

Water Supply Project *Eastern and Midlands Region*

Water Supply Options Working Paper

Appendix A: Project Need Report and Project Road Map – Consultation Submissions Report



June 2015

A01

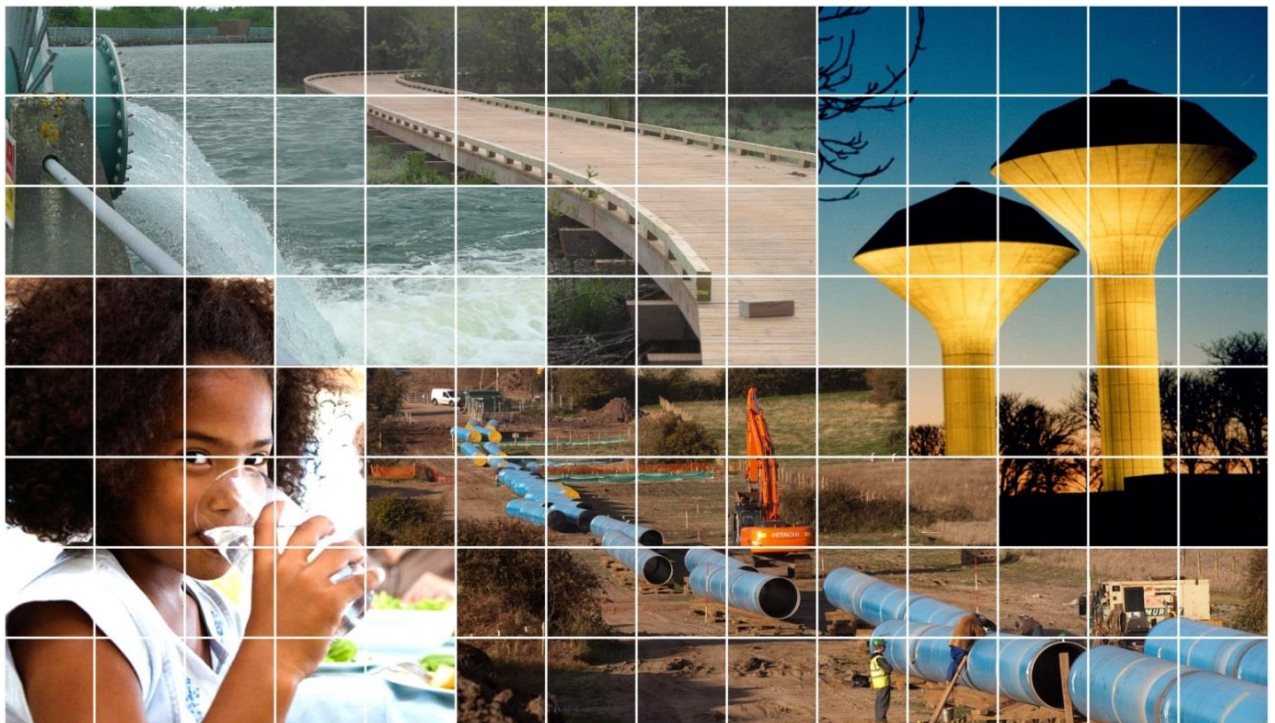


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1.1 Introduction

On 1st January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for managing Ireland's water and wastewater investment and maintenance programmes. On that date, Irish Water also took over the management of the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP) from Dublin City Council / Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The project is currently in the project planning stage.

Management of the planning stage of the project is currently focused on achieving a planning submission to An Bord Pleanála by mid-2017 with a view to delivering an additional source of water to the Eastern and Midlands Region by 2022.

When responsibility for the project was with Dublin City Council, the project was known as the 'Water Supply Project – Dublin Region' as the principal focus was planning for future water supply needs of the East / Dublin Region up to 2050 and beyond. However, the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water has opened a unique opportunity to take a strategic view of providing water services at a national level and as a result the project has now been referenced to the (three) regions within which Irish Water operates. Since the bulk of water supplies from the project will be delivered to the East & Midlands, the project is now known as the 'Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP)'.

The transfer of responsibility for managing the project from Dublin City Council to Irish Water has also resulted in an increased focus on potential 'Benefiting Corridors' which will be created by the water transfer pipelines between potential new water source options and the terminal delivery point. This is because Irish Water has responsibility for ensuring secure, resilient and high quality water supplies in all locations of Ireland and not just in the East of Ireland. A 'Benefiting Corridor' between a River Shannon-based source and Dublin is greater than, for example, an Irish Sea source in the case of a Desalination option. The increased emphasis on maximising benefits in a 'Benefiting Corridor', when taken into consideration with other assessment criteria, may potentially favour options with water treatment at source since treated water can then be made available to the widest possible areas / communities within the general vicinity of the water pipeline route corridor.

As the project develops there will be a number of Stakeholder and public consultation opportunities. This report sets out the activities undertaken and feedback received from consultation on the Project Need Report (PNR) and Project Road Map. Public consultation was undertaken during the period 10th March – 5th May 2015. This was the initial consultation stage of the Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midland Region; this is highlighted in pink in Figure 1, which shows the Project Road Map.

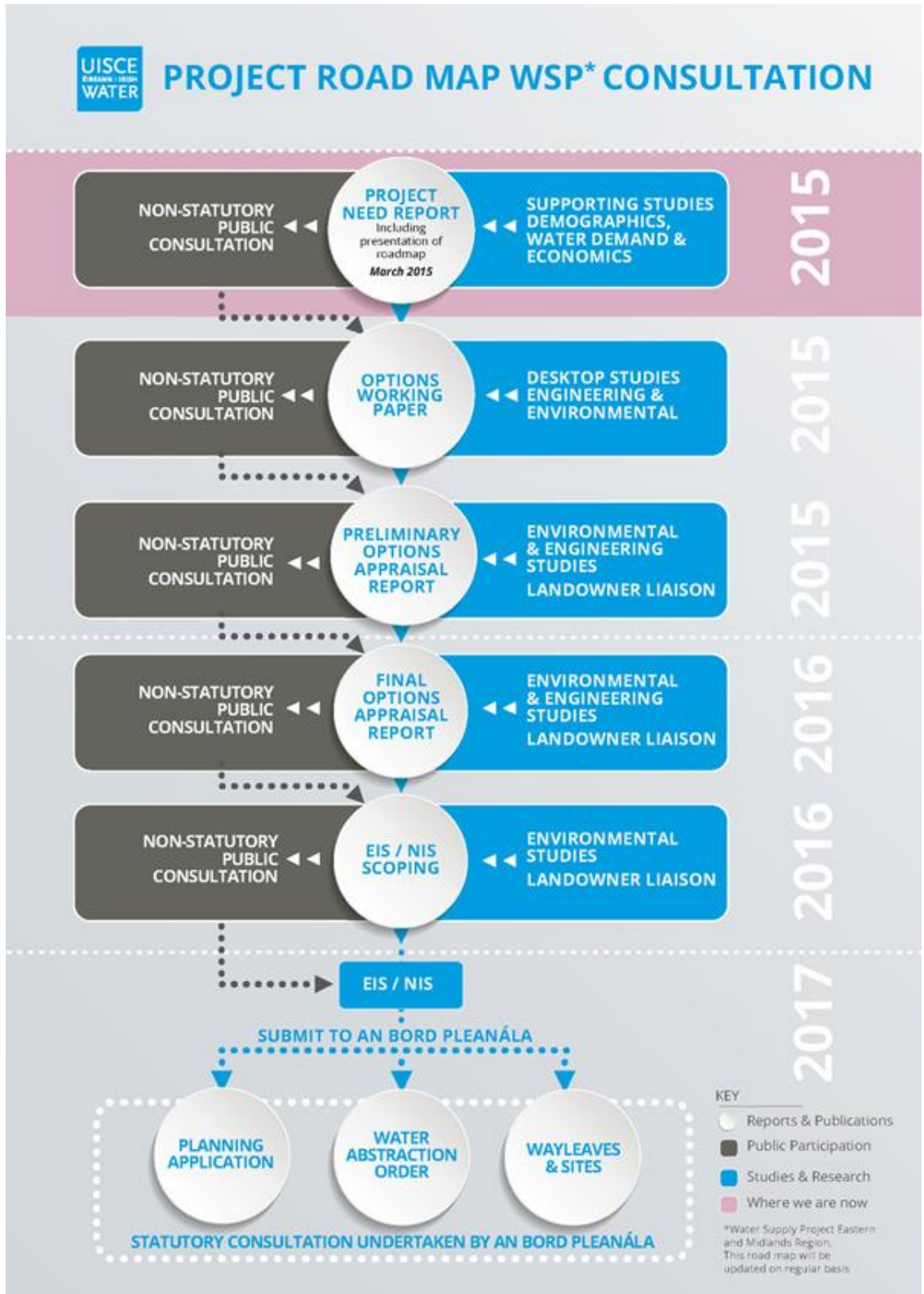


Figure 1.1: Project Road Map

1.2 Structure of the Consultation Submissions Report

This Consultation Submissions Report is structured as follows:

- Section 1: This section (Introduction);
- Section 2: Summarises the Consultation and Media input / output;
- Section 3: Outlines a summary of the submissions received during the Consultation period from the 10th March 2015 to 5th May 2015 and categorises them into Submission themes;
- Section 4: Response to Feedback; and
- Section 5: Next steps in the consultation process

2.1 Introduction

Early engagement with Stakeholders is an important aspect of infrastructure development. At critical points in the development of the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midland Region (WSP), Irish Water will seek feedback from targeted Stakeholders, organisations and members of the public to assist them in shaping the project. The first of these opportunities involved seeking views on the Project Need Report (PNR) and Project Road Map (see Figure 1.1) – this consultation ran from the 10th March 2015 for eight weeks ending on the 5th May 2015. The objective of this consultation was to give Stakeholders and the public an opportunity to formally engage on the Project Need Report and on the proposed consultation Project Road Map.

2.2 Terms of Reference

The eight week consultation period ran from 10th March to 5th May 2015 and comments and/or opinions were sought on the following questions:

1. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
2. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
3. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need, is presented as part of this consultation.

2.3 Publicising the Consultation

As part of the consultation phase, advertisements, a press release and other forms of distribution of the key messages were used to help promote consultation and to ensure that as many stakeholders and interested parties as possible were made aware of the project and its consultation opportunities.

2.3.1 Advertisements

As part of the process to ensure a wide number of people among the target audience were made aware of the PNR and Project Road Map, and the messages these documents hold, Irish Water placed advertisements in National and Local newspapers. The advertisements provided a summary background detailing where the Report could be accessed. It invited any individual or groups who wished to provide comment to do so and it advised on how to submit a comment. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix A.

The advertisements were placed in the following National and Local newspapers as outlined in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Advertisements – National and Regional Newspapers

| National Print | Date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Irish Times | 11 th March 2015 |
| Irish Independent | 11 th March 2015 |
| Sunday Independent | 15 th March 2015 |
| Sunday World | 15 th March 2015 |
| Regional Print | Date |
| Clare Champion | 13 th March 2015 |
| Clare People | 17 th March 2015 |
| Connaught Tribune | 12 th March 2015 |
| Kildare Post | 17 th March 2015 |
| Liffey Champion | 14 th March 2015 |
| Leinster Express | 17 th March 2015 |
| Limerick Leader | 13 th March 2015 |
| Limerick Post | 14 th March 2015 |
| Meath Chronicle | 14 th March 2015 |
| Offaly Independent | 14 th March 2015 |
| Tullamore Tribune | 11 th March 2015 |
| Nenagh Guardian | 14 th March 2015 |
| Tipperary Star | 12 th March 2015 |
| Western People | 16 th March 2015 |
| Westmeath Independent | 14 th March 2015 |
| Westmeath Examiner | 17 th March 2015 |
| Wicklow People | 11 th March 2015 |
| Wicklow Times | 17 th March 2015 |

2.3.2 Press Releases

In order to raise awareness of the consultation process and to ensure stakeholders and members of the public were aware of the opportunity to engage, a press release

was issued to national print, online media, national broadcast, regional newspapers and regional radio current affair shows. The press release was issued on Monday 9th of March with an embargo stating no publication prior to 10th March 2015. A copy of the media outlets that received the press release and the press release itself can be found in Appendix B.

2.3.3 Newspaper Articles

A range of articles referring to the Water Supply Project were published in a variety of Newspapers throughout Ireland. Table 2.2 gives a synopsis of articles relating to the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region, during the consultation period 10th March to 5th May 2015.

Table 2.2: Newspaper Articles – 10th March 2015 to 5th May 2015

| Publication | Date | Title / Headline |
|---------------------------|------------|--|
| Irish Independent | 10.03.2015 | Dublin faces water rationing unless new supply is found |
| Irish Times | 10.03.2015 | Consultation opened on Dublin’s water |
| Irish Independent | 14.03.2015 | Water sources for 220,000 ‘may pose a risk to health’ |
| Irish Independent | 14.03.2015 | Only major surgery can rescue this patient |
| Offaly Independent | 14.03.2015 | Midlands to face water shortages |
| The Westmeath Independent | 14.03.2015 | Shannon water option for Dublin on table again |
| Athlone Advertiser | 19.03.2015 | Irish Water launches consultation water supply |
| Clare Champion | 25.03.2015 | Alternative to Derg abstraction proposed |
| Irish Daily Star | 21.03.2015 | Water proposal slammed |
| Irish Examiner | 21.03.2015 | Group to oppose Shannon water supply for Dublin |
| Athlone Advertiser | 26.03.2015 | New Shannon proposals will impact Athlone - RSPA |
| Athlone Topic | 26.03.2015 | Concern about Shannon water plans |
| Athlone Topic | 26.03.2015 | Unless Irish Water is adequately funded Ireland could face a major crisis in the near future |
| Tipperary Star | 26.03.2015 | Shannon alliance reiterates opposition to water plans |
| The Clare Champion | 27.03.2015 | Irish water still looking at options |
| The Clare Champion | 27.03.2015 | Renewed fears for Lough Derg’s future |
| The Clare Champion | 27.03.2015 | Dublin threat to Lough Derg |
| Limerick Leader City | 28.03.2015 | Water pressure group looks to sink Shannon siphon proposal |

| Publication | Date | Title / Headline |
|------------------------------|------------|---|
| Limerick Leader County | 28.03.2015 | Water pressure group looks to sink Shannon siphon proposal |
| Limerick Leader West Edition | 28.03.2015 | Water pressure group looks to sink Shannon siphon proposal |
| Limerick Post | 28.03.2015 | Water warning |
| Nenagh Guardian | 28.03.2015 | 'Waste not, want not' – water group |
| Nenagh Guardian | 28.03.2015 | Guardian Quote of the Week |
| Roscommon Herald | 31.03.2015 | Plans to abstract water from the Shannon 'needless' and 'high risk' |
| Clare People | 14.04.2015 | Councillor claims Irish Water reneged on deal |
| Clare Champion | 17.04.2015 | Fighting Lough Derg abstraction |
| Sunday World | 19.04.2015 | It's Tipp top tap solution |
| Midland Tribune | 23.04.2015 | Offaly People Benefitting from Water Investment |
| Tullamore Tribune | 23.04.2015 | Offaly People Benefitting from Water Investment |
| Nenagh Guardian | 25.04.2015 | Fund to protect Derg mooted |
| The Clare Champion | 01.05.2015 | Councillors critical of water shortages report |

2.3.4 Libraries and Local Authority Planning Counters

In order to have the PNR and the Project Road Map readily accessible in the public domain, a copy of the Report and Road Map were sent to County Libraries and the planning counters of each County Office in the study area. Table 2.3 lists the Local Authority Planning Offices where the documentation was lodged.

Table 2.3 Local Authority Planning Offices and Libraries

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Clare County Council |
| Dublin City Council |
| Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council |
| Fingal County Council |
| Galway County Council |
| Kildare County Council |
| Laois County Council |
| Limerick City & County Council |
| Meath County Council |
| Tipperary County Council |
| Offaly County Council |
| South Dublin County Council |
| Westmeath County Council |
| Wicklow County Council |

A copy of the template letter sent to Librarians and County Planning Offices is attached in Appendix C.

Following the launch of the PNR consultation stage, there was follow up contact to ensure the documents were received by the library and/or local authority planning counter. Additional copies of the PNR were sent where required or requested.

2.3.5 Online

Website

A dedicated project website was provided at <http://www.watersupplyproject.ie/>. The project website detailed the need for a new water supply and provided all relevant information on this stage of the project (Project Need). A synopsis of this consultation stage was given on the website as well as downloadable copies of the PNR and associated Appendices. Additionally, there was a page dedicated to the Project Road Map, which set out the next steps in the WSP planning process.

Information Services

At the launch of the Project, information services for engaging with stakeholders and members of the public were put in place. The information services included:

- Lo-call phone line: 1890 252 848¹
- Email service: watersupply@water.ie
- Postal service: Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4

Stakeholders and members of the public utilised all available methods of engagement throughout the consultation period. Full details of the submissions from the consultation engagements can be found in Section 3. All submissions received during the consultation period (March 10th 2015 to May 5th 2015) have been considered as part of this report.

2.4 Consultation Events

2.4.1 Oireachtas and Local Authority Elected Members

TD, Senator and MEP Briefing Day

Over 220 Oireachtas members were invited to an Open Day in Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 on Tuesday 10th March 2015 (60 Senators, and 163 TDs). The Open Day aimed to brief elected members on the purpose of the Consultation and elicit their views on the PNR and Project Road Map. Of those invited, 18 Oireachtas members attended the open day (15 TDs and 3 Senators).

Written Briefings

A specific email briefing was sent to the following Ministers, inviting them to comment on the PNR and Project Road Map. The Ministers contacted were as follows:

- The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources;
- The Minister of Transport;
- The Minister of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs;
- The Minister of Justice and Equality;

¹ Northern Irish stakeholders were unable to use this number, an alternative number, +353 1 202 7888 was used

- The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment;
- The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

A briefing email outlining the PNR and its consultation process was sent to a total of 516 Councillors from the following County Councils:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Dublin City Council | • Meath County Council |
| • Clare County Council | • Offaly County Council |
| • Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council | • South Dublin County Council |
| • Fingal County Council | • Tipperary County Council |
| • Kildare County Council | • Westmeath County Council |
| • Galway County Council | • Wicklow County Council |
| • Limerick County Council | |
| • Laois County Council | |
| • Louth County Council | |

Appendix D outlines the template of emails sent to Minister, Senators, TDs and other elected members.

