

# IWEA CONFERENCE 2019

Planning – A Developers Perspective

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# Policy Enablers for Wind Energy in Ireland



Wind Energy  
Development  
Guidelines

Regional  
Planning or  
Local  
Planning

Planning

Planning  
System

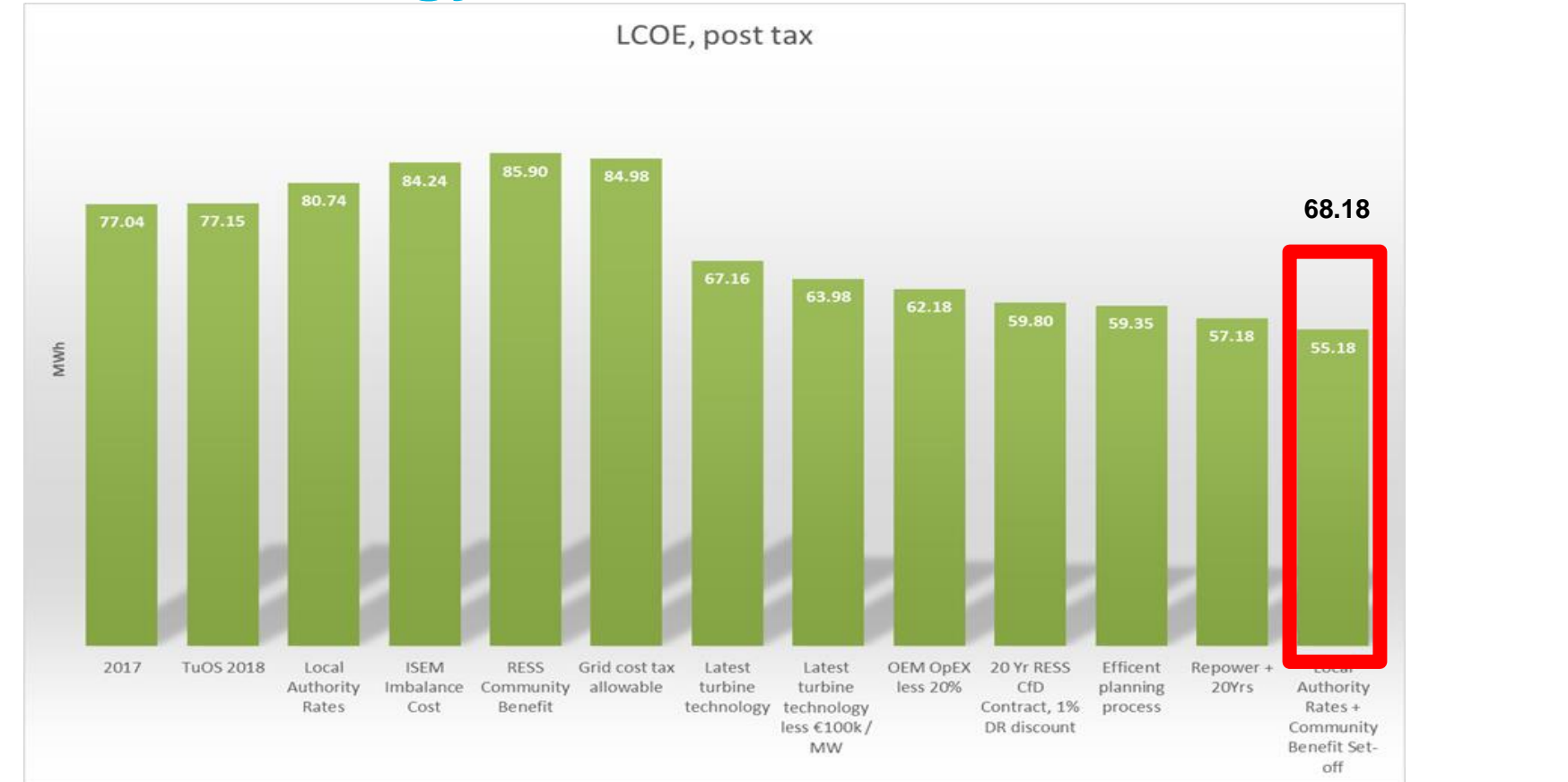
Grid

RtM

# 1. Wind Energy Guidelines (WEGs)

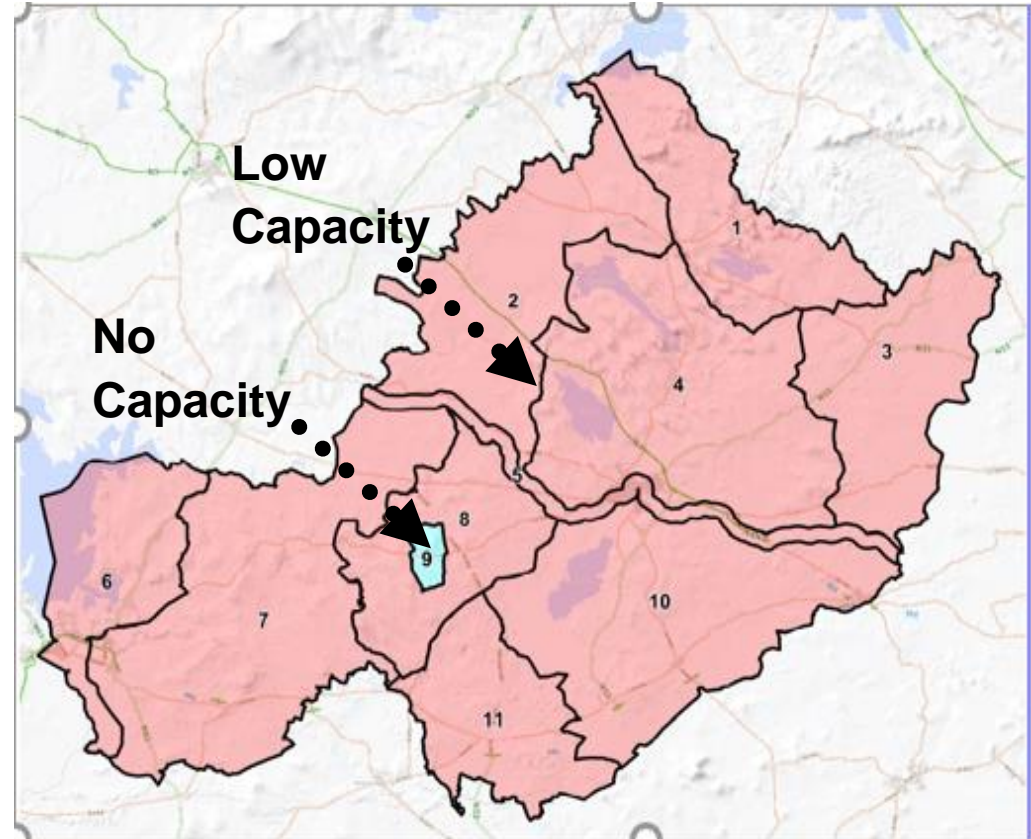
- SK Analysis of Draft Noise WEGs
  - 20% curtailment required to comply with interpretation of noise guidance in PDA for a site that requires no curtailment today
  - Effectively **1.6km** setback required to ensure zero curtailment for Draft WEGs
  - From discussions in the industry and based on analysis the WHO recommendations of **45dBLden *can be met with a fixed upper limit of 43dBLA90.***
- Setback proposals in Draft WEGs
  - 4 times tip height setback sending wrong signals to industry when seeking to drive down CoE
  - Turbine suppliers not focussed on CoE measures for smaller turbines (>100m rotors)
  - Issues with repowering sites

