I am making this submission as I am concerned we as a country are not doing enough to counteract this very serious situation.

We are aware of the of the problems but our actions do not reflect this.

A- Agriculture
There are too many cattle in this country - the numbers should be reduced significantly and farmers have to diversify or pay carbon tax on cattle over and above a quota which is sustainable. I am old enough to remember when farmers practiced mixed farming - grew oats and barley and other crops and were almost self sufficient in feed for their cattle it is not acceptable that when we have a situation like last summer that farmers had a shortage of fodder for their animals and look to the taxpayer to bail them out.

Biodiversity
Our wildlife is being destroyed because of farming practices and despite grant aided schemes we have lost so much - shame on us.

Carbon Footprint
The polluter pays is the only solution this problem. I have witnesses slurry spreading and the ammonia released from this is not acceptable.

Derogation
This should cease as it facilitates over production.

Forestry
Only broad leaf forests should be grant aided.

Hedgerows
The hedges are cut (or shredded in most cases) far too low and too early in the season.

Organic
The farming community should go organic - it is almost impossible to find organic meat.

Quality Assurance.
I would say Bord Bia should re brand their assurance scheme to 'Assured Irish Origin' the word quality is not relevant as it does not reflect quality, for example all sheep meat is sold as lamb but it is often mutton, we do not know the age of our beef or the quality - there has to be more transparency.

One off housing
One off housing should be stopped as every boreen in the country is littered with houses where the occupants need at least 2 cars to go travel then are three cars when the children are driving - people in these areas are complaining they have to have cars as there is no bus service, it is beyond belief to expect every home to receive these services we only have to look at the cost of bringing broadband to these homes. There are also the health services, schools etc. Rural towns should be better planned where these families live and children can walk to school and families can shop locally and avail of public transport which could be viable for all towns. All rural once off house should be obliged to grow trees and hedges to provide some biodiversity instead of looking like it is in an urban setting.

We in Ireland have a lot to do we need strong leadership to make any progress - but do we have this leadership?

S Collins