2.4.2 Stakeholder Briefings

Face-to-face Briefings

Stakeholder face-to-face briefings were offered to both Statutory Stakeholders and non-statutory Stakeholders. Organisations that were offered face-to-face briefing are listed in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Briefing Invitations- Stakeholder Groups

| | |
|---|---|
| An Taisce - The Natural Trust for Ireland | Chief Executives as the following County Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare • Dublin • Galway • Laois • Limerick • Offaly • Tipperary • Westmeath |
| Bord na Móna | |
| Chambers Ireland | |
| Dublin Chamber | |
| Waterways Ireland | |
| EPA | |
| EPA - Office of Environmental Assessment | |
| ESB | Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly |
| IBEC | Northern and Western Regional Assembly |
| Inland Fisheries Ireland | Southern Regional Assembly |
| Irish Environmental Network | NUI Maynooth |
| Lough Derg Science Group | River Shannon Protection Alliance |
| Northern and Western Regional Assembly | Southern Regional Assembly |
| National Parks and Wildlife Service | SWAN - Sustainable Water Network |
| Waterways Ireland | |

Organisations that accepted the offer of Stakeholder briefings are listed in Table 2.5. Stakeholder briefings are still ongoing with some Stakeholder groups and Irish Water. Table 2.5 represents meetings that took place up to May 18th 2015.

Table 2.5 Stakeholder Briefings

| Stakeholder |
|---|
| Dublin Chamber of Commerce |
| GDA Strategic Policy Consultative Group |
| Waterways Ireland |
| Tipperary County Council CE & Management Team |
| IBEC |
| ESB |
| Chambers Ireland |
| Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly |
| Offaly Co. Co. CE & Management Team |
| Dublin City Council |
| River Shannon Protection Alliance |
| Dublin Area Strategic Policy Consultative Group |
| Shannon Foynes Port Company |
| Fáilte Ireland |
| Irish Farmers Association |
| Lough Derg Anglers |

Written Briefings

Table 2.6 lists the organisation and groups who received written briefings by email on the day of the PNR Consultation launch (10th March 2015).

Table 2.6: Stakeholders – Written Briefings

| List of Stakeholders | |
|---|--|
| Meath County Council Chief Executive | Birdwatch Ireland |
| Wicklow County Council Chief Executive | County Chambers of Commerce County Local |
| Kildare County Council Chief Executive | Enterprise Offices |
| Cavan County Council Chief Executive | Dr. Catherine Dalton via River Shannon Protection Alliance |
| Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Chief Executive | Environmental Pillar Friends of the Irish Environment |

| List of Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
| Fingal County Council Chief Executive | Golden Eagle Trust |
| South Dublin County Council Chief Executive | GAA |
| Bord Iascaigh Mhara | GMC Contractors |
| CIE | Irish Farmers Association |
| County and City Management Association | Irish Marine Federation |
| Coillte | Irish Wildlife trust |
| Eastern River Basin District | Irish Peatland Conservation Council |
| Shannon International River Basin District | Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs |
| Northern Ireland Environmental Agency | Lisheen Mines |
| Eircom | Longford Heritage Forum |
| | Landscape Forum Ireland |
| ESBi | Lough Derg Anglers Association |
| EirGrid | Lough Derg Yacht Club |
| Geological Survey of Ireland | Shannon Group plc |
| Health and Safety Authority (HSA) HSE | Shannon Fisheries Partnership |
| Marine Institute | St Flannans Fishing Club |
| Met Éireann | SOLD (Save Our Lough Derg) |
| Northern Ireland Environment Agency | The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland |
| Department of the Environment Northern Ireland | VOICE (Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment) |
| NRA | RPA |
| NTA | Regional Authority Directors Association |
| OPW | South Eastern River Basin District |
| Teagasc | The Heritage Council |
| Shannon Foynes Port Company | |

A copy of the email / letter invitation to a Briefing can be found in Appendix E.

In addition a number of the key Stakeholders received phone calls to reaffirm the PNR consultation phase. Chambers Ireland, Dublin Chambers, IBEC and ESB all received calls.

2.5 Media

A press release was issued on the day of the launch of the Project and all subsequent requests for briefings and queries were responded to during the course of the consultation period.

2.5.1 Newspaper Articles

A summary of media content which referenced the WSP PNR during the consultation period 10th March to 5th May 2015 is presented in section 2.3.4 above

2.5.2 Online Coverage

Online media publicised the PNR and Project Road Map. There were 53 online media references to the Water Supply Project, 17 had a negative opinion and 36 were of neutral opinion. There were also re-tweets and re-posts of some social media content. The full list and content of the online media coverage can be found in Appendix F.

3 Feedback

3.1 Introduction

Each and every submission received by the Water Supply Project- Eastern and Midlands Region Project Team was acknowledged and logged (Appendix H). All submissions were then compiled and reviewed in their entirety by the project team. While much of the feedback related to the options that will be reviewed in the future, where there were broad issues that can be addressed within this consultation phase we have included them.

Many submissions reiterated similar themes (these themes are based on the issues raised), illustrating the strength of feeling about the Project (see Table 3.1). While not all of the issues directly related to the Project Need and the Project Road Map, they are relevant to the Project. Where issues have been submitted that are more relevant to the options, we have attempted to address them with the information we have at present and will also put them forward for the consultation on the Options Working Paper (see Project Road Map). Not all questions raised by members of the public can be answered at this early stage but as the details of the project are confirmed those questions can be subsequently addressed.

The following section is a compilation of the issues raised. Some of the issues raised are quoted directly from submissions but others are an amalgamation of the issues raised by a number of submissions. Everything included in the section below is taken directly from stakeholder feedback.

Table 3.1: Submission Themes

| |
|---|
| <p>Need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General comments • Water Supply Network Resilience and connectivity • Water supply • Demographics • Planning and Balanced Regional Development |
| <p>Project Road Map</p> |
| <p>Economic Development</p> |
| <p>Water Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leakage • Other conservation initiatives |
| <p>Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Benefitting corridor |
| <p>Water Demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water demand projections (domestic and non-domestic) • Peak and Headroom |

| |
|---|
| <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive • Biodiversity • Climate Change |
| <p>Tourism and Amenity</p> |
| <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desalination • Groundwater • Alternatives |
| <p>Other</p> |

3.2 Need

Irish Water undertook the Review of the Need to update / validate previous assessments (economic forecasts / population projections etc. in order to ensure that, in all the changed circumstances since water demand was last estimated, a new supply of water is still required. This consultation phase was focussed on the Project Need Report which sets out the need for a new source of drinking water for the Eastern and Midlands Region. As a result, many of the submissions received commented only on the “need” for the project without reference to options.

3.2.1 General Comments

There were a number of ‘general comments’ on the need which related to the importance of a new water supply for protecting the development of the Eastern and Midlands Region and the Country as a whole in terms of “implications for enterprise and development...job creation” and from a “domestic customer perspective” also. Where these were tied into economic considerations, they are referred to in section 3.4.

The requirement for a strategic approach to addressing the need was also cited in a number of submissions, with one stating that this approach is “critically important to ensure current and future customers’ needs and environmental obligations are met at least cost”.

One submission flagged two opinions on the need, one stating that the Project is “unnecessary and deeply costly”, but further stating that the need for an additional supply has been “necessary for nearly two decades” and looks for the “swift completion” of the consultation in order to build the project.

There were also comments received that stated that the project “is not now needed” and the likelihood that it “never will be needed”, with the submission stating that there are “ample supplies of raw water available in the GDA both now and well into the future”.

This was emphasised in one submission which stated that going ahead with this scheme would constitute “reckless use of the ‘tax payer / water customers’ money” and that all options should be re-assessed.

3.2.2 Water Supply Network Resilience and Connectivity

A number of submissions commented on the need in the context of the water supply network. One submission cited that the maximum deployable supply of 623 Ml/d by 2026 “assumes that all infrastructure is fully operational working to maximum capacity” which is “a highly unlikely scenario” and that a new water source is needed well before 2026 to “avoid disaster”.

Another submission stated that it supported the “priority given to ensuring resilience in a water supply in the Project Need Report”, stating that “customers expect continuity of service even during reasonably foreseeable levels of disruption” and that all customers expect “Irish Water to provide the same service standards they receive from their other utility providers”.

The present situation, that some 85% of Dublin’s water is coming from one single source, was also commented on in one submission which stated that “Not only is more water needed to meet demand, the supplying sources must be diversified so that the region is able to deal with external shocks”.

The “future proofing approach” is commented on as being “prudent” and will allow for “resilience in the system” and that the concept of resilience is noted in the report and welcomed the proposals to “improve connectivity within the existing infrastructure to ensure greater certainty of supply” which would enhance “overall resilience” of water to the region.

The capacity of the Dublin water network was also commented on in another submission which states that it “operates at 99% capacity at any given time” and that “such a high level is unsustainable and a direct consequence of years of underinvestment”. It was also commented on that “resilience of supply is essential for existing businesses to plan their future” and is particularly true of companies whose business activity requires high levels of water use, such as those in the pharmaceutical and ICT sectors.

3.2.3 Water Supply

One submission examined the need for a water supply and wanted to see a differentiation between “raw water” and “treated water supply”. This submission stated that the disruptions experienced in the GDA are not as a result of the raw water being unavailable, but as a result of disruption to treated water supply and that the link between disruption and the need for a new raw water supply is “completely without basis” and that there are a “wide range of options on the supply side as well as on the demand side for meeting requirements in the next 30 or more years”.

3.2.4 Demographics

As the PNR contained an independent report on Demographic Projections (Population projections), a number of submissions discussed the information contained in this report.

Net migration was cited in one submission, stating that historical reality indicates that population growth is linked to net migration and that there has been a lot of variation in this over the past 35 years. This submission goes on to cite a 2006 report from the previous phase of the project which shows a disparity between those predictions and what the submission states occurred over the same period, stating

that this highlights “accurate predictions of population growth are really not possible on a timescale of 35 years”.

The same submission also discusses internal migration within the country from rural to metropolitan centres and vice versa, stating that “the continued high cost of accommodation in the GDA could be a very significant factor in turning people away from living there in the future and this could have a knock on effect for businesses wishing to locate there.

Conversely, another submission stated that capacity deficits in the Greater Dublin Area are among the “constraints that need to be addressed to meet housing needs in the region”. This submission goes on to state that “Rapid increases will, if left unchecked, result in further upward pressure on labour costs” which would “threaten Ireland’s overall competitiveness”.

One submission stated that in “all scenarios” in terms of projected growth “necessitate a new water supply for the region” which is a “prerequisite for future growth”. This submission went on to state that the consequences of non-delivery of a new water supply would be a “disaster for residents and businesses alike”.

This submission went on to discuss the need for a long term strategy for dealing with growth, particularly in the area of infrastructure, as such “forward planning” would offer “peace of mind” for companies considering investing in Ireland, stating that “not only is more water needed to meet demand, the supplying sources must be diversified so the region can deal with external shocks”.

A further submission stated that projected water supply demand will need to respond to population growth in the Dublin Region stating that the demographic targets for 2050 may “be somewhat on the low side”.

This view was further supported in a submission which stated that in their experience of strategic projects there has been a “recurring tendency to underestimate growth, especially in the Dublin Region”.

This is a view that was further supported by submissions received from several Local Authorities that had concerns in terms of the design horizon for the project being “too short” particularly when taking into account the time it will take for the project to be realised, although these submissions do recognise that the further into the future projections are made “the less accurate they become”. This was also raised in terms of demand figures which are discussed in section 3.7.1.

One submission commented that they were “pleased to see” that criteria for evaluation used to examine the need included:

- Current and projected population in the Region;
- Economic growth;
- Dublin’s competitiveness versus other city-regions;
- Demand from large water users.

3.2.5 Planning Balanced Regional Development

There were a number of submissions that commented on the need for the project in the context of planning or Regional Development.

One such submission stated that the need for the project was not justified as Government are “wrong to allow the Dublin area to expand without due consideration for the proper planning, social, environmental & uncongested needs of its populous & the needs of the remainder of its citizens”. This submission goes on to talk about the need for balanced regional development “instead of allowing 94% of all new business into the Dublin area, then you would not need to transfer the water to Dublin”.

This was further added to in another submission which stated that this project (particularly if a Shannon option is progressed) would be “tantamount to bringing the water to industry rather than bringing industry to the water” and that this “copper fastens the imbalance in regional economic opportunity that prevails in Ireland”.

Conversely, a number of submissions referenced the Project in terms of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs). One submission stated that the “RPGs support the project to find a new source of water supply for the Eastern and Midlands Region” and referenced the specific relevant guidelines and policies:

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Dublin Area (2010-2022), Strategic Policy PIP2:

“Protect and work to improve water quality in, and impacted by, the GDA and seek that investment in water supply projects/programmes is prioritised to support the delivery of the economic and settlement strategy for the GDA through the coordinated and integrated delivery of all essential services supporting national investment”.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Dublin Area (2010-2022), Strategic Policy PIR11 Strategic Policy PR11

States that “GDA local authorities and the DoEHLG continue to prioritise investment in the identification of a sustainable major new long term source of water for the GDA, and planning and development for the required infrastructure to store and distribute larger volumes of water in the Dublin Water Region continues”.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midlands Region (2010-2022), Policy TIP20:

States “Promote the provision of safe and secure drinking water supplies and wastewater infrastructure to ensure that public health is maintained and that lack of water or wastewater treatment do not restrict the expansion and development of identified growth for towns or the future needs of industry in the Midlands Region”.

3.3 Project Road Map

There were a number of submissions that contained comments regarding the Project Road Map which was also published as part of this first public consultation phase.

One submission noted that the “additional” public consultation periods were “welcomed” in addition to the statutory consultation phase with another commenting that they were “satisfied” with the Project Road Map.

Concerns were raised in some submissions regarding the length of time it would take to implement the Project Road Map, with one submission citing that “it has taken almost twenty years to develop these plans into a tangible roadmap for planning and delivery of the project” and went on to state that Irish Water should “move quickly to the next phases of delivery” and went on to state it should be

“accelerated” as the delivery of this project was “urgent”. This point was further reiterated in another submission that stated that the project needed to “commence as soon as possible” due to the need for a new water supply and the impact that this would have on the economy (See section 3.4 for comments around these issues).

3.4 Economic Development

The economic impact of the project going ahead or not going ahead was reflected in a number of submissions.

The economic importance of the Eastern and Midlands region nationally was discussed in a number of submissions, with one stating that this region was “critical for the economic wellbeing of the state” going on further to comment that its strategic importance for the national economy means that adequate reliable water supply is “crucial for the continued wellbeing of existing, indigenous businesses” and that it is a “prerequisite” for future growth, especially for meeting ambitious targets for tourism and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

This was echoed in another submission which stated that “given the importance of Dublin and the surrounding region to the national economy” they “strongly support the proposal to address the Eastern and Midlands Region’s future water supply needs”.

The impact of the current situation is commented on in one submission which states that “the economic and reputational damage caused by such shortages cannot be overestimated”, concluding that “a reliable water supply directly sustains jobs and investment”. This was picked up in another submission which built upon this issue stating that the “unquantifiable cost of reputational damage to Ireland and the Mid-East region” as a result of water shortages and interruptions “risks dissuading potential investors from establishing enterprises in the region”.

Water as a “vital input to businesses in both the internationally and locally traded sectors” was emphasised further in another submission which stated that “it is critical to support national and regional economic growth and job creation, particularly in key growth sectors such as food and drink, life sciences, ICT and the hospitality/tourism sectors.”

Foreign Direct Investment was also cited as an aspect for consideration. One submission highlighted that evidence points to “intensifying competition” of FDI and the “increasing importance of city regions in this competition”. This submission went on to state that cities are battling global competitors in winning FDI and stated that Dublin is more likely to be competing with “London and Singapore than with Cork or Galway”.

This was also commented on further in another submission which stated that at present “Ireland’s strongest competitors in water-intense industries” such as ICT and pharmaceuticals industry “include Israel” even though it is situated in an area of severe water constraints it is able to meet the water requirements at an affordable cost (due to low energy costs) and therefore Ireland “must ensure” that the capacity of the water network is “improved” which can only be achieved through “large scale capital investment”.

This submission also went on to talk about the economic benefits of an additional supply to the Midlands, where an “upgrading of water services infrastructure” and

the possibility of diverting additional water resources to areas of need will “facilitate the area becoming increasingly attractive” to FDI “bringing both jobs and economic growth to the region” and therefore this Project must be viewed as “a matter of national importance”.

Conversely, another submission commented that this project, if a Shannon option were to be progressed, shows “scant regard for the economic development requirements of regions outside the pale, and particularly riparian communities (more than one million people) along the full length of the Shannon”.

This submission, again in the context of any Shannon options, stated that there would be a negative economic impact on the Shannon which is “vital to the interests of tourism, boating, angling, sport and social, and heritage industries” which would impact the “livelihoods of more than one million people” who are directly or indirectly supported by the Shannon.

Additionally, this submission felt that the 100 MLD that is required under “Strategic Industrial Allowance” equates to “12 further full St. James Gate breweries” which they believe is a good reason for people in the Shannon region to “hold on to their water supplies and attract these large industries that would presumably employ lots of people in the areas they chose to locate in.

The cost of the Project is also cited in this submission, which they state has “hundreds of millions of taxpayers Euros” at risk as they will be spent to “construct a pipeline, the benefits of which are, at best uncertain, and at worst seriously questionable”.

Another submission stated that the Project would require a “rigorous cost-benefit analysis” of any of the options as they felt this had never been published before.

FDI was also commented on in the context of “mobile investment” of both foreign and Irish owned water intensive sectors, stating that we need to make water services a “competitive advantage” in the attraction of this mobile investment.

As well as new developments in terms of residential capacity, this will also apply to hotel and office developments which will also require a “reliable water supply”. Another submission stated that “it is crucial that water supply constraints do not act as an impediment to development”.

3.5 Water Conservation

3.5.1 Leakage

The environmental sustainability of the WSP was also addressed in the context of leakage in one submission, stating that it was “compromised by the fact the current estimated rate of leakage in Dublin city is at 40%”, and that in this context it did not seem sustainable to pump water from the Shannon until “such time as this leakage has been adequately addressed and reduced”. This submission did recognise the recent Irish Water proposals to tackle leakage in Dublin City, however felt the “timeline for addressing this issue has “not been fully developed to date and will in all probability be a slow process”.

Another submission commented that there was “no serious commitment toward a system of repairs” included in the Irish Water proposal, and that if water was taken

from the River Shannon it would be a “disincentive to eliminate profligate waste of hundreds of millions of litres per day”, stating that Dublin City Council has been “throwing half of it {sic water} away through years of leak ridden supply pipes and creaking treatment facilities, all of which have suffered from decades of neglect and under investment” and that reducing leakage rates to international standards would “double existing supplies”.

The issue of addressing leakage was also commented on as a way of tackling water demand both nationally and within the Dublin Region. One submission stated that “high national leakage levels must be addressed before planning any new infrastructure”. This submission also went on to state that “Current leakage levels in Dublin are the lowest in Ireland, at 33%” and that while being above those of the UK, it is “clear that leakage reduction alone will not be enough to solve headroom issues or address increased water demand”.

