



# Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

Who are you:	State Body
Name:	EirGrid, the National electricity transmission system operator
Reference:	DWTRLAP-162836
Submission Made	November 20, 2024 4:40 PM

## Topic

Infrastructure (inc. Infrastructure Delivery Schedule)

## Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission,

This is a request to include a policy in the LAP, consistent with the provisions of the Wicklow County Development Plan, and our submission made in respect of the Delgany/Greystones LAP, to support the provision of new and/or upgraded electricity infrastructure provision in the area of the LAP.

Specifically, requesting a policy of the LAP to support the implementation of EirGrid's "Powering Up Wicklow" programme.

"Powering Up Wicklow" is a critical programme that will strengthen key electricity infrastructure in Wicklow and the surrounding areas, helping to make Ireland 'renewable ready'.

This programme will help deliver a consistent and reliable supply of electricity for Wicklow.

Powering Up Wicklow includes the installation of a transmission substation in Ballybeg, Rathnew, adjacent to an existing substation. This also includes the upgrading of the existing Arklow-Carrickmines 220kV circuit, which extends generally in parallel to the M11 motorway, including in the area of the LAP.

This proposed enhancement of electricity grid infrastructure in Wicklow in general, and the LAP area in particular, will support:

- Residential housing and commercial developments
- Demand growth due to electrification of heat and transport
- Improve security of supply in Rathnew and Wicklow Town Centres
- Bringing renewable energy on to the grid

EirGrid has surveyed the surrounding area adjacent to the existing Ballybeg substation to identify suitable sites for this substation replacement to reinforce the electricity grid in Wicklow.

The current project development process will ultimately comprise an application for Statutory consent to the relevant consenting authority (either Wicklow County Council or An Bord Pleanála - this has yet to be determined by ABP). A strong policy context for such critical development is essential, hence the request for inclusion of such policy in the forthcoming LAP.

EirGrid would be willing and available to meet Wicklow County Council planning section at its convenience, to discuss any comments or queries arising with regard to the Powering Up Wicklow programme, and any other aspect of planned grid infrastructure development in the County.

Please contact Des Cox, Planning and Environment Lead, EirGrid at [des.cox@eirgrid.com](mailto:des.cox@eirgrid.com) with any comments or queries you might have.  
Many thanks.

**File**