

Submission to the material amendments to the draft Regional Spatial and economic strategy

Protecting , Conserving and enhancing our natural Capital.

In several parts of the RSES document the protection of the integrity of water-dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network is mentioned in terms of sustainability of infrastructure-led growth of the region. I agree fully with this as Lough Derg is vital to the region economically and of course to sustain the eco structure of the region. The notion of calling (the Water supply project for the Midlands and Eastern region )a significant water services infrastructure project required for the Southern region area is completely disingenuous, in fact, the pumping of 330 million litres of treated water through some of the best agricultural land(destroying many fine agribusinesses) in the region will give a hugely competitive advantage to the Dublin region which is the complete opposite to the policy of spatially balancing the country in the National Planning framework . It has the potential to destroy the eco-balance of the region and it must be noted that it is completely against the wishes of the Councillors of North Tipperary, Limerick and Clare and indeed all water-based groups of the region also. It is very disappointing that the Environmental Assessment Report carried out by RPS for the Draft regional spatial economic strategy for the southern region does not even mention the Water Supply project not to mind assess the undoubted environmental and economic damage it will do to the region if allowed.( it must be noted that the ESB had to shut down its generation of power for 14 weeks recently due to lack of water. It is important to note also that the amount of water being treated and pumped to Dublin is about the same amount being lost in leaks in Dublin and also the Name being used for the project is disingenuous as 99% of the water is for the Dublin region. The profligate waste of the overrun in the National children's hospital is already impacting on projects in the Southern region identified as important for our progress so the fact that the Water Supply Project has real potential to become a national children's Hospital 2 with potential costs having doubled from 700 million to 1.4 billion already which will undoubtedly put pressure on other necessary water infrastructure projects for the region. A region cannot sustain itself without water and the River Shannon and Lough Derg have provided the Southern region with the ability to sustain life since time began a predatory move like the Water supply project for the Midlands and Eastern region should be discouraged particularly when that region has an abundance of water but a very severe leakage problem which would be prudent to address instead of pumping 330 million litres of expensively treated water into pipes that have a leakage rate of over 50% . It cannot be overstated that the Water supply project for the Midlands and Eastern region is the greatest environmental and economic threat to the Southern region ever considered and it must be treated as such and any support of it in the RSES document must be withdrawn if there is to be a proper spatial strategy in the country ,Yours sincerely Cllr. Séamie Morris 10/10/19