shadow flicker.

28. How are these shadow flicker proposals an improvement over the 2006 guidance?

The 2006 Guidelines recommended that shadow flicker at neighbouring offices and dwellings within 500m should not exceed 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day. The 2019 proposals eliminate the occurrence of shadow flicker altogether.

Visual Amenity Setback

29. What setback distance is proposed?

The draft revised Guidelines include a setback for visual amenity of 4 times the tip height between a wind turbine and the nearest point of the curtilage of any residential property, subject to a mandatory minimum setback of 500 metres. Setback requirements would also be subject to compliance with noise limits.

An exception may be provided for a reduced setback requirement on agreement with the relevant property owners and occupiers, however, in such cases, the noise limit must still be capable of being complied with.

30. How was the setback distance arrived at?

The potential for visual disturbance can be considered as dependent on the scale of the proposed turbine and the associated distance. Thus a setback which is the function of size of the turbine should be key to setting the appropriate setback.

The 2006 Guidelines considered 500 metres as an appropriate setback distance to protect dwellings where max tip heights were approx. 125 metres. Employing instead a setback proportional to the tip height, here 4 times tip height, ensures a consistent approach that remains responsive to industry developments.

Setbacks of greater size would have the effect of seriously diminishing the land area potentially available for wind energy projects as a result of prevailing development patterns, with consequent implications for the non-attainment of binding obligations, including fines.

31. How are these visual amenity setback proposals an improvement over the 2006 guidance?

The 2006 Guidelines employed an inflexible 500 metre setback. Instead, using a setback proportional to the height reflects the impact of the turbine on the visual environment.

Community Engagement and Community Dividend

32. Will developers engage with local communities on Wind Energy Development proposals?

There will be an obligation on the developer of a wind energy project to consult with communities, prior to submitting a planning application. Planning authorities will take into account the degree to which the proponents of wind energy projects have meaningfully and properly consulted with and facilitated public participation in developing and refining their proposals.

Projects should reflect broadly based community perspectives, should explain the potential benefits of a project and should seek to establish relationships with the community on a long-term basis. Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation.

33. What will the Community Report include?

This Report will outline:

- how the developer has consulted and engaged with the local community regarding the proposed wind energy development,
- how the final proposal has been adjusted or modified in response to the community consultation, and
- how the developer will thereafter work with the local community and allow for the free flow of information between the developer and the community at all stages of the project.

34. What types of economic and/or social benefits will communities be able to access under the proposed community dividend?

Ensuring wind energy developments are of enduring economic or social benefit for local communities is one of the key elements of the draft revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines. In this regard, the Community Report provided as part of the planning application must set out the means by which the developer intends to provide an opportunity for the local community to benefit from the wind energy development, whether by facilitating community investment/ownership in the project or by other types of benefits/dividends, or a combination of the two.

While the exact nature of the benefit will vary according to both the nature and scale of the project, and the local communities' preferred options, it is essential that developers offer a form of

community benefit that provides for a tangible long-term benefit to the community. The benefit will generally be associated with the level of economic benefit that a project brings to a community. This can be in the form of local jobs and training opportunities, energy efficiency measures, and contributions in kind to local assets and facilities. The key requirement is that community benefit is a core component of future wind energy developments.

Independent of the draft revised Guidelines, all wind energy projects looking for support under the proposed new Renewable Energy Support Scheme being development currently by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment will need to meet pre-qualification criteria including offering the community an opportunity to invest in and take ownership of a portion of renewable projects in their local area.

35. How are the Community proposals an improvement over the 2006 guidance?

These proposals will ensure the public are properly consulted and that wind energy developments are of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned. The 2006 Guidelines did not have mandatory community consultation or suggest community dividend, rather it provided that the community should be kept informed by way of a letter/ leaflet etc.

Environmental Impact Assessment

36. What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

EIA is the process of examining the anticipated environmental effects of proposed project - from consideration of environmental aspects at design stage, through consultation and preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), evaluation of the EIAR by a competent authority, the subsequent decision as to whether the project should be permitted to proceed, encompassing public response to that decision.

