

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [rses](#)  
**Subject:** New Message (sent by contact form at Northern and Western Regional Assembly)  
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Submission : I am making a submission in relation to the RSES draft report. To me It is clear that Objectives 113, 114, 115 (a) and 115 (b) need to be re-worded as they do not allow for an alternative use of the old railway line any may contravene the National Development plan or at a minimum block any alternative development on the old railway line in question. Both objectives 115 (a) and 115 (b) are presumptive of the outcome of the Western Rail Corridor being realized, it is not clear that re-opening this railway is viable . and no funding has been committed or quarantined. Review of the closed railway line that is currently being undertaken by the DTTAS as part of the Ireland 2040 National Development Plan in itself is justified however the current wording will block an alternative use of this real estate for many years with no guarantees the the line will ever re-open and as such will condemn the old line like unused into infinity. It is not within the sprite / remit of the Regional Spatial Economic Strategies to restrict this piece of real estate to have only one use, and assume the outcome of the rail review, furthermore objectives 115 (a) and objective 115 (b) only facilitates a review of the line from Athenry to Claremorris and does not even include the line north of Claremorris, Therefore I believe we need a plan B .

Until this review is completed no assumptions can be made about the closed railway line ever being re-opened to make such a sweeping assumption in the RSES is not beneficial to local communities and Ireland in general.

I therefore suggest that objective 113, 114 & 15 be reworded so that it does not contravene the National Development plan and leaves it open for an alternative to be procured along with the railway, a green way as a twin track approach by the local councils in line with 2040 national development plan needs to be mentioned in the final RSES report.

If necessary add wording to the RSES draft report along the following lines; In the event that no clear decision is taken to re-open the railway within the next 3 years, that the local councils may proceed with a green way along the complete section of the old track . If necessary also include a licencing agreement with all parties that states that in the future, should a solid decision with allocated finance be made available to re-open the railway, that such a development will take precedence over any other activity on the permanent way.

Kind regards  
Seamus Langan

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