It was further commented that “leakage reduction is a long, inexact and costly process” and that savings from leakage reduction, conservation and demand management are “uncertain”.

Irish Water’s targets for reducing leakage demand were also referenced. There were a number of submissions supporting the “commitment to significantly reduce water leakage levels” as a method to meet demand in the short and medium term, with one submission stating that even if these “extremely ambitious” target or reducing leakage to 25% are met by 2021 “existing sources are not capable of providing enough resources to meet the region’s needs”. This submission goes on to state that this project must be developed “alongside” important efforts to reduce leakage rates as a “best case scenario”.

This point was augmented by a further submission which recognised that leakage reductions will not “suffice in meeting increased demand” they will help to reduce the economic impact on businesses who are impacted by supply disruptions and they would recommend that Irish Water should “reduce the level of leakage in the Dublin region to an economically sustainable level”, however they did recognise that this effort for leakage reduction “must take place in tandem with the development of a new water supply rote, not as an alternative”.

A number of submissions raised issues regarding water conservation and leakage in terms of the need for the project these are referred to in section 3.2.

3.5.2 Other Water Conservation Initiatives

Methods to improve water conservation in order to reduce demand were referred to in several submissions, with one stating that the in the PNR “There is no indication in the proposal as to what steps will be made to address the issue through water conservation methods” “The importance of an enhanced national water conservation ethos” was also highlighted in a submission, stating that there is a need to “introduce regulation or other incentives to encourage people to invest in modernisation of equipment with a view to conserving water”. Rainwater harvesting and the treatment and re-use of wastewater to produce portable drinking water, was another option put forward, referencing the Singapore model of water conservation.

The impact of water metering and charges on consumption was referred to in terms of behaviour and water demand. One submission stated that the PNR does not address “the impact on water usage that can be achieved in the next 35 years by ensuring that all new houses are built to store and use rain water and brown water

where appropriate and by ensuring that appliances are suitably careful about water usage". A comment in another submission further built on this issue by stating that "we can live within our current resources if we reduce our wasteful consumption and minimise leakage. Modern day water usage in showers, toilets, washing machines, gardens etc. is excessive and can come down significantly with water metering" The impact of water metering was also commented on by referencing an article that was in the Irish Times (26.02.15) which stated that "Water consumption plummeted across the Dublin region when charges were introduced last October, but rose again the following month when the Government changed its charging plans".

3.6 Communities

The impact on communities was discussed in terms of the need for the water supply in the Eastern and Midlands Region and also the impact on communities if a Shannon Option was to be brought forward for investigation. It was also discussed in terms of the "benefitting corridor" referenced in the PNR.

There were several submissions that had concerns over the impact of a Shannon abstraction on the communities in that area and that while Dublin City Council may have previously had no remit to consider these communities, Irish Water should. One submission stated that Irish Water, in even considering this project, is not considering the needs of the community in this (Shannon) area. It also went on to state that the Shannon is "key to many communities that live by its shores" including the populations of Limerick and Athlone.

This concern was also picked up in a further submission which stated that the project posed a "high risk" to communities along the complete length of the Shannon Pot to the Shannon Estuary "economically, socially and environmentally" as the river Shannon is "vital to the survival of towns, cities, industries, commercial enterprises, navigation, tourism, heritage".

However, there was also acknowledgement of the benefits the scheme could bring to communities, in terms of improved continuity of water supply and service, stating that the Eastern and Midlands Region and the benefitting corridor will benefit as "a reliable water supply directly sustains jobs and investment". Another submission commented on the benefits that this would also have in terms of housing and accommodation stating that currently constraints to new housing development, which includes water supply, need to be addressed to "meet housing needs in the region". This submission goes on to state that "Rapid increases will, if left unchecked, result in further upward pressure on labour costs" which would "threaten Ireland's overall competitiveness".

One submission stating that, in terms of Offaly, "all schemes in the County could potentially benefit directly from the scheme, or indirectly as the existing water supplies benefiting from this project could be diverted to other schemes in the County" citing locations such as Tullamore and Edenderry.

3.6.1 Benefitting Corridor

The transfer of responsibility for managing the project from Dublin City Council to Irish Water has resulted in an increased focus on potential 'Benefitting Corridors' which will be created by the water transfer pipelines between potential new water source options and the terminal delivery point.

There were a number of specific points referenced in relation to communities within the proposed benefiting corridors.

One submission welcomed the expansion of the project's scope being extended beyond the boundaries of the GDA as it had the potential to benefit more counties "benefitting the Region for generations to come".

This point was also reiterated in a submission which stated that the investment into benefitting corridors will "ensure that water infrastructure is enhanced in a number of different regions, thus supporting wider economic growth" and that the identification of the benefitting corridor will help maximise return on investment, which will "support economic activity and investment throughout the Midlands and East, including in county Tipperary, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath and Laois".

Conversely, one submission felt that the benefitting corridor was an "add-on" feature that has little relevance to the primary objective which was the GDA water supply, going on to state that there is a "plentiful supply of raw water available in the counties mentioned in this corridor and any current problems are due to poor investment in local treatment infrastructure which is a separate issue".

Some submissions raised concerns that certain towns were not included in the benefitting corridor. For example, one submission flagged that the project "provides real possibility to serve other areas in Meath such as, Ballivor, Athboy, Rathcairn, Kildalkey, Trim, Rathmoylon and Summerhill" and therefore the Project does not provide sufficiently for Meath.

Procurement strategies for the Project were raised in one submission, which stated that it would encourage Irish Water to "consider how companies in the benefitting corridor can effectively engage in the procurement process".

Wastewater was raised in one submission in the context that "matching wastewater treatment capacity in tandem with the water supply must be planned for at an early stage" as it was felt "assimilative capacity is likely to be an issue within the midlands and other parts of the corridor in the future and the need to plan for options at an early stage is imperative".

3.7 Water Demand

Water demand was a topic covered in a number of submissions, particularly with reference to the independent water demand review which accompanied the Project Need Report.

3.7.1 Water Demand Projections

There were a number of submissions which commented on the water demand projections used in the independent water demand review.

This submission goes on to state that an analysis of water demand forecasting by relevant authorities in this area in recent times has "shown it to be extremely poor" and cites the original 2006 Needs Report, produced as part of a previous stage managed by Dublin City Council, of the project which painted an "alarming" picture of supply being on a "knife edge" This submission feels that the "reality in 2015 is that these early demand projections are already, after less than 10 years, some 75 MLD too high as demand has plateaued since 2007 at around 540 MLD" and that this is a "forecasting error" which highlights the shortcomings of assessing future

demand. On this basis, this submission asserts that the figures in the PNR are “essentially meaningless and based on past forecasting experience”.

This submission states that it feels demand in GDA has been “plateauing” in the last 8 years.

Conversely, another submission recognised the “soundness” of the methodology used to predict the demand of both the supply area and the benefitting corridor”.

Two submissions referenced the need for Irish Waters future National Water Supply Strategy and that it would be important to ensure that it informed the Water Supply Project- Eastern and Midlands Region moving forward in order to ensure of the extent to which the new source can replace existing sources/ schemes (particularly along the benefitting corridor).

a) Domestic Demand Projections

One submission was concerned that domestic demand was underestimated in terms of County Laois, highlighting that Portlaoise has experienced a considerable urbanisation and expansion in recent years and currently there is a growing population. This submission stated that this was due to its proximity to Dublin, and consequently the town is feeling the pressure for residential development, concluding that utilising these higher demand estimates will be of “merit”.

This was similarly reflected in a submission regarding the demand in County Meath, particularly the Dunboyne and Clonee areas, where it was felt the demand figures seem to “underestimate the future water supply needs of these areas” and that Ashbourne and Rathoath should be supplied in future and provided for within the demand projections.

The addition of readily available water supply to support further demand was also reflected in County Offaly, stating that there are no large surface water sources readily available to serve the towns of Tullamore and Edenderry, and this project would aid this and also help to “meet increased demand”.

The demand was also discussed in terms of the design horizon being extended further to 2075 to allow for “increasing demands over that extended timeframe through phasing, modular design or other appropriate means”. This point was made by several submissions.

One submission also discussed demand in the context of Per Capital Consumption (PCC), with an understanding that baseline information would be recalculated based on information from the domestic metering programme, as previous data was based on the absence of this information. However, it states that this figure should be “kept under constant review” as more domestic metering data becomes available.

In addition to this point, another submission stated that it felt the reduction in PCC envisioned in the PNR “may be overstated” as it may not be certain that this reduction would be “sustained longer term” and that at present not all domestic properties are metered therefore the “assumption of a PCC reduction for all following metering cannot be applied”.

It also goes on to state that if it was assumed that the PCC reductions are being achieved, then the current UFW (Unaccounted for Water) figure of 33% “understates the actual leakage position” which would “make the leakage reduction target figures even more challenging”.

This submission goes on to talk about the assumption of a 10% vacancy rate, stating that “given the emerging resurgence in the economy and increasing demand for and shortage of housing, 10% seems very high”.

b) Non-domestic Demand Projections

A question was raised in one submission in relation to the 100 MLD that is required under “Strategic Industrial Allowance” equating this need to “12 further full St. James Gate breweries” which they believe is “fiction” and would question it.

One submission also discussed non domestic demand stating that these have been monitored by Local Authorities who have been metering consumption since 2011, and that this baseline should be used in conjunction with the projected non-domestic consumption use to 2016.

Another submission was concerned that Portlaoise has experienced a considerable urbanisation and expansion in recent years and currently there is a growing population. This submission stated that this was due to its proximity to Dublin, and consequently the town is feeling the pressure for retail and commercial developments, concluding that utilising higher demand estimates to be of “merit”. Another area of apprehension that was raised in one submission was the “availability of office space” and the restrictions in the amount of office space available. It was felt that this requirement for future space should be considered and that the deficit will be addressed by new developments which will “require a reliable water supply”.

Flexibility in terms of infrastructure planning was also discussed in one submission in reference to demand, stating that it is necessary to be flexible if “demand exceeds expectations” in addressing capacity issues. This submission noted that non-domestic water demand forecasts take account of expected FDI and tourism growth trends and the implications for water requirements, but states that these forecasts need to “take into account potential large scale water requirements on the indigenous enterprise side” citing the example of the water intensive food and drink sector.

3.7.1 Peak and Headroom

Peak and headroom were commented on in a number of submissions in the context of resilience and security of supply.

One submission stated that it is “vital to achieve the targets for headroom capacity” to ensure a “resilient and secure water supply”, with another submission commenting that the “current low headroom capacity in the Greater Dublin Region bears a high risk of water shortages, which can result in high disruption costs for businesses and domestic water users”. This submission went on to state that it supports the ambition to “increase spare headroom capacity to sustainable levels in line with international best practice”.

International best practice is also referred to in another submission which states that “many great European cities had a reserve of at least 10% of the daily water usage for their citizens.”

Conversely, one submission wanted to distinguish the topic of headroom from raw water supply and treated water supply, stating that the amount attributed to “Peaking allowance” and “Headroom and outage” is not explained in the context of how it

relates to “both treated water and raw water supplies”. While this submission felt that summer drought shortages could be related to raw water supplies, the “classical shortage associated with running taps in freezing winter will not be related to raw water shortage but rather treated water shortage” and that this requires “further explanation”.

This submission also stated that the current water supply capacity within the benefitting corridor has been omitted.

In contrast to this, another submission stated that it had “concerns” regarding the projection of future demand being “understated”, acknowledging that when the projections allow 15% for headroom and 20% for peaking, which will provide a buffer, that the baseline projections themselves should be “as realistic as possible”.

3.8 Environment

There were a number of submissions that referenced the Environment. A majority of these were specifically based around any potential Shannon options. It is important to note, that this consultation phase was focussed on the Need for the Project and the Project Road Map, and was not at this stage consulting on options being considered. However, we have noted the issues raised here for completeness, and they are being responded to in this report insofar as the available data will allow at this early stage of the process.

One submission received highlighted potential environmental impacts in terms of any abstraction from Lough Derg, stating that they still believed that “should abstraction take place from the Shannon that this should be from the southern end of Parteen Reservoir”. The submission stated that this was because the removal of water from the north-eastern part of Lough Derg “might contribute to ecological stress in the lake”, the main concern being the possible drawing down of water during low-flow periods which they feel would have an environmental impact. This submission went on to detail the species that are being observed in the north-eastern part of Lough Derg.

Environmental studies occurring as part of the project were also welcomed in this submission as well as the sharing of data gathered. It was also commented that a full habitat and Roxanne (sediment structure) survey is needed in order to have a “fuller understanding of the Lough” together with more detailed hydrographic observations”.

Fish and aquatic life were also raised in terms of the environment. It was cited in one submission that “while many rivers are not designated under the Habitats Directive, they hold species that are designated under the directive” such as the Atlantic salmon, which are listed as an Annex II species and that the Project should give regard to the need for the “sustainable development of the inland and marine fisheries resource”.

This submission stated that the following should be given consideration:

- Water quality
- Surface water hydrology
- Fish spawning and nursery areas
- Passage of migratory fish
- Areas of natural heritage importance
- Biological diversity

- Ecosystem structure and functioning

This submission also went on to state that any abstraction from the Shannon River Basin District should make a provision for “commercial/environmental compensation to the catchment”. It was felt that any loss of water from the catchment or loss or potential damage to fishery and the fisheries habitat as a result of abstraction should be compensated.

Water crossings were also raised in terms of a Shannon option along any route where pipelines will be constructed, with the submission stating that these will need to be assessed from a fisheries perspective.

One submission feared that the well-being of the water quality on the River Shannon is at risk from any abstraction which would have consequences on the ecology “particularly during summer/ dry periods when water availability is lowest and demand is highest”.

This submission went to state that the ecosystem of the Shannon and its hinterland is fragile and it plays host to “countless forms of aquatic and non-aquatic forms of life” and “contains a number of vulnerable and important National Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)” and that these are “extremely sensitive to fluctuations in water levels and rates of flow”.

The importance of the biodiversity in the area impacted was also cited, with one submission stating that “biodiversity must be considered in economic and social development policies, particularly in relation to key strategic infrastructural projects” such as this one.

The issue of invasive alien species was also raised in this context, particularly around the Lough Derg Catchment, where the submission felt there would be a high risk of cross-contamination if pumped untreated water from Lough Derg was sent to a reservoir or any exposed facility in another catchment.

3.8.1 Water Framework Directive

One submission received states that the “precautionary principle” should be “rigorously applied” to all aspects of this project and the entire development should take into account the principles and statutory obligations set out in the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD) which requires the prevention and reduction of pollution, the promotion of sustainable water use, the protection of aquatic environment, the improvement of the status of aquatic ecosystems and the mitigation of the effects of floods and droughts.

The WFD directive was also cited in another submission which stated that it felt that any Shannon abstraction would be in “breach” of it as “taking volumes of water from the Shannon Catchment and discharging to the Irish Sea would be contrary to the principles” of the WFD.

3.8.1 Climate Change

The impact of climate change was raised in a number of submissions, particularly in the context of the need for the Project, future water demand and available future water supply.

The vulnerability of Dublin to the impact of climate change was commented on in one submission, which stated that Dublin “relies heavily on rainfall or surface-based resources for its water supply” and that any large scale reduction in rainfall could “seriously impact that supply” which would lead to water restrictions.

This was raised again in another submission which commented on the potential impacts of climate change and that they should be “addressed to ensure secure and resilient water supply capacity to meet future needs”. It went on to state that “early adaption” to climate change can reduce costs, and that “the availability of reliable water supplies could become an important competitiveness asset for Ireland in an increasingly water scarce region”.

Climate change was also commented on in terms of any modelling that will take place to ensure that “a rigorous approach to climate change impact assessment is taken”.

3.9 Tourism and Amenity

There were a number of submissions that referenced Tourism and Amenity. Some of these were specifically based around any potential Shannon options. It is important to note, that this consultation phase was focussed on the need for the Project and the Project Road Map, and was not at the stage of options being considered. However, we have noted the issues raised here for completeness, and they will be responded to in the report as far as possible at this early stage of the process.

This was reflected in a submission regarding the impact of any Shannon abstraction on Lough Derg, which is enjoyed as an amenity by many. This submission stated critical to this amenity use were the levels on the lake and that they should always remain above summer levels as it could pose a danger to lake users when navigating on the lake”. It goes on to state that these levels should be agreed and adhered to between Waterways Ireland, ESB, Irish Water and the OPW, and be controlled through the “high court” who could set the “minimum flow rates and minimum water levels in the lake and these should be freely available at all times as in other water abstraction schemes”.

Fishing and angling were also raised as an amenity to be considered in terms of any impacts that could occur to sport and commercial fishing and angling amenity and recreational areas.

One submission feared that the well-being of the water quality on the River Shannon is at risk from any abstraction which would have consequences on the navigation, the angling industry, the boating industry, the hotel, B&B and catering industry” existing there. This submission goes on to state that the mid to upper reaches of the Shannon are vital to the interests of the tourism, boating and angling, sport and social and heritage industries and that it had concerns that large scale navigation would be compromised.

Tourism was also cited in a submission which felt that the Dublin Region “must plan” for the arrival of tourists. It states that tourism in 2014 was €6.45 billion, accounting for 4% of GNP (an increase of 9% on the previous year), and that this has had a “hugely positive effect on employment” quoting Fáilte Ireland figures of “5,000 tourism jobs” being created in 2014 with 8,000 more anticipated for 2015. This submission states it is “critical to build on this success” and the Region “must ensure that it is equipped to deal with visitor numbers of this order” and that a “new water supply is needed to achieve” this and “ensure that all visitors can have a positive experience in the Region”.

This submission goes on to highlight that critical to this tourism are new hotel developments, which it feels are required to accommodate these visitors (targets set by Fáilte Ireland to increase the number of tourists visiting Dublin by 60% by 2020) as occupancy rates in Dublin are currently at 70%. Therefore “all new developments will naturally require a safe and secure water supply, bearing in mind that the hospitality sector uses large volumes of water”.

One submission cited the previous SEA recommendation regarding the provision of a reservoir at Garryhinch, County Offaly, which they felt would have been developed “as an amenity which offered significant potential for development of tourism” in Laois and Offaly, and which they are concerned is now “not envisaged” as part of the future of the project.

3.10 Options

There were a number of submissions that were specifically concerned with potential options being examined and alternative options that could be considered. It is important to note, that this consultation phase was focussed only on the Need for the Project and the Project Road Map, and was not at the stage of options being considered. However, we have noted the issues raised here for completeness, and they will be responded to in the report as far as the data will allow at this early stage of the overall consultation process.