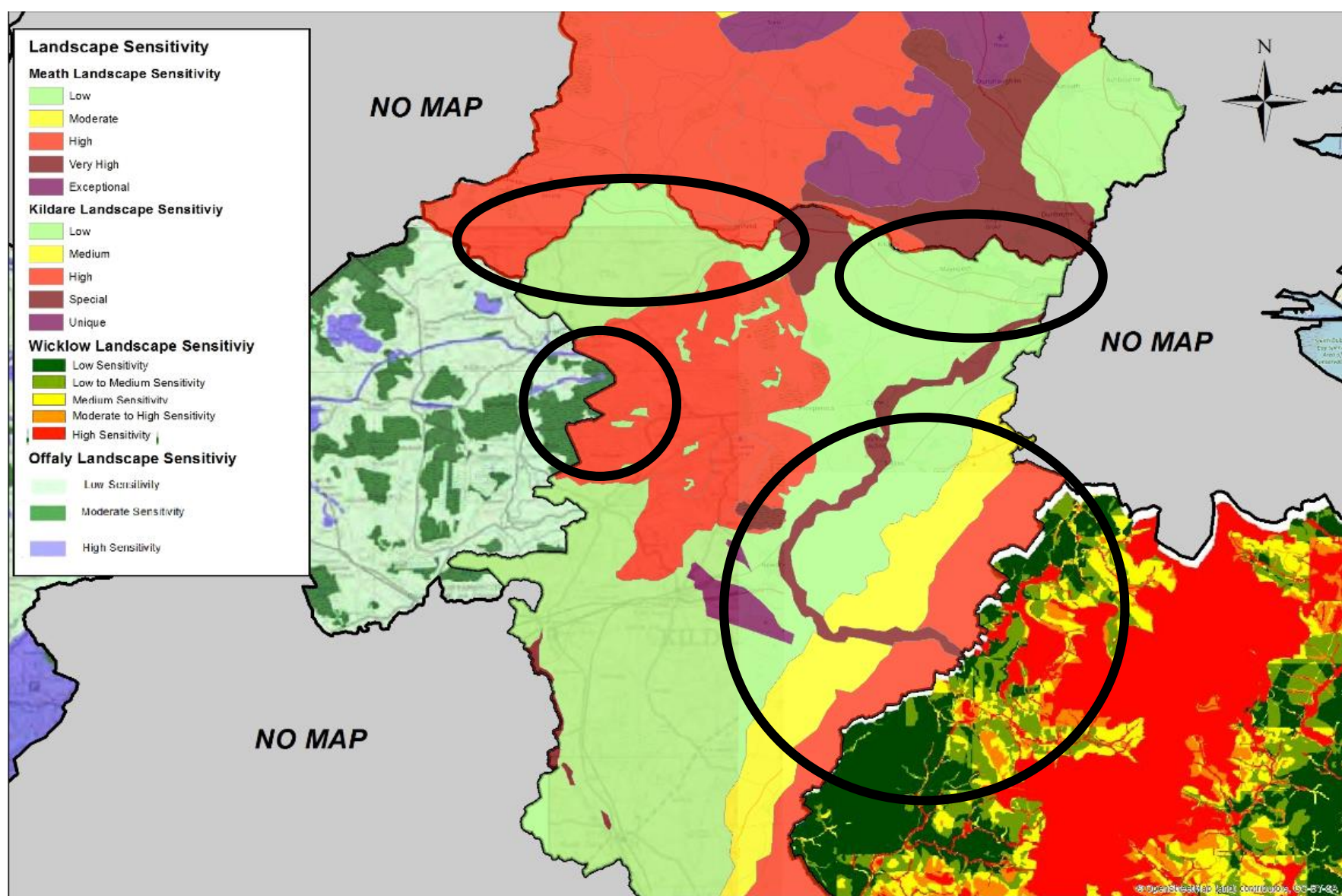
# 1. Wind Energy Guidelines – CoE



## 2. Regional Planning Vs Local Planning

- ▶ Issues with Local County Development Plans in relation to
  - (1) some local councillors using County Development Plans to prohibit wind development.
  - Judicial reviews of CDP's in Donegal (x2) and Laois.
  - (2) LA's have used LARES methodology from SEAI to implement Renewable Energy Strategies, however LARES does not contain specify a landscape sensitivity classification
- ▶ Good Progress on REPDF & Regional Planning







### 3. Planning System

- ▶ A developer seeks two main things from a planning system
  - 1. Consistency
  - 2. Certainty of Timing
  
- ▶ Local Authorities are bound by statutory timelines to decide cases but large discrepancy in timings of An Bord Pleanála Planning Decisions.
  - Can take 6 months or 2 years for wind farm decisions
  
- ▶ Longer timeline, can lead to:
  - Changes in development strategy or County Development Plans not being able to be incorporated into projects.
  - Issues with adequacy of assessments and JR
  - Difficulty planning a development business with this uncertainty

### 3. Planning System

**Recommendation 15:** *Within the inspectorate, stronger oversight and management is required to ensure consistency of approach and recommendation, including report style and format, the wording of planning conditions and overall recommendations prior to issuing to the Board.*

**Recommendation 16:** *Biannual seminars should take place involving inspectors and the Board to disseminate An Bord Pleanála policy and to identify and address consistency issues, clarify approaches and brief on recent and forthcoming policy and legislative changes.*



### 3. Planning System

**Recommendation 76:** *The following statutory objective timeframes should apply to An Bord Pleanála's work, with a view to their progressive realisation:*

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| - General cases not requiring oral hearings                    | 12 weeks                |
| - General cases requiring oral hearings                        | 14 weeks                |
| - Strategic Infrastructure Development cases                   | 22 weeks <sup>204</sup> |
| - Section 5 Referrals, including where an oral hearing is held | 8 weeks                 |

*The Statutory Objective Period for all other cases, including Compulsory Purchase Orders, Licencing appeals, etc. should remain at 18 weeks.*

### 3. Planning System

**Recommendation 75:** Legislation should be amended to require An Bord Pleanála to give a realistic expectation for particular cases if it is considered at the outset that the timescales may run beyond the statutory objective period or any other revised timeframe provided.



# THANK YOU



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