



Irish Academy of Engineering
Invited Submission to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
2011 – 2015 Strategic Infrastructure Projects – Recommended Priorities

Energy

1. Complete the Corrib Gas Project – to ensure short term security of supply and credibility for international investment.
2. Initiate and deliver the Shannon LNG Re-gasification Plant – essential for medium to long term security of supply.

(Note: delivery of (1) and (2) would obviate the urgent need to develop a strategic, national reserve gas storage facility)

3. Within the context of the Grid 25 programme, complete the North/South Electricity Interconnector – securing supply and flexibility.
4. Initiate a national programme (in the order of €0.5bn - €1.0bn p.a.) for Energy Conservation in buildings – the most economical means of achieving EU and national emissions targets and constraining capital expenditure and subsidies to an already over-supplied generating sector (where demand has significantly diminished).

I.C.T. and R & D

5. Deliver Advanced Broadband Services in key urban centres – widespread availability is essential to realising future growth potential in existing and emerging sectors.
(Note: Forfás regard this as a top infrastructure priority).
6. Ensure management excellence and maintenance of R & D Infrastructure – the State has invested substantial sums in this, where delivery is essential for business and which will be a major contributor to our national economic recovery.

Environment

7. Complete the Waste & Energy Plant at Ringsend – to ensure compliance with EU Waste Directive requirements, avoid EU penalties and facilitate District Heating proposals of Dublin City Council.
8. Complete Planning Development E.I.S., Public Inquiry and Bid Documents for scheme to abstract water from the Shannon and its conveyance system, to serve the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) – essential for the socio-economic future of the GDA.
9. Concerted national programme for Public “Water Supplies” Mains Rehabilitation and Water Conservation – to significantly reduce wastage, defer capital expenditures on the supply side and as a proven water conservation measure (as against the less effective impact of water metering alone).

Transport

10. Remove last few “bottlenecks” on the interurban roads network, such as the Gort/Tuam and Croom/Mallow by upgrading the motorway links – to achieve the full benefits of the last 10 years significant investment in the national interurban highways programme. Grade separated improvements to the Belgard (Dublin) and Dunkettle (Cork) Interchanges.
11. Investigate the feasibility and socio-economic case for a DART line from Connolly Station to Dublin Airport – to provide a heavy rail link to the city centre in the absence of the Metro North Scheme for a significantly smaller investment.

Utilise the postponement of the DART Underground Scheme to develop and advance a “Client Designed Scheme”, to be ready to bid when the national economy recovers – would save 2 – 3 years in scheme’s eventual delivery timescale (with attendant cost savings). This scheme is the number 1 public transport priority for the Greater Dublin Area, in that it will provide for uninterrupted inter-city, national rail travel, interconnect the entire GDA commuter rail network and allow for greatly increased DART frequencies.