3.10.1 Desalination

Desalination as an option to supply water to the Eastern and Midlands Region was cited in several submissions to ensure that it would be considered as a viable option moving forward.

Desalination was referenced in terms of the “Singapore Water Supply Model” which uses desalination as part of its ‘sweet water’ supply measures.

One submission referenced desalination in the context of using brackish water in the Shannon Estuary and making it available for use, which they felt would be “cheaper than desalinating sea water”.

3.10.2 Groundwater

Groundwater as an option to supply some or all of the water supply required was also cited in several submissions.

One detailed submission stated that “currently groundwater accounts for a very small amount of the water supply in the GDA” and that this is in “stark contrast to the situation worldwide”. This submission cited a previous study undertaken by Dublin City Council during the SEA for this Project, which stated there was a “potential

sustainable availability of 123 MID within the (80km) area studied”. The submission was critical of the fact that no further critique has been undertaken into “any detail on the nature of the total groundwater resource” and that more should be done in terms of furthering knowledge in terms of “characterising the productivity and sustainability of Irish aquifers”.

Two submissions received cite potential groundwater sites that could be used.

3.10.3 Alternatives

A number of alternative options were also raised in submissions received, including:

- A submission regarding the Poulaphuca (reservoir) dam as a potential point for storing water as a result of the filter beds there.
- A submission suggesting that a system of reservoirs should be used as it would be “cheaper”.
- A submission which highlighted “Environmental flow replacement” as another way to meet demand. It states that a “current limitation on the available capacity at Leixlip Water Treatment plant (WTP)” is that at least 2 cumecs of reservoir water is being released to the Lower Liffey at all times and that this equates to “ a little short of 170 MLD of raw water that would otherwise be available for treatment and water supply”. It goes on to state that if this raw water could be recirculated from a location to where it meets saltwater than a “significant portion of the 170 MID could become available for treatment at Leixlip WTP”.
- A submission suggesting that fresh water that is required by Dublin should be “extracted from the Shannon Estuary”. This submission stated that it has carried out research on the Shannon estuary and has found that there is fresh water available, and that this could be extracted just as the tide begins to run, which would reduce ecological damage to the river Shannon. The water could then be shipped around the coast from the Estuary to avoid the need for a pipeline. This would also mean that it could be shipped to more areas than Dublin including global markets. This submission does go on to state that the existence of adequate supplies in the Shannon Estuary has yet to be proven conclusively.
- One submission also suggested the re-use of wastewater would also produce the potable drinking water required and that this is what is undertaken as part of Singapore’s water supply model.

3.11 Other

3.11.1 Innovation in the water industry

One submission suggested that the adoption of new processes, procedures and technologies within Irish Water “may offer sub-supply opportunities” for Irish Firms and potential to attract FDI and that this could “provide more opportunities for mobile investors (Irish and foreign) to develop innovative products and services, test bedded in Ireland, which can then serve global markets” giving the example of Smart Cities initiatives and that it would be important for IW to engage in this potential with other stakeholders.

4.1 Introduction

Each and every submission received by the Water Supply Project – Eastern and Midlands Region Project team was acknowledged and logged by the Project team (Appendix H). All submissions were then compiled and reviewed in their entirety by the project team. Many submissions reiterated similar themes (see Table 3.1) which are based on issues raised. Section 3 describes all issues raised during this public consultation phase under the appropriate theme.

The following section is the project team's response to the issues raised by submissions under the themes described in Section 3. While not all submissions directly related to the Project Need and Project Road Map, we have attempted to address them with the information we have at present. Not all questions raised by members of the public can be answered at this early stage but as the details of the project are confirmed those questions can be subsequently addressed.

4.2 Need

4.2.1 General Comments

As recently as 2013, treated water supply availability exceeded demand requirements in the Dublin Water Supply Area by an operating margin of just 1%-2%. The growing water demand of the Water Supply Area since the 1990's has largely been met by encroachment into the 'headroom', or operating margin, that ought to have been held in reserve, to meet operational contingencies. Treatment Plants have been operating at the limits of their capacity, almost all the time. This is not a sustainable situation.

4.2.2 Water Supply Network Resilience and Connectivity

There have been three events in the past five years which have highlighted how finely balanced the supply - demand position is; the exceptional water demand at the time of severe cold weather in the winter of 2010, the algal bloom experienced on the Vartry Reservoir in May of 2013, and the problems experienced with raw water chemistry at the Ballymore Eustace plant in late October 2013, at the time the Web Summit was hosted in Dublin.

It is acknowledged in the PNR that recent expansion at Ballymore Eustace and Leixlip has improved water treatment capacity (to a potential maximum 623Mld overall). Normal operation of these treatment plants would be based on operating at 85% of their production capacity (530Mld) with 15% being held in reserve as 'headroom' for operational contingencies. It must be appreciated however that availing of the full output of 623Mld from all sources, assumes that raw water conditions, treatment facilities, pumping plant and transfer pipework are all functioning as they should, at full capacity, and frequently this is not the case. Operationally, the overall available treated water supply ranges from 560Mld to 600 Mld on any given day. Peak demand has, moreover, risen to 570Mld in recent

years, and IDA already project² a significant GDA water requirement for foreseeable active projects within the next five years alone:-

“this region must have the ability to demonstrate robust and scalable infrastructure capable of delivering increased water supply and treatment capacity of 34 – 50 MI/d within the next five year timeframe.”

The treated water supply position is accordingly, tight, and becoming more so in the short term.

The available water supply, over water demand, is not effectively deployable throughout the supply network. If a treatment stream is out of service, or a major arterial main suffers an outage, the ‘surplus’ water at a treatment plant cannot be effectively transferred around the problem area. Effective reinforcement of the network to improve ‘deployability’ can be implemented in a better risk environment if a new source is in position.

Significant sections of the supply network operate close to their maximum capability almost all the time, and when that is the case, key elements of the network cannot be temporarily taken out of service, even for essential routine maintenance. There is an increasing exposure, where the probability of failure of particular key links, such as the Vartry Tunnel, is elevated, pending remedial work, or where the output of a Treatment Plant, such as Leixlip or Ballymore Eustace, is delivered by a small number of rising mains or key aqueducts.

The current operating position is incompatible with resilient service, and Irish Water are already taking steps to address these key network constraints as a priority.

When normal operational service standard requirements for headroom, resilience and deployability are taken into consideration (as outlined above), the apparent surplus of supply over demand, is more realistically viewed as a position of ‘latent deficit’ which quickly emerges anywhere an outage occurs.

4.2.3 Water Supply

Over 84% of Dublin’s water treatment capacity is now dependent upon the River Liffey, over 40% of the mean annual flow from the catchment is used in water supply, and diversification of the water supply sources serving the city is an important part of ‘resilience planning’ in order to manage risks such as climate change impacts on existing sources and existing water supply source pollution.

The maximum sustainable availability of raw water from the River Liffey is 533 Mld, based on average annual abstraction in historic drought analysis from more than 50 years of record. The Water Treatment Plants at Ballymore Eustace and Leixlip are already developed to treat water at this maximum sustainable yield level. The potential impact of climate change on this yield must also be planned for, as must the obligations for river management for effective flood control and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (e.g. raising of water quality status requirements and increasing compensation flow rates).

Other river catchments nearer Dublin, such as the Boyne, and Barrow are already significantly developed for water supply. Abstraction at Roughgrange from the

² Page 57 Indecon Economists Report (Appendix B PNR)

Boyne already supplies Drogheda and East Meath, and the new Treatment Plant at Srowland near Athy in Co. Kildare is designed to abstract at the sustainable limit of low flow on the River Barrow at that location.

The Vartry Reservoir, Bog of the Ring and the Ballyboden source are all operating at or near their sustainable yields. The Kildare wellfields, developed over the past decade under the Kildare Water Strategy, are operating at their assessed sustainable yields which emerged from an appraisal of all groundwater resources in Co. Kildare.

4.2.4 Demographics

All planning is subject to uncertainty, but the demographic projections are grounded in CSO data, National and Regional, and the demographic scenarios are linked to CSO projections, as interpreted by experienced demographers. Analysis throughout the Dublin Water Supply Area was conducted at the District Electoral Division level. There are four scenarios examined, and the projections are validated by those prepared by the independent Economists, who approached the problem by modelling population growth against GDP.

Comparisons drawn between water consumption and GDP in the Economists Report (PNR Appendix B - Economic Needs Report) underline the link between economic activity and water demand. If it is argued that the requirement for water has plateaued in the Dublin Water Supply Area, we must reflect on the depth of the recession that brought that about, on the social cost in unemployment and emigration which accompanied it, on the statutory obligation on Irish Water to strategically plan, in accordance with the Water Services Strategic Plan (Feb 2015) and on the importance of planning for success in developing our economy. These are aims around which we can all unite. The 2007-2013 period also coincides with a programme of multiple contracts for watermain rehabilitation by Dublin City Council, where water savings have contributed to the margin of supply over demand at present.

4.2.5 Planning and Balanced Regional Development

Irish Water is fully committed to balanced regional development in Ireland, and will strive to ensure that water services provision supports planned growth nationally. However, achieving balanced regional development is the responsibility of government, along with all the agencies of State and of our people, working together. Irish Water recognises the need to plan with other State Agencies, and made a submission earlier this year during consultation on Harvest 25, the strategic plan for food production in Ireland. The joint strategic planning of water services and the various sectors of Ireland's economy is a very positive development, and is covered in the Water Services Strategic Plan. In that submission on Harvest 25, Irish Water stated:-

“Irish Water seeks to support national policy objectives including those relating to Irish agriculture (Food Harvest 2020), noting that sustainability requires us to work together, to reach a balance between the pressures of productive farming, and influences that affect water including pathways for pollution, impacts from pathogens and pesticides and sedimentation of watercourses. Our objective is to provide world class water to process world class food, recognising the unique capacity of this country to do both, when we manage these key resources together.”

Irish Water is necessarily a strategic planner across many scenarios (as set out in the Demographic Report) and then are ‘responders to emerging requirements’, rather than policymakers in this regard.

4.3 Project Road Map

Irish Water are committed to full compliance with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention and have drawn up their WSP ‘public consultation roadmap’ with a view to seeking engagement with relevant stakeholders and the general public at every key milestone and decision making step in the project’s development throughout the EIS and Planning phase. The roadmap demonstrates Irish Water’s intent to engage in a meaningful, accessible, accountable and transparent manner with all stakeholders and the general public on all key aspects of the project’s development.

Implementing the project roadmap has to be done in a meaningful manner that avoids ‘information overload’ and consequently each phase of consultation is discrete and feedback received is fed forward into the next stage in a logical manner. Normal minimum consultation periods of ‘1 month’ have been extended to 8 weeks to ensure comprehensive engagement. Consultation is also being accompanied by data collection and modelling and there are minimum time periods associated with certain data requiring ‘calendar years’ or NPWS requirements of minimum 2 years for Wintering Bird Surveys. When those constraints are taken on board, the submission of a planning application by mid-2017 is a realistic target but with little ‘float’ for contingencies which may arise (new surveys etc.).

The Planning Process Road map (published with the PNR) outlines the timeline for publication and consultations on an Options Working Paper (New Supply Options) which is the next (2nd) phase of consultation due to be launched on 9th June 2015. All feedback on options will be considered during this second phase of public consultation. A separate information campaign will let people know when this phase of consultation is commencing and where relevant information can be obtained.

4.4 Economic Development

A 25 Year Strategic Plan covering all water services in Ireland was published in February 2015, for the first time, taking a national view in all its objectives, and it aims to ensure that water supply, or adequate wastewater treatment, are not opportunity-limiting factors anywhere in the country. In consultations with IDA, the importance of resilient water supplies, even for industries already established here, was strongly emphasized.

The Eastern and Midlands Region includes 44% of the population of the State at the 2011 Census, and the Economist Report, in Section 2, documents the importance of the Dublin area in our National Economy. Global competition for industrial development is acute, and large manufacturing industry constantly reviews the mix of factors, such as educational, labour force, utilities, supply chain, that lead to a decision to locate, or indeed to remain in Ireland. It is not so much the regions of Ireland competing with each other, as Ireland together competing with Israel, or Singapore, or Bangalore, where availability of resilient water supply and synergies within global city regions are key competitive factors.

Please also refer to section 4.2.5, where planning and balance in regional development also relate to Economic Development.

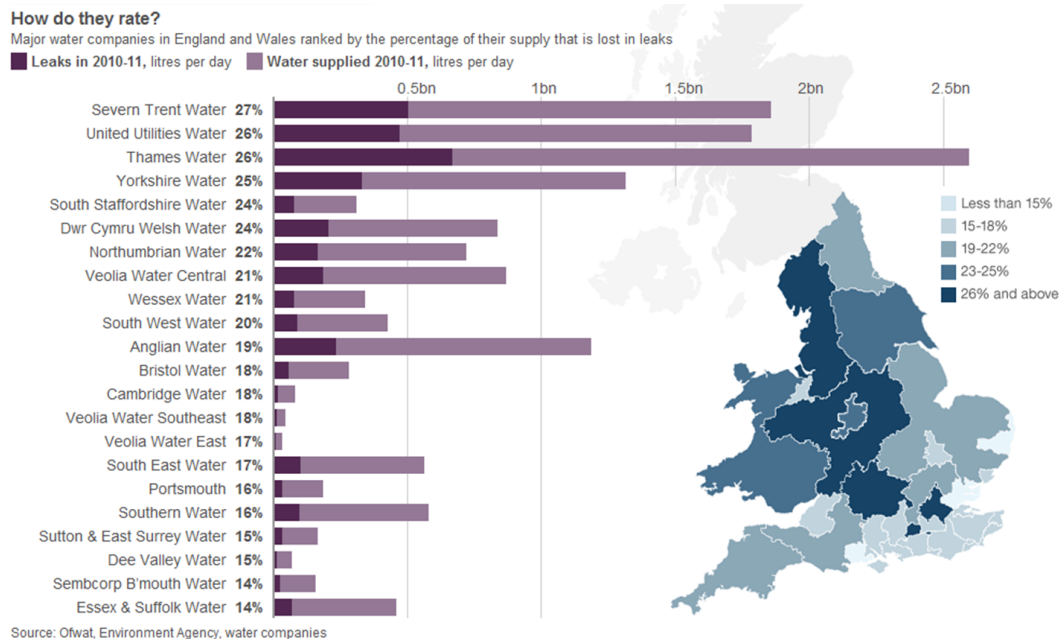
4.5 Water Conservation

4.5.1 Leakage

Water leakage is a national problem, it affects all of us. It is an inheritance of 100 years of underinvestment, and Irish Water is taking a national approach to tackling it. Guaranteeing a reliable, safe water supply in the Eastern and Midlands Region will involve a combination of water conservation, leakage reduction and new source development.

Dublin has made significant progress on leakage reduction in recent years. Over the past decade leakage levels in the Greater Dublin Region have fallen from more than 40% in the late 1990s to 33% currently, a level which is below the national average. It is intended to lower this level further to 25% by 2026 and to 20% by 2041. This level of leakage reduction over such a short timeframe is very ambitious in technical terms and would require a significant level of asset replacement and funding. It took in excess of two decades for leakage levels in the UK to be reduced by one third, and the 2012 position in the major UK water utilities is illustrated in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: Leakage Levels in England and Wales



It should be noted that finding and repairing leaks is very expensive with ever lower leakage reductions being achieved (for the same expenditure) over time as the situation improves. Evidence from watermain rehabilitation and household-side leakage work over the past decade in Dublin suggests that recovery of 1 Mld costs in the order of €0.75m on household leakage and €7m-8m for watermain network leakage. Pressure management, Find and Fix activities, and watermain rehabilitation work become progressively more expensive, as leakage levels are reduced.

It is Irish Water's intention to achieve the earliest affordable reductions in leakage nationally.

Further to this, it must also be remembered that the objectives of the WSP project are twofold; not only to meet water demand, but also to increase the resilience of the water supply system and its sources (the ability of Ireland to attract FDI is dependent on sustainable availability of sufficient water combined with the resilience of that water availability). Planning for a resilient water supply must take place, independently of any progress on water conservation or on success in reducing leakage, because loss of a key water source through pollution, or loss of a treatment plant element, or key aqueduct, remains a separate risk to be managed, even as the drive to minimise water demand continues.

Irish Water is committed to moving from a relatively passive leakage control status to a proactive approach with the long-term objective of ultimately reducing public and customer side leakage nationally to a sustainable economic level of leakage (SELL). This, as one comprehensive submission indicates, is the level of leakage at which it would cost more, in both capital and in social disruption, to make further reductions in leakage than to produce the water from another source. It is the same customer who pays for the combined effort to save water and supply it from a new source, and neither part of that combination can be permitted to grow disproportionately, when a key Irish Water objective is affordability for the customer.

Irish Water is currently working to determine the sustainable economic level of leakage for the Dublin Water Supply Area, which will be publicly available when determined. The drive to control leakage nationally is part of the Water Services Strategic Plan, the specific targets for the Water Supply Project are set out in Section 8 of the Water Demand Review in the PNR. The savings from leakage reduction are already factored into water demand projections. The availability of a new source will not diminish the drive to curtail leakage.

4.5.2 Other Water Conservation Initiatives

Irish Water already encourage water conservation through their “Be Water Smart” initiative, covering guidance on minimisation of usage in the kitchen, in the bathroom and in the garden, on domestic water.

The Water Services Strategic Plan, covering a 25 years planning period, published in draft at February 2015, includes an objective to prepare and implement Regional Water Conservation Strategies to drive conservation efforts against measureable targets within the lifetime of the Strategic Plan.

That work will be implemented in a continuous programme over a number of investment cycles. The water conservation and leakage targets in the Project Need Report, for the Water Supply Project, are consistent with those objectives, and savings in per capita consumption have been included in water demand forecasting.

Apart from conservation measures in existing dwellings, Irish Water will work with national standards authorities and housing stakeholders to improve the inclusion of dual plumbing systems in new build housing stock, which effectively promotes rainwater harvesting, in a manner which is safe for public health.

Irish Water already actively engages with large industrial users on water conservation initiatives. The Project Need Report has researched international trends in the intensity of industrial water usage, and has already factored improved efficiency in industrial water usage into water demand projections.

4.6 Communities

The abstraction of water cannot adversely impact on the Shannon catchment or be at the expense of any other community. Many communities along the Shannon already abstract water and return it as treated wastewater with little impact on the flows in the river. A new abstraction must also be sustainable from an environmental, economic and socio-economic perspective in the short, medium and long term, otherwise it cannot be implemented. These pre-conditions must be satisfied before the project could receive planning approval or be allowed to commence.

4.6.1 Benefiting Corridor

The Benefiting Corridor between a new water source and a Terminal Reservoir near Dublin, will depend on, and will be defined by, that source.