37. Do all Wind Energy Developments require EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment is mandatory for proposed wind energy developments that would equal or exceed, as the case may be the following thresholds:

- have more than five turbines, or
- will have a total output greater than 5 megawatts.

Proposed wind energy developments below these threshold but which may be likely to have significant effects on the environment may also require an Environmental Impact Assessment and should be screened in this regard.

Grid Connection

38. What is provided in relation to Grid connections?

From a visual amenity aspect, undergrounding of cable connections from wind farms to the transmission and distribution system is the most appropriate solution, except where specific ground conditions or technical considerations make this impractical.

Furthermore, as part of the review, guidance in relation to the EIA-related requirements in respect of wind farm projects has also been updated on foot of a High Court Judicial Review - O Grianna and others v. An Bord Pleanála. This judicial review determined that, in the context of the European Union EIA Directive requirements, a wind energy development and its connection to the electricity grid are considered to be one single project for the purposes of properly conducting an EIA. In light of the High Court finding, the draft revised WEDGs outline new and updated arrangements to ensure that both the wind energy development and its associated grid connection are assessed in full compliance with the EIA Directive.

In this connection, where an applicant is granted planning permission for a wind energy development which requires EIA, but does not include the grid connection as part of the planning application, no works on the wind energy development element of the project will be allowed to commence without a separate planning permission for the grid connection first being obtained.

39. Can a developer relying on exemptions for their grid connection?

Where an applicant is granted planning permission for a wind energy development which requires EIA, but does not include the grid connection as part of the planning application, no works on the wind energy development element of the project will be allowed to commence without a separate planning permission for the grid connection first being obtained. Exemptions under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) cannot be relied upon if the wind energy development required EIA.

Existing Wind Energy Developments

40. What applies to application for the renewal or repowering of an existing wind energy development?

The draft revised WEDGs will, when adopted, equally apply to planning applications relating to the repowering or renewal of existing wind energy developments currently in operation.

41. What will be done for residences that are experiencing issues from existing wind energy developments?

Since December 2016, many wind energy developers have committed to implementing the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland. The Code, available on the DCCAE's website, is intended to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland observes best industry practices and effective community engagement.

Furthermore, the Code sets a required standard for responding to issues and complaints. In order to demonstrate compliance with the Code, project promoters will be required to publish an annual report detailing complaints received and associated action undertaken to resolve them.

The draft revised Guidelines recommend that all developers adhere to the Code in the future.

General planning process

42. Who will decide a wind energy development application for permission?

Wind Energy development proposals are decided by the relevant planning authority unless they are deemed to be Strategic Infrastructure Development in which case the planning application goes directly to An Bord Pleanála for decision.

Wind energy development proposals comprising more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts may fall under the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 whereby mandatory pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (as opposed to the planning authority) is required.

In the event that such a development is deemed by An Bord Pleanála to be a SID, following the formal consultation process as set out under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the planning application for same shall be lodged directly with An Bord Pleanála and an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development is mandatory.

43. What right of appeals or challenge are there?

In cases where the application is decided by the Planning Authority, the applicant and any person who made a submission on the planning application may appeal the decision of a planning authority in respect of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board") within four weeks of the decision.

The Board, in determining an appeal, reviews the entire case having regard to the same matters as the planning authority was required to have regard to in the first instance. As it is required to, the Board reaches its own conclusion on the matter in line with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Under section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), anyone may apply to the High Court seeking a judicial review of any decision made by a planning authority or the Board under the Act in circumstances where they believe that they have reason to question the validity of the decision. Judicial review is primarily concerned with the decision-making process rather than with the substance of the decision. Application is required to be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of the decision being made. The Court may accept applications for leave to seek judicial review beyond that timeframe where the court believes that there are good and proper reasons for doing so or where it can be proved that there were circumstances beyond the control of the applicant that prevented them from making the application within the timeframe. The Minister would advise anyone considering such action to seek legal advice prior to proceeding.

44. How long will a development receive permission for?

Current technology would suggest that a time limit of approximately 30 years is reasonable for permissions for onshore wind energy developments. Generally planning permissions will include conditions which require the development to be decommissioned after this time period and the land reinstated, unless a separate permission has been granted for the development to be renewed (an extended time period) or repowered (replacement technology installed).

45. What is the enforcement procedure for wind energy developments that do not comply with their permission?

Under planning legislation, enforcement of planning control is a matter for the relevant planning authority which can take action if a development does not have the required permission or where terms of permission have not been met.

Planning authorities have substantial enforcement powers under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (the Act). A planning authority may issue an enforcement notice in connection with an unauthorised development, requiring such steps as the authority considers necessary to be taken within a specified period.

If an enforcement notice is not complied with the planning authority may itself take the specified steps and recover the expense incurred in doing so. A planning authority may also seek a court order under section 160 of the Act requiring any particular action to be done or not to be done.

Section 160 of the Act provides that anyone may seek a court order in relation to unauthorised development; such action is not restricted to the planning authorities.

46. What offences apply?

Serious breaches of the planning code incur significant fines (€10m) and imprisonment (2yrs) or both. Generally, less serious offences under the Planning Acts carry a maximum penalty of €5,000 or

6 months' imprisonment or both. Where the person continues the offence after conviction, they are guilty of a further offence for each day it continues and this carries a maximum fine of €1,500.

Policy

47. How do the draft the draft revised Guidelines support Ireland in taking climate action and meeting its renewable energy targets?

Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges of this century. Its scale and complexity demands a coordinated approach at both national and international levels and Ireland is committed to concerted multilateral action to tackle climate change.

This Review has been undertaken within a wider national and EU energy policy context in line with binding EU and international obligations on Ireland to play its part in tackling both the causes and effects of climate change.

48. What is the policy context of the draft Guidelines?

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) launched by Government in June 2019 includes a suite of actions to decarbonise the electricity sector and boost the quantity of renewable generation in order to meet Ireland's ambitious target of renewables meeting 70% of electricity demand by 2030.

Action 21 of the CAP committed the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) to commencing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation on the WEDGs.

Final Guidelines

49. When will finalised guidelines be published?

Following the conclusion of the public consultation phase, DHPLG and DCCAE, together with the SEA and noise consultants, as necessary, will analyse the submissions received and make any further changes to the guidelines which are deemed necessary or appropriate.

If the changes are minor in nature, the SEA process can be concluded and a final SEA statement on the proposed revisions will be prepared. In such circumstances, it is envisaged that the revised WEDGs would be published during Q2 2020.

However, if, as a result of the public consultation, the need for significant changes to the draft Guidelines are considered necessary, there is a possibility that a second SEA of the subsequently amended draft Guidelines will be required before the process can be concluded and the final updated Guidelines issued to planning authorities, with associated impacts on the timescales involved.

In the meantime, the current 2006 Guidelines remain in force.

50. What will the final guidelines cover?

The Guidelines relate solely to land use and environmental issues related to onshore wind energy developments and do not deal with issues concerning purchasing agreements, matters relating to grid capacity or offshore wind energy.

51. What type of developments do the Guidelines cover?

These Guidelines relate solely to onshore wind energy developments.

52. What is the legal status of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines?

Once the Guidelines are finalised and issued by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála (the Board) will be required to have regard to the Guidelines, and also apply any specific planning policy requirements as may be included in the revised Guidelines under section 28(1C) of the Act, in carrying out their statutory functions in relation to wind energy developments.

53. What is the procedure for offshore wind energy applications?

Offshore wind energy developments are currently excluded from the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). They are, however, subject to the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended). Legislative proposals are currently being drafted to replace the Foreshore Act 1933 and to address the absence of a regulatory framework to regulate offshore renewable energy developments beyond the limits of the foreshore (12 nautical miles). The Marine Planning and Development Management Bill will also provide a coherent mechanism to facilitate and manage development in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the continental shelf, including for the first time, a comprehensive regime for the regulation of offshore renewable energy.

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