

Further to my submission to the Pre-Draft Consultation, No.0433, I wish to add the following points;_

The draft fails to recognize that:-

High speed electrified trunk rail links between all our cities and major towns, will provide the long term, fast, safe, green foundation that will provide leverage to unlock the potential of the entire country, through reducing the perception of distance. Proximity of homes to jobs will have as much to do with high speed access and connectivity, as with where you live.

The omission of Sligo from co-ordinated planning and investment, on a par with the four second tier cities, is a major flaw in the NPF document.

It is 130 kilometres away from the nearest cities of Galway and Derry, emphasising its important position as the regional driver of the North-West.

With a bedrock of quality rail and road infrastructure in place, access and connectivity will be enhanced. This will allow unlocking and leveraging of the potential of disparate regions, to become net contributors to the national economy. It will reduce the concept that anywhere on this small island is remote.

No planning for carbon friendly rail freight traffic to and from Ports is retrograde.

"Greening" through marine based electricity generation to power electric high speed rail is the gold standard.

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