For the purpose of establishing the maximum possible supply requirement, a Benefiting Corridor from the west of the Dublin Water Supply Area covering an adjoining area of the Midlands as far west as the Shannon was examined.

It was recognised that all other alternative spatial configurations and technical options would be likely to serve smaller areas and smaller populations – accordingly this ‘maximum area scenario’ is the basis for examination – in accordance with best practice for impact assessment purposes. However, discussion of a Benefiting Corridor in the PNR is without prejudice to any eventual preferred water supply option.

The PNR estimates that, of the 314 Mld overall treated water requirement, 99 Mld, or 32%, would be required in the Benefiting Corridor. The provision of adequate water supplies to Midlands communities is as much a priority for Irish Water, as it is for every region in the State, and the sharing of resilient, reliable water supplies in the Benefiting Corridor and upgrading of many existing supplies is an important part of this project.

There are some minor differences in estimation of the non-domestic water requirement, between the independent Economist and water engineers, as is to be expected from independent approaches through econometric modelling and more traditional water engineering approaches.

The Economists’ Report documents that the available water supply from existing water supply sources is netted off in their calculation. There is some divergence between the independent Economist and the water engineers on accounting for the existing water sources in the Benefiting Corridor. Irish Water would favour the consolidation of these sources into a resilient supply, to a common service standard, from a nationally linked water network, and the Economist acknowledges that Irish Water must take a prudent view on this question. They comment that:-

“Some or all of these small existing supplies may need to be replaced in order to ensure that the water supply needs of parts of Tipperary, Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Meath are met. To the extent to which these existing small supply options are not adequate the deficit may be larger than indicated. In this context we note that any investment which Irish Water would need to incur to upgrade existing supplies in the benefiting corridor which would remain dependent on inadequate hydrological yield could be avoided by connecting to a water spine drawing from a quality assured

source would represent an important advantage for the benefiting corridor. This supports the merit of utilising our higher demand estimates for abstraction planning purposes.”

Benefitting corridor demand and source consolidation:

Figure 6A of the PNR (this Figure represents all the Water treatment plants of Ireland) shows how Ireland, which has 856 water treatment plants, serving 4.56m people, compares to less than 50 in Northern Ireland, serving 1.8m people, and 297 in Scotland, serving 5.2m people. Our dispersed, isolated sources and treatment centres are a legacy of planning at county level, and consolidation to achieve consistently high standards and benefits of scale is now needed.

Irish Water would aim to consolidate existing smaller water sources, of unreliable yield, or elevated vulnerability to pollution, or low linkage and resilience, to achieve nationally uniform standards of service from consolidated, efficient water treatment plants and resilient distribution systems. From an environmental perspective, this project has the potential to indirectly benefit existing Midland water bodies such as Lough Owel, which are coming under increasing pressure from abstractions for local use. In those circumstances, capacity of existing inadequate sources should not be taken into account, where the intention is to retire them.

In Midlands communities, the issues of reliable water supply and adequacy of wastewater treatment with discharge into small receiving waters are linked issues. Irish Water can ensure that both sides of the “water in-water out” balance are collectively managed. IDA, in consultations, placed particular importance on this capability in allowing them to promote Midlands centres for water using industry.

4.7 Water Demand

4.7.1 Water Demand Projections

Domestic water consumption has been developed, firstly by a rigorous review of population projections, and secondly by abstracting the most up to date information on per capita consumption, from domestic metering validation data gathered in 2014.

Water consumption for business and industry has been projected in two independent ways (in the ‘Project Need Report’), using Independent Economist Indecon’s econometric modelling, sector by sector, in the Irish economy and also using more traditional methods by water engineers. Developing existing sources to their sustainable maximum yield has been factored into the projections. Ambitious targets for leakage control have been adopted, and a very conservative approach to demand overall, which would be expected of Irish Water, means that the requirement is now estimated at 330 Mld by 2050, compared to the previous 350 Mld at 2040.

For the first time in Ireland, non-domestic water requirements have been estimated by the Economist, using a sectoral analysis of how businesses and industry use water, linked to econometric projections of how each sector will grow (grounded in ESRI work). Their approach is consistent with best practice internationally, and is reflected in guidelines by the UK Water Industry Research (1997), and the UK Water

Resource Planning Guidelines (2012)³. International trends in declining intensity of water use have been acknowledged, and the alignment of the Economist on the issue of the strategic industrial provision is outlined on p56-57 of the Economist Report (PNR Appendix B - Economic Needs Report).

Confidential discussions with IDA would indicate that over 50% of this 'strategic provision' is already accounted for within the next 10 years.

4.7.2 Peak and Headroom

The peaking allowance has both a raw water and a treated water aspect to it.

The sustainable raw water yield of the existing sources, and particularly the Liffey, has been determined based on average demand over the year. A seasonal variation in water demand profile is an additional burden on impounded raw water storage and must be provided for, particularly where both Leixlip WTP and Ballymore Eustace WTP are already collectively sized at the 533 Mld historic yield based on average demand.

The peaking allowance of 20% is in line with international norms for a supply area of this size, and is used to define a Peak Week demand across the Eastern and Midlands Region in the year, but it is not applied to leakage, or to the strategic industrial water. This factor also covers the circumstance where a strategic reservoir, or a section of pipeline, must be refilled as quickly as possible, after being drawn down, in usage, or for maintenance.

On headroom, the main water treatment plants serving the Dublin Water Supply area have been operating close to peak capacity, continuously, over the past number of years. The lack of headroom which this represents has made supplies vulnerable to disproportionate interruption from events which would be manageable in a system with adequate headroom. The lack of headroom has also not permitted the normal treatment and conveyance margins to take down a treatment stream for maintenance, or to inspect key aqueducts or reservoirs.

At present, the Water Services Strategic Plan (Feb 2015), at Objective [WS2e] *Manage future regulatory requirements for abstraction licencing, headroom in treatment facilities and population growth*, has the following statement:-

"Where the scale and economic impact of supply failure is high, or the consequences to vulnerable customers would be significant, we believe that the available headroom should be at the upper end of this range, 20% over current daily need in large urban areas, 15% in regional gateway towns and 10% elsewhere."

The headroom provision covers uncertainty in different elements of the balance of supply and demand, and it also covers a provision for potential gradual erosion in the sustainable yield of the existing sources due to climate change over the coming decades.

4.8 Environment

There were a number of submissions that referenced the environmental concerns. A majority of these were specifically based around any potential Shannon options. It is important to note, that this consultation phase was focussed on the need for the

³ Page 6 Economist Report

Project and the Project Road Map, and was not at the stage of options being considered. However, we have noted the issues raised here for completeness, and they will be responded to in the report as far as possible at this early stage of the process.

The environmental concerns of people in the River Shannon area are of the utmost importance to Irish Water. The WSP project must be delivered in an environmentally sensitive manner if it is to meet its core objective of developing a new sustainable water source for the Eastern and Midlands Region. A successful outcome to its planning application is dependent on being able to demonstrate full environmental compliance across all aspects of the proposed scheme.

The abstraction of water cannot adversely impact on the Shannon catchment or be at the expense of any other community. Many communities along the Shannon already abstract water and return it as treated wastewater with little impact on the flows in the river. A new abstraction must also be sustainable from an environmental, economic and socio-economic perspective in the short, medium and long term, otherwise it cannot be implemented. These pre-conditions must be satisfied before the project could receive planning approval or be allowed to commence.

Similarly, abstraction from the Shannon could not be proposed if it adversely impacted on the Shannon catchment's aquatic or terrestrial ecology. Extensive environmental investigations will be carried out in relation to potential impacts of the proposed developments on aquatic and terrestrial ecology.

As part of Irish Water's commitment to taking into consideration the environmental concerns, we have commissioned one of the largest water quality surveys ever carried out in the State. These surveys will be used to build and calibrate a computer model of Lough Derg and Parteen Basin, which will be an important management tool in protecting the water quality in the Lough. The model will enable environmental scientists and others to assess the environmental significance of any impacts. Potential impacts on fisheries are also being assessed and the scoping of these assessments has been agreed with the relevant fisheries bodies. That model will be used to help define the best options in terms of abstraction location, pumping, treatment and pipeline siting, in the event that a Shannon option emerges as preferred. In addition, all sites for different infrastructural elements of the project will be selected using a technique known as constraint mapping which ensures least infrastructure impact from the very outset, by good positioning to avoid known constraints. These constraints are being consulted upon in the Options Working Paper which will be published on June 9th.

Any project which fails to fully take into account the requirements of Irish and European environmental legislation and legitimate environmental concerns of the Shannon catchment population and businesses would be compromised and would not be successful in seeking planning permission from An Bord Pleanála.

Irish Water acknowledges the importance of maintaining biodiversity in planning infrastructural projects. The environmental risks associated with invasive species are also very important, and is acknowledged as a Key Challenge in the draft Water Services Strategic Plan, published in February 2015. We are consulting closely with environmental stakeholders and specialists working in this area, protocols against spreading these species are in place for survey work, and propagation risks will be taken into account in options appraisal later in the project planning process.

4.8.1 Water Framework Directive

The Water Services Strategic Plan, covering a 25 years planning period, published in draft at February 2015, includes a strategic aim to operate Irish Water infrastructure in a manner that supports the achievement of water body objectives under the Water Framework Directive.

It also includes an Objective to develop a Wastewater Compliance Strategy which will focus on ensuring that wastewater treatment is provided where and when it is required. It will further ensure that Irish Waters' treatment plants achieve compliance with the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and support the achievement of the quality objectives of the Water Framework Directive on a prioritised phased basis.

Objective WS2b in the draft Water Services Strategic Plan commits to managing existing water resources and planning for new resources, taking a regional view of needs and having regard to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This is vital to ensure long term sustainability of yields is considered in the management of existing and new water sources to meet predicted needs, while being aligned with the requirements of the WFD.

Sustainable intercatchment water transfers for water supply purposes are well established practice throughout Europe.

4.8.2 Climate Change

Irish Water acknowledges the views expressed on Climate Change, and the value of sustainable water supplies in Ireland when water stress is growing throughout the world.

Section 6.2 of the Project Need Report sets out the approach being taken to it, in the Water Supply Project. We are consulting closely with stakeholders who are specialists in this area, and the Headroom provisions in water demand projection include a provision for erosion in yield of existing water supply sources.

Irish Water will continue to take climate change into account, and will plan strategic infrastructural adaptations to manage the risks associated with it.

4.9 Tourism and Amenity

The importance of tourism in the Lough Derg area is absolutely recognised, and has been emphasized by many in stakeholder consultations to date.

Irish Water would propose to address this at its most fundamental level, through designing any option which might be based on the lower Shannon, to operate within the same water level range as currently applies on Lough Derg and in Parteen Basin, by agreement with ESB.

Irish Water also favours the transparent availability of real time data on water levels and flow rates at any abstraction point, so that any concerns in this area can be allayed. Any abstraction option in the lower Shannon would be designed to

harmonise with tourism development plans for the region, which Irish Water would wish to support.

The water demands of the Tourism sector in the Eastern and Midlands region have been included in the projected requirement and are detailed in Section 6.2.1 of the Water Demand Review.

With respect to any engineered storage of large volumes of raw water, it is important to keep in mind, and it is necessary to establish, that such facilities can meet their primary water supply objectives, that they can be properly sited with respect to engineering and environmental risks, and that they are an effective component part of a sustainable option. These design priorities will be investigated, for any option involving raw water storage, in options appraisal in the later stages of the project planning process.

4.10 Options

There were a number of submissions that were specifically concerned with potential options being examined and alternative options that could be considered. It is important to note, that this consultation phase was focussed on the need for the Project and the Project Road Map, and was not at the stage of options being considered. However, we have noted the issues raised here for completeness, and they will be responded to in the report as far as possible at this early stage of the process.

4.10.1 Desalination

Desalination will be considered in Options appraisal. Experience of its' inclusion within a range of water sources will be examined, and the most recent experience of desalination of brackish estuarine waters will be included in that review.

4.10.2 Groundwater

Groundwater will be considered in Options appraisal, and previous work on groundwater will be reviewed, in the context of experience and legal developments in this area. Submissions received on specific groundwater proposals at this Project Need stage, will be carried forward and treated as submissions on groundwater to be addressed in responding on the Options Working Paper in due course.

Irish Water acknowledges the desirability of research and of bedrock modelling development, which would help to more reliably predict impacts of large scale wellfield developments, on adjoining water bodies, and on ecosystems which are dependent upon groundwater.

4.10.3 Alternatives

Irish Water will include in options appraisal, the outcome of work carried out to maximise the yield of existing Liffey sources, including optimising the operation of the existing Poulaphuca impoundment alongside a new source, with due regard to associated flood management and Water Framework Directive requirements.

The scale of Poulaphuca, which stores many millions of cubic metres of water, is indicative of the scale of any reservoir which would be required to manage an

additional water demand of the order of 50% of the current water demand in the Dublin Water Supply Area.

Recovery of brackish water in an estuarine environment will be reviewed in the context of desalination options generally.

Submissions received on effluent re-use will be taken forward and examined with submissions on the Options Working Paper overall.

4.11 Other

4.11.1 Innovation and development

Irish Water continuously reviews its own supply chain for goods and services, with a view toward improvement and innovation, and has resources dedicated to innovation in development of new processes, procedures and technologies.

Irish Water will work with state agencies promoting water services supply and contracting capability at home and overseas, to support the development of Irish industry and services in the water sector, with due regard to its responsibilities under EU and domestic public procurement law.

5

Next Steps

The issues / themes raised during the PNR and Road Map consultation will be further reviewed by the project team as data becomes available from other follow-on consultations and will be considered as part of the wider development of the project prior to the preparation of a Planning Application. As shown in the project Road Map (Figure 1.1 in Section 1), there are a series of Consultations that will take place which aim to elicit views from Stakeholders and interested parties at each stage in the Project. The next stage of the project will concentrate on the Options Working Paper. This consultation stage will aim to elicit views and comments on the **constraints** which should be taken into account in positioning water supply infrastructure for each option (e.g. pipelines, water treatment plants etc) and the **assessment criteria** which will be used to evaluate water supply options relative to each other.

Appendix A Advertisement

Public Consultation on Water Supply **For East and Midlands of Ireland**

Irish Water invites you to have your say

On 10th March Irish Water has published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015–2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.

Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation period on the contents and findings of its Project Need Report concluding on 5th May 2015 and we want to hear from you. Any individuals or groups wishing to provide feedback are invited to do so by post or by e-mail to the addresses below.

The Project Need Report is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

Submissions to the consultation process can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 5th May 2015.



If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

Appendix B Press Release

Media

National Print

The Irish Times
Irish Independent
Irish Examiner
Irish Daily Mail
Irish Star
Irish Sun
Irish Mirror
Herald
Sunday Times
Sunday Business Post
Sunday Independent
Sunday World
Star on Sunday
Irish Sunday Mirror
Irish Mail on Sunday

Online

Thejournal.ie
Breakingnews.ie
Businessandleadership.ie
Businessworld.ie

National Broadcast

RTE News
RTE Morning Ireland
RTE Drivetime
RTE Today with Sean O' Rourke
Today FM News
Newstalk News
Newstalk Breakfast
Today FM The Last Word

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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Clare People | Drogheda Leader |
| Clare Champion | Dundalk Democrat |
| Citywide News | Meath Chronicle |
| Dublin People newspapers | Meath Topic |
| Gazette group | Midland Tribune |
| Kildare Nationalist | Offaly Independent |
| Kildare Post | Offaly Topic |
| Kildare Times | Tullamore Tribune |
| Liffey Champion | Nationalist |
| Laois Nationalist | Nenagh Guardian |
| Leinster Express | South Tipp Today |
| Limerick Leader | Tipperary Star |
| Limerick Post | Wicklow People |

Argus
Drogheda Independent

Wicklow Times
Wicklow Voice

Regional radio current affairs shows

Clare FM: Morning Focus

KFM: Kildare Today

Limerick's Live 95FM: Limerick Today

LMFM: The Michael Reade Show

Tipp FM: Tipp Today

East Coast FM: The Morning Show

Press Release

Irish Water publishes the “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP)

An eight week consultation process now follows to discuss the report’s findings with stakeholders.

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region. This finding is based around six key issues:

- Ireland has failed to adequately invest in its major water supply infrastructure for over half a century.
- The need for comprehensive action to be taken to address future water supply needs, both in Dublin and its surrounding region, has long been recognised since the mid-1990s
- Essential water savings from conservation programmes and leakage reductions will not deliver the quantities of water needed to meet future requirements
- Ireland’s economic future is heavily dependent on a resilient, adequate and sustainable water supply
- Not fully implementing the proposed Water Supply Project carries a very high risk of increasing outage disruptions, shortages and ultimately water rationing
- Water shortages can result in high disruption costs for businesses and domestic water users – recent outages in Dublin (2010-2014) typically cost the Irish economy in excess of €78m per day

Independent research

Irish Water’s ‘Project Need Report’ is supported and informed by three independent specialist studies;

- (a) Demographic Report
- (b) Economist Report

(c) Water Demand Review

These independent specialist studies provide population projections, sourced from Central Statistics Office data, on different scenarios related to forecast economic growth, fertility and migration. They examine each component of water demand, including per capita consumption, domestic demand, non-domestic demand, operational use and both the household-side and network-side leakage. Non-domestic demand, which is water used in business and industry, is analysed and growth is projected by sector. Trends on reducing per capita consumption and reducing intensity of industrial water use are incorporated in projections.

The Report concludes that, even after fully using the available water supply from the existing sources, and even with a parallel drive on water conservation and leakage control, there will still be significant additional water required. It is expected that 215 million litres per day* in excess of existing capacity will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin Region alone. This figure rises to 330 million litres per day when the surrounding region is included. Improvements to and maintenance of the existing water supply system, will not meet that level of need. A new source must be developed and utilised.

*1 million litres is approximately equal to a 50m swimming pool

Public Consultation

Following today's publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process. It will begin today 10 March 2015 and conclude on 05 May 2015.

The consultation process will cover:

- The 'Need' for the Water Supply Project (Eastern / Midlands Region) – outlined in the 'Project Need Report'
- The proposed 'Roadmap' for the next steps in the WSP planning process which outlines how a preferred new supply option would be selected and the public consultation milestones involved in that process.

Feedback for the consultation process will be obtained through a combination of stakeholder meetings and an invitation for all interested parties to contribute either by email to **watersupply@water.ie** or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

The Project Need Report (and Roadmap) is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie. Further information can also be made available by calling 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

It is intended that, having taken into account feedback from the consultation process a preferred option for meeting the water supply needs of the region will be agreed and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017

Ends

Notes to Editor:

Project Background

Irish Water have a statutory responsibility to meet ‘all reasonable demands for water, both current and foreseeable’, and are required to address in its strategic planning, ‘existing and reasonably foreseeable deficiencies in the provision of water services’

In January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision of public water services from 34 local authorities. This included the transfer of responsibility for the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP) from Dublin City Council who have managed the project on behalf of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government since 2004.

