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Comments on the Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

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Consultation:

Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

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Observations:

5. Planning for Diverse Rural Places

Chapter: 5. Planning for Diverse Rural Places

Built Heritage

I would like to see a stronger emphasis and clarity around how built heritage will be **conserved, protected and preserved** over the coming years given the scale of development required. How built heritage is addressed in the context of development will be very context dependent. I suggest that to elevate the significance of our heritage and the role of communities in protecting, living and passing on that heritage to future generations every day, that Policy Objective 26 is **modified from:**

Enhance, integrate, protect the special physical, environmental, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets, including streetscapes, vernacular dwellings and other historic buildings and monuments, through appropriate and sensitive investment and conservation.

To

Conserve, protect and preserve our built heritage. Where appropriate, and with community engagement, enhance, integrate and protect the special physical, environmental, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets, including streetscapes, vernacular dwellings and other historic buildings and monuments, through sensitive investment and conservation.

9. Climate Transition and Our Environment

Chapter: 9. Climate Transition and Our Environment

Carbon through the lifecycle of planned developments

There should be a clear objective on the role of the building processes for the planned developments in achieving net zero. This should be very explicit. A policy objective should be focused on ensuring that all future design and construction methods and materials, is focused on eliminating carbon emissions throughout a building's complete life cycle.

10. Implementing the National Planning Framework

Chapter: 10. Implementing the National Planning Framework

Geothermal energy in district heating

While mentioned in section 9, given the importance of Geothermal energy for achieving our carbon reduction targets, I would like to see it included as part of the National Strategic Outcome 8 - Green Energy. The current statement on district heating networks is weak and should be more ambitious. Its current statement does not provide sufficient requirement or incentive for ambition in district heating opportunities. There should also be a focus on **harnessing new technologies** to accelerate our ability to harness and develop a range of clean energy sources.

I suggest the statement would be stronger if changed from 'will' to 'must':

Change from

- District heating networks *will* be developed, where technically feasible and cost effective, to assist in meeting renewable heat targets and reduce Ireland's GHG emissions.

To

- District heating networks *must* be developed where technically feasible, cost effective and appropriate, to assist in meeting renewable heat targets and reduce Ireland's GHG emissions.

Heritage

To reflect the importance of conserving, protecting and preserving our heritage during future development I suggest the text of National Strategic Outcome 7 be updated from:

We will conserve, manage and present our heritage for its intrinsic value and as a support to economic renewal and sustainable employment.

to

We will conserve, protect, preserve and manage our built heritage for its intrinsic value for current and future generations, and as a support to economic renewal and sustainable employment.

Communication, community engagement and measuring impact

I would like to see a National Strategic Outcome that prioritises how the development planned in this framework can be carried out and communicated in a way that engages and mobilises communities. This is an important aspect of achieving our climate targets and the development objectives set out.

It is not clear how the climate aspects of the plan or other objectives will be measured and communicated to demonstrate progress particularly on climate targets. This would also be a helpful addition to the NPF.

Documents Attached: No
Boundaries Captured on No
Map: