

CLIMATE CAMPAIGN GROUP CALLS FOR MINISTER TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON LNG FOLLOWING EVASIVE LETTER TO PLANNING BOARD

19th August 2025, Dublin, campaign group Not Here Not Anywhere (NHNA) denounced Minister Darragh O'Brien's "lack of leadership" in his non-committal response to a [27th June letter](#) from Ireland's planning board in which he failed to clearly and categorically indicate Government opposition to commercial Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in Ireland.

An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) [sought guidance](#) on the government's stance on commercial LNG in relation to a planning application for an LNG terminal by Shannon LNG Ltd, a subsidiary of US company New Fortress Energy following the removal of the previous government's policy statement banning the importation of fracked gas into Ireland.

In a [letter](#) obtained by NHNA yesterday, sent to ACP by the Minister on 5th August, Minister O'Brien elected not to take a clear stance against commercial LNG, despite the Government previously rejecting commercial LNG as part of their Energy Security Review Package.

The Minister had a clear opportunity to provide clarity and guidance that commercial LNG is not in line with government policy. Prior to the Minister's response, NHNA, along with Friends of the Earth Ireland and Uplift, [wrote to the Minister](#), urging him to unequivocally restate government policy and rule out commercial LNG. Now, the Minister's non-committal response risks allowing the climate-wrecking commercial LNG terminal in Tarbert, Kerry, to proceed, as well as opening the door to other commercial terminals across Ireland.

NHNA has long argued that there is no justification for any LNG terminals in Ireland, whether commercial or state-led, having co-written legislation in the last Dáil to [Keep Ireland LNG Free](#), and demanding this Government drop plans for state-led LNG, while re-focusing efforts on a just transition away from climate-wrecking fossil fuels. This recent opportunity to close the door on commercial LNG represented the bare minimum given that Ireland is already significantly behind on its obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to recent findings [from the EPA](#).

NHNA is now calling on the Minister to issue a new policy statement categorically ruling out commercial LNG in Ireland, in line with government policy. A new policy statement would, in fact, be consistent with the Government's own rejection of a commercial LNG terminal in the "Energy Security in Ireland to 2030" strategy in favour of a state-led terminal. This review acknowledged the inability of a commercial terminal to have adequate storage stocks as it would be "driven by market fundamentals".

Member of NHNA, Dr Britta Thiemt said,

"LNG is a particularly harmful fossil fuel with a Global Warming Potential 33% greater than coal over a 20-year period. We simply cannot afford to get locked into dependency on a fossil fuel like LNG, given the escalating climate crisis that is growing more terrifying each day. People are losing their homes, livelihoods, and lives, our biodiversity is rapidly declining, and ecosystems are being degraded at alarming rates, both nationally and globally. The scorching heatwave in Europe in the last weeks is further evidence of the devastating impact of climate change on our planet and the need for brave and urgent action. Minister O'Brien must protect our future by ruling out commercial LNG in Ireland through a new government policy statement."

Róisín Rigg, NHNA member and Kerry native, said,

"Incorporating LNG and fracked gas into our energy mix would lock us into a volatile energy source, with unstable energy prices and make us dependent on increasingly authoritarian nations like the USA. Further fossil fuel infrastructure would devastate Ireland's legally binding carbon budgets. Instead of relying on fossil fuels like LNG, whether commercial or state-led, this country's energy security should be provided through a combination of indigenous renewables, battery storage, electricity interconnection with other countries and demand-side management. Energy must not be wasted, nor superfluous energy demand be created, such as intensifying data centre development beyond the point of societal need."

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