When responsibility for the project was with Dublin City Council, the project was known as the Water Supply Project – Dublin Region. However, the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water has opened a unique opportunity to take a strategic view of providing water services at a national level and as a result the project has now been considered with respect to one of the three regions within which Irish Water operates. Therefore the project is now known as the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region.

Irish Water is regulated by both the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) for economic matters and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for environmental matters.

Appendix C Letter Template to Librarians and Planning Counters



Jacobs Engineering Ireland Limited
Merrion House
Merrion Road
Dublin 4
Ireland
Telephone: +353 1 269 5666
Fax: +353 1 269 5497

Ref: Irish Water, Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region, Project Need Report

Dear Librarian,

As you are aware from recent media reports, Irish Water published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. Following publication of the Project Need Report (enclosed), Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process concluding on 05 May 2015. A copy has also been sent to your Planning Counter and Chief Executive. We would appreciate any assistance you may be able to provide in ensuring that the report and roadmap are adequately displayed in your library. They will also be available at other County Libraries and Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848

Regards

Michael Garrick
Project Manager

A Subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.
Directors: D. Hannon, L. Power, B. Pragada (US), B. Duff (UK)
Registered in Ireland No.: 111945. Registered Office: Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4



Jacobs Engineering Ireland Limited
Merrion House
Merrion Road
Dublin 4
Ireland
Telephone: +353 1 289 5888
Fax: +353 1 289 5497

Ref: Irish Water, Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region, Project Need Report

Dear

As you are aware from a recent email, Irish Water published a report recently which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country.

Following publication of the Project Need Report (enclosed) Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process concluding on 05 May 2015. A copy has also been sent to your County Library and Chief Executive. We would appreciate any assistance you may be able to provide in ensuring that the report and roadmap are adequately displayed at your planning counter. They will also be available at other County Libraries and Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848

Regards

Mick Garrick
Project Manager

A Subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.
Directors: D. Hannon, L. Power, B. Pragada (US), B. Duff (UK)
Registered in Ireland No.: 111945 Registered Office: Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4

Appendix D Email to Minister, Senators, TD's and Councillors

Dear Minister «Lastname»

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.

Public Consultation

Following today's publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process. It will begin today 10 March 2015 and conclude on 05 May 2015.

You will have previously received my invitation on Thursday last, 05th March 2015, to a specific briefing for TDs and Senators today, Tuesday 10th March 2015, in Buswells Hotel and I would like to reiterate that invitation. This briefing will enable us to update you about the Water Supply Project and Roadmap and answer any questions that you may have about the report or the project.

If this is not convenient to you, we would still appreciate hearing your opinion on the following;

1. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
2. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
3. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need, is presented as part of this consultation.

The Project Need Report (and Roadmap) is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

Submissions to the consultation process can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. **Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 5th May 2015.**

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

Regards

Gerry Geoghegan

Project Manager

Irish Water publishes the “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP)

Dear Senator «Lastname»

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region.

Public Consultation

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You will have previously received my invitation on Thursday last, 05th March 2015, to a specific briefing for TDs and Senators today, Tuesday 10th March 2015, in Buswells Hotel and I would like to reiterate that invitation. This briefing will enable us to update you about the Water Supply Project and Roadmap and answer any questions that you may have about the report or the project.

If this is not convenient to you, we would still appreciate hearing your opinion on the following;

4. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
5. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
6. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need, is presented as part of this consultation.

The Project Need Report (and Roadmap) is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

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If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

Regards

Gerry Geoghegan

Project Manager

Irish Water publishes the “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP)

Dear Deputy «Lastname»

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region.

Public Consultation

Following today’s publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process. It will begin today 10 March 2015 and conclude on 05 May 2015.

You will have previously received my invitation on Thursday last, 05th March 2015, to a specific briefing for TDs and Senators today, Tuesday 10th March 2015, in Buswells Hotel and I would like to reiterate that invitation. This briefing will enable us to update you about the Water Supply Project and Roadmap and answer any questions that you may have about the report or the project.

If this is not convenient to you, we would still appreciate hearing your opinion on the following;

1. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
2. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
3. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need, is presented as part of this consultation.

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Submissions to the consultation process can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. **Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 5th May 2015.**

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

Regards

Gerry Geoghegan

Project Manager

Irish Water publishes the “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP)

Dear Councillor «Lastname»

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region.

Public Consultation

Following today’s publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process. It will begin today 10 March 2015 and conclude on 05 May 2015.

We would like to hear your opinion on the following;

1. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
2. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
3. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need, is presented as part of this consultation.

The Project Need Report (and Roadmap) is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

Submissions to the consultation process can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. **Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 5th May 2015.**

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

Regards

Gerry Geoghegan

Project Manager

Appendix E Email Invitation to a Face-to-Face Briefing

Irish Water publishes the “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP)

Irish Water has today published a report which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands Region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region. The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region.

Public Consultation

Following today’s publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week consultation process. It will begin today 10 March 2015 and conclude on 05 May 2015.

On behalf of Irish Water I would like to offer you a briefing about the Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region, Project Need Report, at your convenience over the coming weeks. Such a briefing will enable us to update you about the Water Supply Project and Roadmap and answer any questions that you may have about the report or the project. If you are interested in such a briefing, please contact the project phone line at 1890 252 848.

If this is not convenient to you, we would still appreciate hearing your opinion on the following;

1. Has the Project Team considered all issues related to need? Have all factors been considered?
2. Would you like to be kept informed of project updates and if so would you be happy to be added to our database and to receive regular project updates?
3. The Roadmap we propose to follow in bringing forward a solution to meet the need is presented as part of this consultation.

The Project Need Report (and Roadmap) is available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie.

Submissions to the consultation process can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. **Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 5th May 2015.**

If you require any further information please call us on 1890 252 848.

All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later in Q2, 2015.

Regards

Gerry Geoghegan

Project Manager

Appendix F Online Media

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|------------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 10/03/2015 00:07:47 | <p>A NEW REPORT from Irish Water concludes that another 215 million litres worth of water in excess of current capacity will be needed by 2050, to meet demand.</p> <p>It's a conservative estimate, the semi-state contends.</p> <p>"The Report concludes that, even after fully using the available water supply from the existing sources, and even with a parallel drive on water conservation and leakage control, there will still be significant additional water required," a statement said.</p> <p>(There's around a million litres of water in your average 50 metre swimming pool).</p> <p>The beleaguered semi-state's 'Need Report' for the proposed new project is being published online this morning.</p> <p>"The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050," the utility maintains.</p> <p>It concludes that a new water supply source is needed for the Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>"Improvements to and maintenance of the existing water supply system" will not meet the level of predicted need set out in the report, Irish Water says.</p> <p>Irish Water took over responsibility for the project (which has planned since 2004) from Dublin City Council at the start of last year.</p> <p>An eight-week public consultation process will now get under way. Details on how to give feedback are available to view at the utility's website.</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|------------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 10/03/2015 02:30:00 | <p>HOMEOWNERS and businesses in Dublin, the east and the midlands face the prospect of water rationing unless a new source of drinking water is found. Irish Water says even if domestic consumption falls and leakage rates are addressed, there will still not be enough water produced to cater for population growth and economic development. A report to be published today says there is a "pressing need" for a new additional supply of some 330 million litres by 2050. About 1.6 billion litres a day is currently produced.</p> <p>Options include taking water from the River Shannon, and storing it in a reservoir to be built in the midlands, or constructing desalination plants in north Dublin.</p> <p>Irish Water wants to seek planning permission for the new source by 2017, with a view to work commencing by 2021. This is to provide "support" to the existing sources, and provide some spare capacity.</p> <p>Demand is expected to grow by 50pc by 2050, and the existing infrastructure - much of which was built more than 100 years ago - is not capable of delivering extra capacity, the 'Needs Report' says.</p> <p>"Not fully implementing the proposed water supply project carries a very high risk of increasing outage disruptions, shortages and ultimately water rationing," it warns.</p> <p>It adds that the economic cost of outages - as have occurred in Dublin in recent years - is some €78m per day.</p> <p>The report is based on three specialist studies including a demographics study, which looks at projected population growth; another on water demand and a third economist's report.</p> <p>Dublin and the eastern region currently draw about 623 million litres of water a day, most from the River Liffey, and most of which is treated in Ballymore Eustace (310 million litres a day) and Leixlip (215 million litres). It is believed an additional 215 million litres a day is needed by 2050 to serve the capital, and another 115 million litres per day for the east and midlands.</p> <p>The report concludes that even if the available supply was fully used, if domestic consumption falls and if leakage is tackled, there will still be a shortfall.</p> <p>It says the population of Dublin is expected to rise from 1.5 million at present, to 2.15 million by 2050. The number living in the midlands is expected to</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|-----------|--|------|------------|
| | <p>increase from 530,000 to 680,000 in the same period. Other counties which would benefit from the delivery of a new supply include Tipperary, Offaly, Westmeath, Laois, Meath and Louth. An economic analysis from Indecon says that several industries are heavy users of water - they include pharmaceutical plants, manufacturers of computer chips and IT. They require a "reliable, sustainable and high quality" supply, the report notes, and there are "very significant negative employment impacts if adequate water supply is not available". "Given the continuing high unemployment rate in Ireland, this consequence should not be underestimated," it adds. The need for a new supply was first identified almost 20 years ago.</p> | | |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|------------------------|--|----------|---------------|
| 10/03/2015 02:30:00 | <p>Dublin faces water rationing unless new supply is found Irish Independent</p> <p>HOMEOWNERS and businesses in Dublin, the east and the midlands face the prospect of water rationing unless a new source of drinking water is found. Irish Water says even if domestic consumption falls and leakage rates are addressed, there will still not be enough water produced to cater for population growth and economic development.</p> <p>A report to be published today says there is a "pressing need" for a new additional supply of some 330 million litres by 2050. About 1.6 billion litres a day is currently produced.</p> <p>Options include taking water from the River Shannon, and storing it in a reservoir to be built in the midlands, or constructing desalination plants in north Dublin.</p> <p>Irish Water wants to seek planning permission for the new source by 2017, with a view to work commencing by 2021. This is to provide "support" to the existing sources, and provide some spare capacity.</p> <p>Demand is expected to grow by 50pc by 2050, and the existing infrastructure - much of which was built more than 100 years ago - is not capable of delivering extra capacity, the 'Needs Report' says.</p> <p>"Not fully implementing the proposed water supply project carries a very high risk of increasing outage disruptions, shortages and ultimately water rationing," it warns.</p> <p>It adds that the economic cost of outages - as have occurred in Dublin in recent years - is some €78m per day.</p> <p>The report is based on three specialist studies including a demographics study, which looks at projected population growth; another on water demand and a third economist's report.</p> <p>Dublin and the eastern region currently draw about 623 million litres of water a day, most from the River Liffey, and most of which is treated in Ballymore Eustace (310 million litres a day) and Leixlip (215 million litres). It is believed an additional 215 million litres a day is needed by 2050 to serve the capital, and another 115 million litres per day for the east and midlands.</p> <p>The report concludes that even if the available supply was fully used, if domestic consumption falls and if leakage is tackled, there will still be a shortfall.</p> | Councils | Generic Blogs |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|-----------|--|------|------------|
| | <p>It says the population of Dublin is expected to rise from 1.5 million at present, to 2.15 million by 2050. The number living in the midlands is expected to increase from 530,000 to 680,000 in the same period.</p> <p>Other counties which would benefit from the delivery of a new supply include Tipperary, Offaly, Westmeath, Laois, Meath and Louth.</p> <p>An economic analysis from Indecon says that several industries are heavy users of water - they include pharmaceutical plants, manufacturers of computer chips and IT.</p> <p>They require a "reliable, sustainable and high quality" supply, the report notes, and there are "very significant negative employment impacts if adequate water supply is not available".</p> <p>"Given the continuing high unemployment rate in Ireland, this consequence should not be underestimated," it adds. The need for a new supply was first identified almost 20 years ago. Follow us Popular Today Quotes to get you motivated for exams The Six Top Growth Industries in Ireland today Out in UL win Best LGBT Student Society at the GALAS Bressie, an anxiety ambassador? The Water Cooler: 5 stories you NEED to know this week Popular this week Quotes to get you motivated for exams The Six Top Growth Industries in Ireland today Out in UL win Best LGBT Student Society at the GALAS Bressie, an anxiety ambassador? The Water Cooler: 5 stories you NEED to know this week</p> | | |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|------------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 10/03/2015 06:01:45 | <p>A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day.</p> <p>Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century.</p> <p>The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements.</p> <p>It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required.</p> <p>215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone.</p> <p>A new source must be developed and utilised.</p> <p>Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year.</p> <p>It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <p>10/03/2015 06:01:45</p> | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|------------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 10/03/2015 06:01:45 | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin By Laois Nationalist Reporter, - Email Journalist - Contact Newsdesk: +353 57 86 70216 A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <p>10/03/2015 06:01:45</p> | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin By Western People, - Tweet: @westernpeople - Email Journalist - Contact Newsdesk: +353 96 60900 A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process – and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
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| 10/03/2015 06:21:50 | <p>A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day.</p> <p>Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century.</p> <p>The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements.</p> <p>It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required.</p> <p>215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone.</p> <p>A new source must be developed and utilised.</p> <p>Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year.</p> <p>It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

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| <p>10/03/2015 06:29:42</p> | <p>A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day.</p> <p>Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century.</p> <p>The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements.</p> <p>It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required.</p> <p>215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone.</p> <p>A new source must be developed and utilised.</p> <p>Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year.</p> <p>It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017. Filed under: Ireland</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| <p>10/03/2015 06:33:25</p> | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| <p>10/03/2015 06:37:59</p> | <p>Demand in Dublin to increase by 50% by 2050 A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water's published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by over 50% by 2050. Irish water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish water has now begun an 8 week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It's hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017. Please enable JavaScript to view the comments powered by Disqus.</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| 10/03/2015 06:38:45 | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin By WNS Reporter, Reporter - Tweet: @waterfordNS - Email Journalist - Contact Journalist: 051 874951 A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <p>10/03/2015 06:44:51</p> | <p>Irish Water report highlights need for new water source for Dublin A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region. Irish Water has published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by more than 50% by 2050. The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day. Irish Water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century. The report, which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements. It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required. 215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. A new source must be developed and utilised. Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year. It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| 10/03/2015 07:13:41 | <p>A new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>Irish Water's published a report warning that demand for water in Dublin alone is set to increase by over 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report points out recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy over seventy-eight million euro a day.</p> <p>Irish water's "Need Report" for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, found that Ireland failed to adequately invest in water supply infrastructure for over half a century.</p> <p>The report which draws on extensive independent expert research, points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won't be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements.</p> <p>It concludes that even after using the available water from existing sources, significant additional water will be required.</p> <p>215 million litres a day extra will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone.</p> <p>A new source must be developed and utilised.</p> <p>Irish water has now begun an 8 week consultation process - and all the issues will be taken on board in preparing an Options Working Paper, which will be published later this year.</p> <p>It's hoped a preferred option will be agreed, taking feedback into account, and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017.</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |
| 10/03/2015 09:19:07 | Irish Water Report Raises Fresh Fears Regarding Lough Derg Water Extraction http://t.co/CtY4HcZWOV #Ireland | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 10/03/2015 10:45:35 | No #IrishWater Irish Water Report Raises Fresh Fears Regarding Lough Derg Water Extraction: Irish Water is war... http://t.co/5JKFLcdile | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 10/03/2015 10:46:45 | RT @NoToIrishWaterg: No #IrishWater Irish Water Report Raises Fresh Fears Regarding Lough Derg Water Extraction: Irish Water is war... http... | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 10/03/2015 10:53:30 | NEWS: Irish Water Report Raises Fresh Fears Regarding Lough Derg Water Extraction http://t.co/JtJISN1sp2 | Community Groups | Twitter |

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| 10/03/2015 13:44:14 | <p>Demand for water in Dublin is due to increase by more than 50pc by 2050, a report published by Irish Water has warned.</p> <p>Separately, recent water outages in Dublin cost the Irish economy more than €78m a day, according Irish Water’s “Need Report” for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project.</p> <p>It found that an extra 215 million litres a day will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. The report points out that saving water from conservation programmes and leakage reductions, won’t be enough to deliver the quantities of water needed for future requirements.</p> <p>Irish Water has now begun an eight-week consultation process on where Dublin will get a water supply in the future.</p> <p>It is hoped a preferred option will be agreed and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval in 2017.</p> <p>Dublin Chamber of Commerce said that a new water supply for the Eastern and Midlands is essential.</p> <p>“Dublin Chamber has long called for the construction of the Garrynahinch reservoir near Portarlinton, which would allow for the water overflow from the Shannon to be stored and pumped to the east of the country,” the Chamber said.</p> <p>Aebhric McGibney, director of public and international affairs at Dublin Chamber said that the last report from the City Council outlined why a new source was needed and how it could be implemented.</p> <p>“Five years on and we’re still talking about plans and proposals, but we now urgently need action,” Mr McGibney added.</p> | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 11/03/2015 00:17:25 | <p>I will be talking with Seamus Martin on Tipp Fm just after 9 this am re recent Irish Water reports on Dublin's Water needs and my colleagues Pat Burke and Gerry Siney will be on Clare FM with John Cooke at 9.30</p> | Community Groups | Social Networks |

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| 11/03/2015 01:01:26 | <p>Dublin and the surrounding region will need enough extra water to fill 330 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day on top of its existing supply to meet demand by 2050, Irish Water has warned. The company yesterday published the findings of its Need Report for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project, which found that the expected demand for water in Dublin alone will increase by more than 50% in the next 35 years. The report states that water-conservation measures and repairs to the leakages across the water supply will not be enough to meet future requirements, and that failure to address the problem “carries a very high risk of increasing outage disruptions, shortages, and ultimately water rationing”. The report estimates that water outages in Dublin cost the economy €78m a day, and that based on the demographic, economic, and water demand projections, there is a need for a new water supply source. “Irish Water, in looking at the water requirements from a new source, takes a national perspective on its scale, on the time profile of the requirement, and on the potential beneficial contribution of a new source to the resilience of the collective sources serving the eastern and Midlands areas of Ireland,” the report states. “This is an opportunity to address the quality and reliability of water supplies and to equalise the access of communities in the Midlands and eastern areas to any opportunity dependent upon availability of adequate water supplies. It is therefore a nationally strategic project.” Irish Water says that it intends to submit plans for meeting the water supply needs of the region to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017, and the report examines the possibility of a ‘benefiting corridor’ which would serve the populations around a transfer pipeline from a new source, such as the Shannon, to Dublin. Dublin Chamber has expressed its concern that the report underestimates the future demand for water. “The new report estimates that the eastern and Midlands region will need around 800m litres of water by 2050. The previous 2010 report said we’d need the same amount by 2031,” said Aebhric McGibney, director of public and international affairs at Dublin Chamber. “Given the track record of underestimating population growth in the Dublin region, it is essential that potential upside is factored in to any plan for a new source,” he said. “Every day, about 98% of our total capacity is used up, while most European capitals use about 80%. This issue has been apparent for years, and yet nothing has</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

