



Submission

National Framework Plan 2040.

A Chara,

The Irish Farmers Association are delighted to be afforded the opportunity to add to and comment on the above National Framework 2040 Plan for Wexford. As a key player in Ireland's Social, Economic and environmental future, we are very interested in the future planning for the 2040 plan.

In this submission, we would like to focus on one aspect of the infrastructure in County Wexford that if properly planned and implemented would not only give a huge economic boost to the south east but to Ireland in general.

The Development of Rosslare Harbour to treble its current capacity.

Rosslare Harbour has been used as a port since 1906 and today has ferry services to 5 ports, two in Wales and 3 in France. There is a train service to and from Dublin. Most of the throughput traffic goes to the UK.

It is our belief that the Port as it currently operates is underused by all types of Traffic and could be utilised by far more Irish companies if the services and infrastructure were put in place.

The upgrading of Ireland's East Coast Euro route (N11) is currently bypassing its last major bottleneck in Enniscorthy town and surrounding villages. Also, the Waterford/Limerick/Cork road (N25) is getting a much needed bypass of New Ross. Why are we investing so much money into this route if we are not willing to maximise the capacity of the Europort in Rosslare to meet the expected demand and throughput of trade and traffic?

Brexit.

While there is still no clarity (at time of submission) on the fallout of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. We do know that it is going to affect the Irish economy and the Agriculture sector adversely. By how much and we cannot tell but it needs urgent attention to offset the worst effect that it will have on our vulnerable economic sector. The very title of Rosslare Europort gives some idea of the Importance that should be given to this Port! It will become Ireland's closest port to the European Union once Article 50 has been triggered by the UK. Suddenly there will be a block for European based trade and traffic through the Port. It will make the redevelopment of Rosslare Essential has Irelands European Union Trade Hub.

Development Required.

1. Upgrading infrastructure in the port to allow for live exports.

Currently, Ireland's live trade leaves by many ports except Rosslare, As a large quantity of the live animals are raised in the South East it would only make sense (Economically and for Animal welfare) to have Rosslare as a major Live trade port with its (shorter) links to France and the EU. This will allow for minimal time from farm to EU markets while bypassing any trade tariffs that may be imposed by the UK.

2. Upgrading Rail network.

The rail network to Rosslare Europort is in good condition. Only a few years ago, major works were carried out on the western section of line only to close it Even the Northern line is now under serious threat of closure. This must be resisted at all costs. The rail line to Limerick/ Waterford was closed due to lack of passengers. Yet 20 years ago, it was heavily used when the Sugar beet season was in full swing. And as I attended the De La Salle college and Waterford IT via the train, I can tell you that the train was always full. It is well known that the train departures are not synchronised with the arriving passengers on the ferries who then must use road transport. The rail network in Ireland is in good condition but totally underused, why not bring the goods traffic by rail to Rosslare.

Here are some suggestions that might help make Rosslare into Irelands Europort!

- A. Investigate ship arrival and train departure times.
- B. A spur on the existing line could allow for major expansion of traffic into and through the port of Rosslare. Live Export section. Goods containers arriving by train.
- C. Terminal Upgrading. Restaurant, Bar, shopping and waiting area.
- D. Allow for increased capacity of people. Permeant Garda checkpoint, Proper waiting facilities and give the travelling public a reason to want to come early and spend some time and money in Rosslare.
- E. By using trains, we would help cut Irelands increasing emissions as one engine could pull 20 times that of an articulated truck.
- F. Establish a dedicated office in Rosslare for the development of the port or at least have a person in County Hall with responsibility for the Port.

Whether it is by Road or Rail, we have an opportunity to enhance the social and Economic future of the south east of Ireland. We urge you to take our points on board and if you need to discuss any part of this submission or wish to have us involved in the process please feel free to contact us.

Rosslare is a natural and economic asset for County Wexford. Let's use it to its potential and let it work for Wexford and the South-East region...

Yours Sincerely.

Jer O'Mahony

IFA County Secretary