

Appendix 1E: Information Web Page

Web Page Overview

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Irish Water, working in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, has identified that an upgrade to the Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant is vital to support existing and future development in the area.

Project Background

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant has been providing wastewater treatment to the area since the early 1990's. It serves the East Limerick suburbs of Castletroy, Annacotty, Mountshannon and Castleconnell, as well as the University of Limerick and other local industry. The plant is currently operating the limits of its design capacity and Irish Water has identified that an upgrade is now required.

The continuation of appropriate wastewater treatment will be vital to the safeguarding of human health and environmental protection as population grows and industry expands in East Limerick.



Project Need

The plant currently holds a design capacity of 45,000 population equivalent (PE). This is adequate to cater for existing wastewater loads, but the demands of population growth and industrial development will cause Castletroy to become overloaded in the coming years. The upgrade project will prevent the plant becoming overloaded by increasing its capacity to treat wastewater for the calculated 10-year growth projections of 77,500 population equivalent.

There is currently no provision for stormwater storage at Castletroy WWTP and excess flow from storm and heavy rainfall events are discharged as untreated effluent to the Lower River Shannon.

This project will include the construction of a 3,750 m³ stormwater storage tank which will store stormwater until the main plant can accept and treat the excess flow.

The Lower River Shannon is an area of environmental conservation under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Commission of the European Communities, 2007) and must be protected from any potentially harmful waste water emissions.

Benefits

- Modernise and improve the performance of the existing wastewater treatment plant
- Better health and integrity of the environment
- Protection of the water quality in Lower River Shannon and conservation habitats
- Provision of sufficient capacity to facilitate future population and industrial growth
- Protection of recreational waters for fishing and boating activities
- To provide a wastewater treatment facility that will comply with all relevant legislative requirements into the future

What's involved?

- Construction of a new 3,750 m³ stormwater storage tank
- Installation of new primary treatment filters and lifting pump
- Construction of a new primary sludge holding tank
- Upgrade of the existing secondary treatment tanks to provide additional capacity
- Upgrade of the plant's sludge treatment facilities

Stakeholder Engagement

Who can I contact if I want to find out more about this project?

Members of the public are welcome to contact the Project Team if they have any questions on the Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Project and can do so in the following ways:

Email: castletroywwtp@water.ie

Web: www.water.ie/castletroy

Public Consultation

Public consultation will be undertaken on the Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. The purpose of the consultation is to invite feedback from statutory bodies, interested parties and the general public on the project. An online presentation followed by questions and answers with the project team will be held on XXX. The link on the webpage and email address will also be open for submissions from the period XXX to XXX.

Consultation Roadmap



Web Page Environment and Planning



Consultation is an important element of the Environmental Impact Assessment process

Irish Water is now inviting comment and submissions from stakeholders, the public and interested parties on the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) relating to the Castletroy WWTP upgrade project.

Feedback is welcomed regarding the potential environmental impact of the project and the proposed scope of work and methodologies to be applied in the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the project. A screening process identified the need for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) which will be undertaken concurrently with the EIA, with both processes clearly distinguished. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an assessment of the potential adverse effects of a plan or project (in combination with other plans or projects) on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. These sites are protected by both National and European Law.

The EIAR will demonstrate how environmental and technical surveys and studies along with consultations have influenced the development of the design. It will also evaluate any potential impacts and identify appropriate prevention/alleviation measures. The NIS will follow a set of procedures to consider the construction and operational impacts of the project in relation to European sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

The EIAR will present a description of the existing environment, assessment of the potential effects of the scheme, set out measures to avoid or reduce any adverse effects and identify any residual impacts. The impacts will be assessed and presented in line with the following environmental topics:

- Population
- Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land and Soils
- Water
- Air Quality
- Climate
- Noise and Vibration
- Landscape and Visual
- Cultural Heritage
- Material Assets
- Traffic and Transport
- Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

- Combination of the above impacts

The EIAR and NIS will accompany Irish Water's planning application to An Bord Pleanála.



What is Strategic Infrastructure Development?

Strategic infrastructure development is generally be described as development which is of strategic economic or social importance to Ireland, the region or local areas.

Strategic Infrastructure Development also includes development which would:

- contribute significantly to meeting any of the objectives of the National Planning Framework, or
- contribute significantly to meeting any regional spatial and economic strategy for an area, or
- have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

Planning applications for proposed strategic infrastructure development are not submitted to the local planning authority but instead they are submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála for a decision. There are no appeals on An Bord Pleanála's decision.

Why should Castletroy be classed SID?

Pre-application discussions have been entered with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) to determine whether the Castletroy WWTP upgrade project will be classified as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

Certain large-scale developments are listed in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Acts. These are developments which normally require environmental impact assessment (EIA) and which the Board certifies as meeting certain criteria for SID after a pre-application consultation process.

The 7th schedule divides developments into different categories and types of development which are classed as being strategic infrastructure developments. Environmental Infrastructure is one such category and includes projects relating to *Waste Water Treatment Plants for more than 10,000 people*.

The existing Castletroy WWTP treats the wastewater for a population equivalent of 45,000 so it falls under Environmental Infrastructure and requires an EIA for the proposed development. Therefore, it is expected to be considered strategic infrastructure development and the planning application will be made directly to An Bord Pleanála.

All of the relevant project information has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and formal decision will be issued in due course.

Web Page Publication List:

Publications

Project Reports

[SID Screening Report](#)

[Consultation Strategy Report](#)

[Invasive Spices Report](#)

[Badger Survey Report](#)

[Appropriate Assessment Screening Report \(AASR\)](#)

[EIA and NIS Scoping Report](#)