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| | <p>been done. In 2013, water shortages crippled the city, affecting hotels, restaurants, businesses, and consumers. These incidents harm our competitiveness and international reputation and they are only going to get more frequent as Dublin grows — unless action is taken now.” Irish Water says it will undertake an eight-week consultation process through a combination of stakeholder meetings and an invitation for all interested parties to make written contributions towards the utility’s plans for the future. The report forecasts that the population in the water supply area serving Dublin will rise from 1.52m people, as per Census 2011, to between 2.02m and 2.15m by 2050. © Irish Examiner Ltd. All rights reserved</p> | | |

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|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <p>11/03/2015 11:46:50</p> | <p>Irish Water is to begin an eight week consultation process following the publication of its 'Need Report' for the Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>The 'Need Report' for the proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project (WSP) identifies the need for a new water supply source for the regions. The report can be viewed online, at county libraries and planning offices.</p> <p>According to the report, projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050. This is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region.</p> <p>The report draws on extensive independent expert research and recommendations in relation to population projections and economic forecasting (2015-2050) and it concludes that a new water supply source is needed for Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region.</p> <p>The findings are based around a number of key issues including, the failure to invest in water infrastructure for over half a century, the high risk of increasing supply disruptions and the economic impact of water outages. The report found water outages in Dublin between 2010 and 2014 cost the Irish economy over €78 million a day.</p> <p>The report also acknowledges the fact that conservation measures and leak repairs will not adequately address the future projected shortfall.</p> <p>Irish Water's 'Project Need Report' is supported and informed by three independent specialist studies; a Demographic Report, an Economist Report and a Water Demand Review.</p> <p>These studies provide population projections, sourced from Central Statistics Office, on different scenarios related to forecast economic growth, fertility and migration. They examine each component of water demand, including per capita consumption, domestic demand, non-domestic demand, operational use and both the household-side and network-side leakage.</p> <p>Non-domestic demand, which is water used in business and industry, is analysed and growth is projected by sector. Trends on reducing per capita consumption and reducing intensity of industrial water use are incorporated in projections.</p> <p>The report concludes that, even after fully using the available water supply from the existing sources, and even with a parallel drive on water conservation</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| | <p>and leakage control, there will still be significant additional water required.</p> <p>It is expected that 215 million litres per day in excess of existing capacity will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin Region alone. This figure rises to 330 million litres per day when the surrounding region is included. Improvements to and maintenance of the existing water supply system, will not meet that level of need and a new source must be developed and utilised.</p> <p>Following today's publication of the Project Need Report, Irish Water is undertaking an eight week consultation process. It will begin on Tuesday, March 10 and conclude on May</p> | | |
| <p>12/03/2015 06:52:26</p> | <p>Irish Water has published a new report advising that Dublin's water supply needs to be increased by up to 330 million litres per day (over 50pc) in order to cater for a population projected to be 2.1 million by 2050. In the early 19th century Dublin's water was supplied by the two canals but the water was hard and the quality very unsatisfactory. Contagious disease spread by infected water was a constant threat and an epidemic of typhus fever between 1816 and 1819 infected half a million people and resulted in 65,000 deaths throughout the country.</p> <p>By 1861, Sir John Grey (1815-75) became the political champion of the Vartry Reservoir project at Roundwood, Co Wicklow. A native of Castlebar, Grey was a Dublin city councillor, MP for Kilkenny, physician, journalist and a political ally of Daniel O'Connell. He also became proprietor of the 'Freeman's Journal', a newspaper launched in 1763 which eventually merged with the Irish</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| | <p>Independent.</p> <p>Grey's vision was that the damming of the Vartry River, which originates in Calary Bog and travels less than 30km to the reservoir site, would have the capacity to provide an abundant supply of gravity-fed, pure, fresh water of a consistently high quality to the citizens of Dublin. Vartry reliably fulfilled this objective for many years before a second Vartry reservoir was completed in 1923.</p> <p>Grey is forever linked with stellar political leadership, impeccable integrity and municipal progress in Dublin. When the Vartry project was sanctioned, he personally purchased the 410 acres of land required for the reservoir and made it available to Dublin Corporation at no profit to himself. The reservoir was completed and functioning within five years.</p> <p>Grey was knighted by Queen Victoria in recognition of his genius and accomplishment. His memory is immortalised today in the statue of him erected at the junction of O'Connell Street and Abbey Street in Dublin.</p> <p>Is there likely to be a clamour for a statue in O'Connell Street to commemorate the foresight, self-sacrifice, efficiency and genius of the current generation of water supply pioneers when the latest project for additional water supply becomes available to the citizens of Dublin? My wife was shopping in Dublin city centre yesterday and she told me later that she heard a rumpus taking place between a Garda and a beggar on the street outside a well-known store, and she thinks he was moved away from directly outside the store.</p> <p>She does not know what that was all about, but we only hope that it was not simply because the poor man was sitting there shivering, with his cup in his hand (not even outstretched), and that there was a genuine reason for him being moved on.</p> <p>You see, she had seen him earlier and had dropped a contribution into his cup and he very kindly thanked her for it, and with what appeared to be smiling eyes.</p> <p>So when she saw him later being moved on she was upset by what appeared may have been an injustice done to the man.</p> <p>My question is: what is the general Garda policy regarding beggars on our streets, and especially outside shops and department stores?</p> <p>Do beggars have a right to sit outside these shops or not? Or do shop owners</p> | | |

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| | <p>have a right to expect the Gardaí to move them on, and if so then on to where? Is it to side streets where there are fewer shops and thus very few people to beg from?</p> <p>I have always assumed that beggars would be allowed to beg provided their begging was not aggressive.</p> <p>I suppose the real question is: are we essentially a kind people or not? If we see this level of suffering taking place in front of our own eyes as we do our shopping, and yet simply walk by, then I think we know the answer. I was travelling on the M3 out of Dublin on a Sunday a couple of weeks ago. I could see on the other carriageway streams of traffic heading into Dublin, people heading back after a weekend down the country. The routine would be the same on any motorway leading into Dublin on a Sunday evening.</p> <p>But I suppose Dublin is where the work is. There is an imbalance. Dublin city is suffering; it's getting much bigger, and water, waste, traffic, housing and student accommodation have now become major problems.</p> <p>Politicians have not addressed these problems. Politicians within the Pale never look outside it. Rural Ireland is holding its own but it is the towns and villages that motorways have bypassed.</p> <p>Walk through some of these towns and villages, and you will see shops and garages closed, houses lying vacant and run down, and very few people about.</p> <p>How are we to address these problems? Why is the GAA headquarters in Dublin? The new stadium should have been built down the country on a new greenfield site with a university and hospital.</p> <p>This should have been done 30 years ago. A new town should have been created in the midlands, somewhere north of Athlone near the Shannon River. Anyone who visits Croke Park will know that it is impossible to park without angering the residents and the clampers.</p> <p>We are where we are now, and we must look at new initiatives. The Government should consider these points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The movement of some departments from the city to country towns was a good idea that ran into difficulties because it was rushed. It should be looked at again. 2. Work will have to come to the people in the country. | | |

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| | <p>3. There should be grants of some kind to revive the towns and villages. Every day, I hear the same complaint among my fellow Irish teenagers, that we have nothing to do.</p> <p>In my opinion, adults are very prejudiced towards teenagers and we are thought to be troublesome.</p> <p>If more funding was put into facilities for teenagers in every community, then maybe we would not have the same problems with alcohol and drug abuse. In my town, teenagers are often escorted out of the shopping centre for simply sitting by the fountain. When will they see that we are not all planning our next shoplifting spree? I find it incredible that people are still questioning whether homosexual people are born homosexual.</p> <p>The Bishop of Elphin, Kevin Doran, thinks the jury is out. I would like to ask him the same question in a different way - does he think heterosexual people are born heterosexual?</p> | | |

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| 14/03/2015 02:30:00 | <p>Water sources serving more than 220,000 people may have to be 'abandoned' because they pose a risk to health and are incapable of meeting future population growth. Some rivers, lakes and groundwater sources run dry during the summer, others are vulnerable to pollution and there are risks from bugs including cryptosporidium, the Irish Independent has learned.</p> <p>And Irish Water has also warned that as many as 300 plants across the country need urgent upgrading - more than twice the 120 identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).</p> <p>Head of Asset Management Jerry Grant also confirmed that basic equipment including turbidity monitors - which highlight if water is not being properly treated - are not installed in 40pc of plants. He also said that Irish Water was planning new regional schemes in Galway, Mayo and Cork which would result in smaller plants being taken offline and bigger facilities built.</p> <p>The company plans to source a new supply for Dublin using water drawn from the River Shannon which would be pumped to a large reservoir in the midlands. The project, which will cost at least €500m, will create a so-called "national water spine" which would provide a fresh source for the capital and surrounding counties, and also bolster the system in six other counties - Tipperary, Offaly, Westmeath, Laois, Meath and Louth.</p> <p>Mr Grant said that many existing supplies in these counties that came into use in the 1960s and 1970s were struggling to meet demand and would not be sufficient to cater for future population growth.</p> <p>"When you look at counties like Offaly, Meath and Tipperary, many of the schemes are single source and often groundwater, shallow supplies which makes them very vulnerable to pollution," he said, adding there was no back-up in the event of problems.</p> <p>"One of the concepts at the heart of this project is the notion of resilience, and the ability to call in a secondary source. Sources have been expanded and stretched and pollution has been an issue.</p> <p>"Groundwater is often seen as something that comes from deep down in the rock, between 150 and 200 metres. A lot of our aquifers are glacial and not that deep, maybe 50 metres, which makes them vulnerable to pollution."</p> <p>Reports commissioned in relation to the new supply for Dublin, the east and midlands show that the capital and eastern region currently draw about 623</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

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| | <p>million litres of water a day, most from the River Liffey, and most of which is treated in Ballymore Eustace (310 million litres a day) and Leixlip (215 million litres). It is believed an extra 215 million litres a day is needed by 2050 to serve the capital, and another 115 million litres per day for the east and midlands.</p> <p>The reports conclude even if the available supply was fully used, if domestic consumption falls and if leakage is tackled, there will still be a shortfall. Irish Water says that technology companies and the pharmachem industry are reducing consumption using water-saving technologies, but remain hugely water-dependent. There is a risk that many will relocate to other countries if a new source is not delivered. "Some of the large producers of technology are developing more big campus sites," Mr Grant said. "Ireland needs to be in the market for these. The importance of availability and resilience of supply as a consideration for industry when spending on a new factory site is very significant."</p> <p>Some 856 plants currently treat drinking water, and Irish Water hopes to reduce this number over time. Part of the plan includes sourcing new supplies in Galway from Lough Corrib, in Mayo from Lough Mask and from Inniscarra Lake in Cork and building larger plants.</p> <p>As many as 500 plants have already been audited and "at least 300" need investment by 2021. That could result in some being taken out of service. The EPA has identified 120 plants at risk of failure as they are drawing water from at-risk sources, but Irish Water said "deeper problems" had been identified since which required works.</p> | | |

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| 19/03/2015 00:00:00 | <p>Irish Water is seeking the views of the public on the need for a new water supply for the Midlands and Eastern region.</p> <p>A new report published by Irish Water on Monday sets out what they call the “pressing need” for a new water supply source for the region, as the projected demand for water in the coming years is far beyond the current capacity.</p> <p>The report raises the possibility once again that water will be required to be abstracted from the Shannon to supply the water needs of the Dublin area - a proposal that caused much controversy when first raised in 2007.</p> <p>According to the Irish Water report, projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50 per cent by 2050.</p> <p>“Even after fully using the available water supply from the existing sources, and even with a parallel drive on water conservation and leakage control, there will still be significant additional water required. It is expected that 215 million litres per day in excess of existing capacity will be needed by 2050 for the Dublin region alone. This figure rises to 330 million litres per day when the surrounding region is included. Improvements to and maintenance of the existing water supply system, will not meet that level of need. A new source must be developed and utilised,” according to the report.</p> <p>Irish Water has launched an eight-week consultation process, which is now open and will conclude on May 5, 2015. Feedback is encouraged from individuals and groups on the need for a new water supply, and a proposed roadmap for the project.</p> <p>Interested parties are asked to contribute either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.</p> <p>The Project Need Report is available to view in county libraries and at planning counters within the project study area, and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie Further information is also available by calling 1890 252 848.</p> | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 19/03/2015 | A new Irish Mirror campaign aims to protect industries such as racing and | Community | Mainstream |

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| 06:00:00 | <p>tourism from the energy projects Colin Keegan, Collins, Dublin. Electricity pylons pictured running over farmland in Co Kildare. Today the Irish Mirror launches a campaign to save our countryside from the blight of gigantic power pylons and wind turbines. We want to protect precious heartland industries such as racing and tourism from a Government energy project that will only damage them. State-owned Eirgrid is planning a €3.8billion upgrade of its network that will see hundreds of 60-metre pylons – as tall as Liberty Hall in Dublin – erected across rural Ireland. These buzzing giants will be built just 350m apart along a 1,000km route through some of our most stunning beauty spots. And 200 more wind farms with thousands of turbines up to 170m in height – higher than The Spire in Dublin city centre – will be built to provide the power. In all, the pylons to carry the high voltage lines will criss-cross 19 counties – while turbines will pop up in almost every county from Donegal to Cork. The biggest pylon project, called Grid Link, will run from Kildare to Wexford and on to Cork. Another, Grid West, will run from North Mayo to Roscommon while a third, the North-South Interconnector, will run from Meath to Tyrone. Raymond’s Press Partnership. Wind turbines. Now the equine industry is worried the project will threaten its very future. Horse racing alone is worth €1billion a year to the economy, and keeps 14,000 people in jobs. Yet these new lines are to run alongside the greatest stables in the world. Turbines as well are being planned next to stud farms that have made us famous around the globe. But the horse world is not going to take the threat lying down. Already the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association has met at Goffs in Co Kildare to hear one of Europe’s leading energy experts, Malcolm Brown, call for an immediate halt to wind farms to protect equine industry. Annemarie O’Brien, wife of champion trainer Aidan, warns the pylons and turbines are “one of the biggest threats to Irish bloodstock in the history of our industry”. She said: “Putting wind farms and pylon lines beside bloodstock farms will render that land unfit for purpose. It is obvious to anyone who works with horses that industrial-scale wind farms and pylon lines are simply not compatible with the rearing, breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses.” Top jockey Ruby Walsh said the pylons and turbines are a threat to racing – and</p> | Groups | Media |

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| | <p>wants the Government to halt plans before the “countryside is destroyed”. The Irish Mirror has always been a proud racing paper and will fight tooth and nail to stop this threat to the beloved Sport of Kings. But it’s not just trainers and jockeys who are saying no to the controversial plans. Other sports stars too are joining the campaign. Cycling legend Sean Kelly is backing the bid to stop the pylons crossing his native county Waterford. The former world No1 has come out against pylons being erected in some of the most scenic parts of Waterford, such as the Comeragh mountains. In Donegal, Simply Red star Mick Hucknall is backing local opposition to a wind-farm near Ballybofey. Jon Baxter Mick Hucknall, opposed to wind farms in Donegal The singer and the band’s saxophone player Chris De Mangary – who put €1.3million into the Glenmore Estate for shooting and fishing – fear the turbines could affect business. And outspoken activist Paddy Massey of the group ReThink Pylons says our tourism industry – worth €4.3billion a year – will be hit. He declared: “We should call a halt now – before we wreck this beautiful countryside of ours.” The Government seems determined to double onshore wind power to meet EU 2020 “green power” targets. And it is building the pylons to carry that power – but at what cost? <u>The €3.8billion upgrade is nearly the same as the entire cost of the Irish Water industry for two years.</u> Apart from the obvious effect on racing and tourism, meeting the EU targets could be done for just over one tenth of the cost – €380million – experts say. Irish energy customers are already subsidising wind power through levies paid in our power bills – and most of us don’t even know it. Respected economist Colm McCarthy says the current policy is “Alice in Wonderland” and that we’d be crazy to build more wind farms. Eirgrid says it is pushing ahead with Grid Link and the other projects to ensure a reliable and high quality power supply for homes, farms and businesses. But what will be the result? Damage to our world-famous racing and tourism, putting thousands of jobs in jeopardy. And put more pressure on the already hard-pressed taxpayer – reeling from years of austerity –with another gigantic bill. Today we say no. It’s time for the government to listen to the experts and call a halt before it’s too late. We don’t want our beautiful countryside destroyed for decades to come with these buzzing monstrosities. ase study 1: "I feel like I've lost years of my life because of this" Patrick Browne Pictured is Philip Hickey of Ballylusk,</p> | | |

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| | <p>Ballindaggin, Co Wexford with the wind turbines next to his house A couple desperate to sell their house fear they will never find a buyer because the property is just 370m away from a wind farm “as loud as an airport”. Phil Hickey, 53, and his wife Catherine, from Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, say the value of the home has nosedived because it is surrounded by 40 spinning wind turbines. Phil said: “The noise of the turbines sounds like planes circulating in the sky at times. It’s like living next to an airport. “And with the shadow flicker from October to February it’s like being beside a disco. That’s horrific. “We’ve headaches from the lack of sleep. I feel like I’ve lost years off my life because of this. If we could run away we would. It’s so frustrating. But the value of the house has just been wiped out. We’re furious.” The couple built their dream home nine years ago for €335,000. They took out a mortgage and shovelled €80,000 of their own savings into it, planning to grow old there. But one year after they moved into their picturesque home, planning permission was submitted to Wexford county council by Castledockerell Wind Group to build a renewable energy wind farm. Phil and Catherine are now desperate to move because they are tortured by the noise of the towering 120m high turbines – four of which are visible from their kitchen window. The couple has yet to get the house valued by an auctioneer but believe the large three-bedroom bungalow with an upstairs storage space is now worth €150,000 at most, taking into account the property crash. Phil, originally from Manchester, explained: “It could be worse, just the land value alone. You’re selling a nuisance. “I genuinely believe it’s not going to be worth more than what we owe. We’re never going to see the return. After the build we had equity in it. Patrick Browne Philip Hickey of Ballylusk, Ballindaggin, Co Wexford with the wind turbines next to his house “We have a mortgage that we have to pay off. We got our planning permission to live in this home for the rest of our lives, that was our intentions, we’re both in our 50s. “We put everything into it. When anybody sees the site they just go ‘wow’ all they can see around three quarters of our property is wind turbines. “We can’t enjoy our gardens. We didn’t even bother finishing them.” Phil and Catherine have relentlessly complained to Wexford County Council about the noise level. If new regulations introduced by the Government had been in place at the time, it would not have got the go-ahead. New turbines are required to be at least</p> | | |

