



Statement of Strategy  
Strategic and Business Support Unit  
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs

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Our Ref.: DAHRRG 28.09.2016

Date: 28 September 2016

**Re: Coillte Submission to Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Coillte warmly welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaelteacht Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce. Coillte welcomes the taskforce's proactive engagement with key stakeholders.

Coillte was established as a commercial semi state company in 1989, with a diverse forest estate of approximately 396,000 hectares of land. Over the last 26 years, the organisation has developed the forests and land, grown the estate to over 440,000 hectares, which is equivalent to approximately 6% of the total land in the country, provided the public with a huge range of benefits from recreation to environmental services and created three high potential businesses. Coillte has approximately 900 employees across Ireland and the UK, supporting indigenous employment and comprises three discrete businesses, Forest, Land Solutions and Medite/Smartply (Panels).

The Coillte Land Solutions business is an active portfolio asset management business that is particularly focused on enabling key national policy objectives in the National Broadband Plan (NBP), renewable energy, the National Planning Framework (housing, health and education), inward investment, infrastructure development, tourism and agriculture. Our contributions to government objectives to date include enabling approximately 40% of renewable energy (RES-E) installed capacity, providing the land required to accommodate the Apple Data Centre in Co. Galway and the Centre Parcs project in Co. Longford, achieving financial close on 3 wind energy projects with an investment value of €305M and an expected output of 204MW. In addition, Land Solutions built a Telecoms platform on its land which grew from a few sites in 1960 to approximately 300 sites upon sale of this infrastructure business in 2015. We at Coillte view enabling rollout of the National

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Broadband Plan as another opportunity to utilise Coillte Land to deliver this critical infrastructure.

With regard to Network Improvements, bullet point II, "Access to Infrastructure (road and other infrastructure)" we at Coillte are ready, willing and able to help provide the physical sites to facilitate rollout of Mobile Phone and Broadband particularly in rural areas that have suffered from service deficits.

In conclusion, Coillte wishes to remind the Department that we are a future thinking commercial semi-state partner that is fully aligned to government and EU policy in terms of our approach to economic development, renewable energy and infrastructure development. In all instances and wherever the opportunity arises, we are committed to facilitating rollout of the National Broadband Plan.

We would be happy to engage in further dialogue with the DAHRRG at any stage in relation to any specific matters arising.

Yours faithfully,



Enda Bracken

**Director of Strategy and Innovation, Coillte Land Solutions**