

## Katie Wright

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**From:** Cllr Rachel Doherty <cllrrdoherty@roscommoncoco.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 31 January 2019 08:51  
**To:** rses  
**Subject:** Submission to Draft RSES

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please accept my submission to the draft RSES document for the North West Region, as follows:

As a serving Councillor in the Region I have a number of concerns about the draft document as it stands. There is strong local support for the use of the closed railway line from Collooney to Athenry as a greenway, and a realisation that a railway on this route is at best a distant dream. It would be useful if the final draft document was to reflect this reality; the potential of this greenway route needs to be acknowledged on page 215 of the draft, along with the other listed potential greenway routes. Since Irish Rail acknowledges that the construction of a greenway on the route would not conflict with rail objectives, but would in fact help preserve ownership of the asset, it is important in my view to formally list this as a greenway route. There must be a 'plan B' for the asset if the pending review finds no case for rail, or finds that rail is not an option in the short to medium term.

With regards to draft objectives 113 and 115, the first (rightly) calls for a prompt completion of the rail review, but 115 then goes on to list a railway as the only objective for the route. Clearly, this pre-empts the outcome of the rail review by locking the NWRA position into supporting a single outcome for an important asset, when the outcome of the review may well find against rail. It would be more beneficial to change objective 115 to reflect multiple potential uses of this publicly-owned land, in order to best serve the interests of the North West, and indeed to protect the alignment for possible rail use in the future.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Rachel Doherty  
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