

## LARGE SCALE OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROPOSED FOR DUBLIN BAY

Public Consultation Period: 9<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013

A private company has lodged an application with the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for a Foreshore Lease to construct a large scale wind farm (“Dublin Array”) on the Kish & Bray Banks, 10 km off the coast of Dublin & Wicklow. The application proposes construction of 145 turbines, each up to 160 m from sea level to blade tip, five times higher than the Kish Lighthouse (31m).

The proposed development, one of the largest offshore windfarms in the world, would cover an area of 54 km<sup>2</sup>. It would industrialise the seascape, degrade protected sandbanks and have unknown impacts on marine wildlife and birds. The Kish and Bray Banks are shallow sandbanks, an important habitat listed for protection under the EU Habitats Directive.

As legally required, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared on behalf of the developers and lodged with the application. The EIS was made available for public consultation from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 1st June 2013.

**There is virtually no public awareness of the application, the EIS or the public consultation.** This is a direct result of the manner in which applications for construction at sea are processed under undemocratic and outdated legislation, The Foreshore Act 1933. This legislation, drawn up before offshore wind farms were envisaged, allows the Minister for the Environment to award Foreshore Leases for construction in Irish waters with no statutory involvement of local authorities and **no public right of appeal** against the Minister’s decision. Details of the democratic deficit surrounding the issuing of foreshore leases in Irish waters are set out on this website.

The EIS assesses visual impact from 22 viewpoints and predicts significant adverse impacts for 16 of these. They are Howth, Clontarf, Sutton, Bull Island, Poolbeg/Ringsend, Sandymount, Dalkey, Killiney, Bray, Greystones, Newcastle, Sugar Loaf Mountain, the N11 at Kilmullin, Carrickgollogan Hill (overlooking Shankill) & Wicklow town.

**“Adverse Major” Visual Impacts are predicted by the developer for Bray Head, Killiney Hill, Vico Road and Howth Head, nationally important scenic areas.** These effects, listed in the EIS, give some idea of the immense visual impact the Dublin Array offshore wind farm would have on the entire coast from Howth to South Wicklow.

The developers’ Non-Technical Summary states that the electricity generated may be sold to Irish consumers. Alternatively, it may be connected directly to the UK to help that country meet its renewable energy targets.

The EIS is available online, **without photomontages**, at [www.dublinarray.com](http://www.dublinarray.com). It may be viewed, **with photomontages**, at five locations around the coast: Public Libraries in Howth & Dun Laoghaire; Garda Stations in Bray & Greystones & at the RDS, Anglesea Road, Hall 10A (10am-4pm Tuesday-Friday; 10am-3pm Saturday).

Submissions may be made to The Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government, Marine Planning & Foreshore, Newtown Road, Wexford. Final date for submissions: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

This current period for consultation is the only opportunity afforded to the public to influence the proposed construction of a large-scale industrial development which will have major impacts on Dublin Bay .