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| | <p>500m away from residential properties – and the Environment Minister is looking at increasing that set-back distance. In Australia, turbines must be 1,500 metres from inhabited houses. Wexford County Council said in a statement: “Following receipt of further complaints, the council has undertaken to procure the services of external consultants, expert in the field of noise monitoring and analysis, to carry out additional investigation. “It is expected this process and further investigation will take some months to complete, following which Wexford County Council will communicate the results to the appropriate parties, and will take whatever enforcement action (if any) is deemed necessary to ensure the development is in compliance with the relevant planning conditions.” Case study 2: "We'll hear them constantly" A dad who moved his family to a remote farmhouse for peace and quiet, may soon be surrounded by noisy wind turbines, ugly pylons and an electricity substation. Ed Barton, 52, left Ballyfermot, West Dublin, with his wife, Fi, and their daughter Autumn, now 17, for scenic Moygownagh, Ballina in Co Mayo and renovated an old farmhouse in 1995. But now the family’s two-bedroom home and two acres of land could be fenced by a network of pylons, wind turbines and a substation if plans for the area go ahead. Two wind farms with some of the highest turbines in Europe – 180m tall – are earmarked for the land around Ed’s house. He fumed: “Nothing is actually going to be touching my land but with these things up we’re going to hear them constantly. “There’s nothing to drown out the sound of them. “Nobody knows what effect it’s going to have on people around here. There are people around here who have had to abandon their farms and everything.”</p> | | |
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| <p>20/03/2015 13:55:18</p> | <p>A group set up to protect the River Shannon has said it will "strongly oppose" any move to divert water from the river to Dublin to cater for anticipated shortages in the city.</p> <p>Irish Water, which is considering the proposal, previously made by Dublin City Council, published a report on March 10 which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report states this "is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region".</p> <p>The River Shannon Protection Alliance (RSPA) has said in a statement that it "wishes to make it clear that any such proposal will face the strongest opposition to such needless, high risk, and outmoded infrastructural planning". The group said the proposal to diver the water to Dublin would extract water at a rate of hundreds of millions of litres per day.</p> <p>"There can be no doubt that rates of abstraction will increase exponentially year on year, with disastrous consequences economically, environmentally, and socially for all of the communities along the full length of the Shannon," the RSPA said.</p> <p>"Dublin does not now have a shortage of water, and it need not do so in the future. Current supplies are more than adequate for current demand, however Dublin City Council (DCC) has been throwing half of it away through years of leak ridden supply pipes and creaking treatment facilities, all of which have suffered from decades of neglect and under investment."</p> <p>The group added: "Injecting Shannon water into such a system would result in wastage of most of this new supply, while delivering only marginal improvement.</p> <p>"On the other hand, reducing leakage rates to international standards would double existing supplies."</p> <p>Any abstraction of water from the Shannon to Dublin would require €500m and the construction of a 160km pipeline.</p> <p>The RSPA said a range of other supply options exist on Dublin's doorstep waiting to be tapped.</p> <p>"An estimated 100 million litres per day of high quality ground water is</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| <p>20/03/2015 14:20:55</p> | <p>By , Reporter - Tweet: @waterfordNS - Email Journalist - Contact Journalist: 051 874951</p> <p>A group set up to protect the River Shannon has said it will "strongly oppose" any move to divert water from the river to Dublin to cater for anticipated shortages in the city.</p> <p>Irish Water, which is considering the proposal, previously made by Dublin City Council, published a report on March 10 which sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the Eastern and Midlands region of the country. The report identifies that projected demand for water in Dublin alone is expected to increase by over 50% by 2050.</p> <p>The report states this "is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region".</p> <p>The River Shannon Protection Alliance (RSPA) has said in a statement that it "wishes to make it clear that any such proposal will face the strongest opposition to such needless, high risk, and outmoded infrastructural planning". The group said the proposal to diver the water to Dublin would extract water at a rate of hundreds of millions of litres per day.</p> <p>"There can be no doubt that rates of abstraction will increase exponentially year on year, with disastrous consequences economically, environmentally, and socially for all of the communities along the full length of the Shannon," the RSPA said.</p> <p>"Dublin does not now have a shortage of water, and it need not do so in the</p> | <p>Community Groups</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

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| | <p>future. Current supplies are more than adequate for current demand, however Dublin City Council (DCC) has been throwing half of it away through years of leak ridden supply pipes and creaking treatment facilities, all of which have suffered from decades of neglect and under investment."</p> <p>The group added: "Injecting Shannon water into such a system would result in wastage of most of this new supply, while delivering only marginal improvement.</p> <p>"On the other hand, reducing leakage rates to international standards would double existing supplies."</p> <p>Any abstraction of water from the Shannon to Dublin would require €500m and the construction of a 160km pipeline.</p> <p>The RSPA said a range of other supply options exist on Dublin's doorstep waiting to be tapped.</p> <p>"An estimated 100 million litres per day of high quality ground water is available sustainably from the Fingal/Meath/Kildare aquifer. Additional reservoirs can be built closer to Dublin," the group added.</p> <p>Irish Water is currently calling for submissions regarding the proposal. It has also sought tenders for a "survey specialist" to undertake a water quality survey of Lough Derg and the Parteen Basin from where the supply will be sourced.</p> <p>The project would see 350 million litres of water a day been pumped from the River Shannon to serve Dublin's drinking water needs for the next 70 years.</p> <p>"We call on all public representatives to consider their constituencies, and also on members of the public, to submit their views on this critical issue," the RSPA said.</p> | | |
| <p>20/03/2015 18:05:44</p> | <p>A plan to take water from the Comeragh Mountains to deal with water shortages in the Dublin region would eliminate the need for the controversial Lough Derg water abstraction project, a retired Cork businessman has claimed.</p> <p>William K Loftus, who previously ran a plant hire and civil engineering business, has drafted proposals for what he described as an "elaborate plan to utilise the southern side of the Comeragh Mountains for freshwater storage and a hydroelectric scheme by seawater in the lower lakes".</p> <p>Mr Loftus maintains it can be achieved without interfering with the scenic</p> | <p>Department of the Environment</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
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| | <p>aspect of the mountains on the Mahon Falls side. He has sent his proposal to Irish Water (IW), who hadn't responded to a number of Clare Champion at the time of going to print.</p> <p>A Department of Environment spokesman stated the matter is for IW, while Environment Minister Alan Kelly's private secretary acknowledged press queries from The Clare Champion but didn't respond with a comment at the time of going to press.</p> <p>Mr Loftus' plan, however, is not being supported by the River Shannon Protection Alliance, despite its opposition to the water abstraction plan from Lough Derg. SPA spokesman Gerry Siney said the group has serious reservations about the plan on ecological, environmental and economic grounds, based the information provided in its current format.</p> <p>The plan involves excavating a major water storage area south of the mountain range and using the rock to create a number of lakes, with turbines down to the foreshore. Mr Loftus explained excess rock could be utilised to create a new harbour north of Clonea Strand, to facilitate super tankers with the possibility of exporting the water. He claimed it would save and pump all freshwater from the Rivers Lee and Blackwater and all the rivers on the east coast, to the storage area on the top lake of the mountains.</p> <p>In addition to providing a water purification plant isolated from view, treated water would be pumped to a high tower to pressurise water up to Dublin.</p> <p>"This operation would preserve all water from our rivers lost to the sea at present.</p> <p>" The lower lakes, isolated from the top freshwater lake can be used for a hydro electric scheme by pumping seawater up at night by wind turbines offshore.</p> <p>"Major water sports could be incorporated into the project," the proposal claimed.</p> | | |
| <p>20/03/2015 20:33:20</p> | <p>No #IrishWater Alternative to Lough Derg abstraction proposed: A plan to take water from the Comeragh Mountain... http://t.co/iB8OTolZp7</p> | <p>Community Groups</p> | <p>Twitter</p> |

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| 21/03/2015 02:17:57 | <p>A group set up to protect the River Shannon has said it will “strongly oppose” any move to divert the river to Dublin to cater for anticipated water supply shortages in the capital.</p> <p>An Irish Water report, published last week, sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the east and midlands regions of the country. The report identifies a projected demand for water in Dublin, alone, will increase by over 50%, by 2050.</p> <p>The report states Dublin “is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the region”.</p> <p>However, the River Shannon Protection Alliance said in a statement that it “wishes to make it clear that any such proposal will face the strongest opposition to such needless, high risk, and outmoded infrastructural planning”. The group said the proposal to divert the water to Dublin would extract water at a rate of hundreds of millions of litres per day.</p> <p>“There can be no doubt rates of abstraction will increase exponentially year on year, with disastrous consequences economically, environmentally, and socially for all of the communities along the full length of the Shannon,” the alliance said.</p> <p>“Dublin does not now have a shortage of water, and it need not do so in the future. Current supplies are more than adequate for current demand.</p> <p>“However, Dublin City Council has been throwing half of it away through years of leak-ridden supply pipes and creaking treatment facilities, all of which have suffered from decades of neglect and under-investment.”</p> <p>Read more of today’s news here © Irish Examiner Ltd. All rights reserved</p> | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 21/03/2015 12:00:00 | <p>week, sets out the pressing need for a new water supply source for the east and midlands regions of the country. The report identifies a projected demand for water in Dublin, alone, will increase by over 50%, by 2050. The report states Dublin is well beyond the capacity of the existing sources which serve the...</p> | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 22/03/2015 21:43:58 | <p>RT @LawlorCaitriona: #IrishWater want to divert Lough Derg, they say a 50% increase in supply needed by 2050.I say fix the leaks and the def...</p> | Community Groups | Twitter |

| Published | Post | Tags | Media Type |
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| 22/03/2015 22:52:15 | RT @LawlorCaitriona: #IrishWater want to divert Lough Derg,they say a 50% increase in supply needed by 2050.I say fix the leaks and the def... | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 23/03/2015 11:18:54 | RT @LawlorCaitriona: #IrishWater want to divert Lough Derg,they say a 50% increase in supply needed by 2050.I say fix the leaks and the def... | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 23/03/2015 16:04:56 | the existing reservoirs and/or build new ones. One way or another, all that is needed is cement, pipes and cop-on. The multitude of rivers and streams exiting these lakes would not be adversely affected since excess run-off during heavy rains ends up in the sea anyway. (this was received by river shannon... | Community Groups | Social Networks |
| 25/03/2015 19:00:00 | The Shannon Protection Alliance has vowed to fight any plans by Irish Water to take water from LoughDerg to supply the Greater Dublin Area. | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 25/03/2015 19:00:00 | The Shannon Protection Alliance has vowed to fight any plans by Irish Water to take water from LoughDerg to supply the Greater Dublin Area. | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |
| 26/03/2015 00:00:00 | <p>The Athlone branch of the River Shannon Protection Alliance (RSPA) has raised concerns about new proposals by Irish Water to divert water from the River Shannon to the Dublin area to cater for anticipated shortages.</p> <p>The RSPA formed in 2007 when there were proposals by Dublin City Council to abstract 350 million litres of water daily from Lough Ree. Later proposals focused on Lough Derg; however Damien Delaney of the Athlone branch of the RSPA says the group are extremely concerned at the new proposals for the River Shannon.</p> <p>According to a recent Irish Water report, there is a “pressing need” for a new water supply source for the Dublin region.</p> <p>“The focus has moved to Lough Derg, but there are still side effects here. There is always loads of water in Lough Derg as the ESB need to keep levels there constant - but the rest of the Shannon has to make up for this. To supplement Lough Derg, water will have to come from Lough Ree and Lough Allen,” said Mr Delaney.</p> <p>“This could destroy a whole tourist industry in the Midlands - there will be implications for boating, fishing, hotels, and restaurants. If these proposals go ahead there will have to be a proper water level management plan in place.”</p> <p>Mr Delaney said the Athlone branch is now focusing on raising public support and awareness of their campaign, and encourages interested parties to make</p> | Community Groups | Mainstream Media |

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| | <p>a submission during Irish Water’s eight-week consultation process which closes on May 5. The report is available on www.watersupplyproject.ie</p> <p>In a statement this week, the RSPA said they will strongly oppose any proposal to abstract water from the Shannon, which would have “disastrous consequences economically, environmentally, and socially for all of the communities along the full length of the Shannon”.</p> <p>“The RSPA will be responding robustly, questioning all of the assumptions and forecasting on which a new Dublin supply and Shannon abstraction are based. We call on all public representatives to consider their constituencies, and also on members of the public, to submit their views on this critical issue.”</p> <p>Cllr Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran said he would be supporting the group’s endeavours. “There are huge implications for Athlone regarding water levels; we haven’t even got the CFRAM report back yet and now we have these new proposals,” he said.</p> | | |
| 26/03/2015 11:26:43 | Shannon Protection Alliance reiterates stand against taking water from Lough Derg #nenagh #LoughDergHouse #tipperary http://t.co/nOndVoEAC3 | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 29/03/2015 11:20:34 | Say No #IrishWater Renewed fears for Lough Derg's future: Councillor Pat Burke has urged tourism, angling and ... http://t.co/ICR9fUNDOZ | Community Groups | Twitter |

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| <p>31/03/2015 13:09:41</p> | <p>Massive 46m litres of water being lost per day as Irish Water detect 30,000 leaks - but fix just 500 Irish Independent IRISH Water has fixed just 500 leaks out of 30,000 it has identified in the first reading of meters. The utility said 46 million litres of water are being wasted every day – the equivalent of 18 Olympic size swimming pools.</p> <p>Jerry Grant, head of asset management at Irish Water, said it now intends to roll out an interim project spend of €3.4m to tackle leaks.</p> <p>Advice</p> <p>It also has a proposal with the regulator to spend up to €51m to cater for 25,000 leaks this year and next year and into 2017 depending on the speed at which customers come back to them.</p> <p>It says 60pc of leaks are happening within people’s homes, and Irish Water will be sending notices to customers where leaks have been identified.</p> <p>Where those leaks are outside the walls of the property, Irish Water will cover the cost of the fix, but where they are inside a house it will be up to the customer to get the problem sorted out.</p> <p>However, Irish Water will help customers identify the leaks and offer them advice.</p> <p>“We have already fixed 500 leaks in a pilot project that we carried out over the last couple of months. “That allowed us to get a lot of positive experience in the types of leaks involved and the logistics of the scheme,” said Mr Grant on Newstalk this morning.</p> <p>While the average home uses around 110,000 litres a year, meters showed that more than 1,000 homes were found to have suspected leaks of more than one million litres a year.</p> <p>“The 30,000 leaks have shown up about 46 million litres of water per day, enough to supply Limerick city and the environs of Limerick,” said Mr Grant.</p> <p>“If we can fix 40 to 50pc of those leaks we should recover 20 or 25 million litres per day from that source’ so this is a very quick win for us,” he added.</p> <p>Around 600,000 meters have already been installed with around 400,000 still to be installed.</p> <p>The three most common leaks inside a house are at the ballcock in the attic tank, in a toilet which continues to have an audible water flow long after it has been flushed, and a dripping tap, said Mr Grant.</p> | <p>Councils</p> | <p>Generic Blogs</p> |

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| | <p>Divident</p> <p>Faulty toilet cisterns account for half of all internal leaks, and can lose as much as a constantly running tap.</p> <p>Mr Grant sensors on water meters can detect if there is a constant night flow of water, which can indicate a leak, and the next step is to identify where that leak is.</p> <p>“This is the benefit of the meters, they help the customer and they help Irish Water. It is the first real dividend from them,” he said. Follow us Popular Today</p> <p>11 reasons you know you're a final year Minister for Education supports direct funding from HEA to SU's UCC student dies after falling from campus building</p> <p>The Six Top Growth Industries in Ireland today From Paris to London: My life as a fashion design student Popular this week UCC student dies after falling from campus building</p> <p>The Six Top Growth Industries in Ireland today From Paris to London: My life as a fashion design student The long journey from Nigeria to Dublin Quotes to get you motivated for exams</p> | | |
| 05/04/2015 12:29:33 | <p>Shannon Protection Alliance reiterates its opposition to Lough Derg water abstraction plans - Tipperary Star: http://t.co/xy4u3Wm22E</p> | Community Groups | Twitter |
| 16/04/2015 01:37:50 | <p>Local firm RPS has won a national engineering award for its work on the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant, Ireland's largest water treatment plant supplying 22 per cent of Ireland's entire population. The award for excellence in civil engineering comes from the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI). The Ballymore Eustace Plant provides up to 318 million litres of water daily with a peak capacity of 400 million litres. The facility is not only capable of meeting the current demands, but it can meet the needs of the greater Dublin area until a longer term new source is developed after 2020. RPS has been involved in the planning and development of the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant since 1983, completing the detailed design, procurement and construction supervision of this Stage 3 development on behalf of the Dublin City Council. The €120m project included a combination of existing plant refurbishment and new plant construction, all delivered within a live treatment plant without interrupting supply or compromising water quality. The Galway office of RPS currently employs</p> | Councils | Mainstream Media |

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| | <p>some 80 engineering and scientific professionals located in the IDA Business Park, Mervue.</p> | | |
| <p>16/04/2015 15:00:00</p> | <p>Irish Water was set up to manage the money not the water, according to Cllr Seamus Morris. With the first water bills coming through letter boxes, he described the utility as “the latest vehicle for stealing our natural resources”. Cllr Morris argued that the long-term future of the country cannot be positive as long as Uisce Éireann stands.</p> <p>“That’s the symbol of all that’s wrong in this country; that business is the new bank that we’re bailing out. Uisce Éireann is the new Anglo,” he said.</p> <p>Cllr Morris said that Uisce Éireann represented the old way of doing things. “In that model, the market is left to decide policy. Do we trust the market, the nameless ones in suits with our children’s future? No, we do not,” said the SF councillor.</p> <p>He stated that over E1bn in motor tax, property tax, and income tax revenue had already given to the company and yet nothing in the ground has been fixed.</p> <p>“All the money has been spent installing meters. Any other work done was scheduled while the councils were running things,” said Cllr Morris.</p> <p>He warned that people in Tipperary should be afraid of what might happen to water in Tipperary if the go-ahead is given to pipe it to Dublin. In Dublin, they just call it the Shannon, but here we call it Lough Derg, he said.</p> <p>“Uisce Éireann is the very thin edge of the wedge, the very symbol of how the Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil mind-set brings us down. The sooner we can tear down that private company, and create instead An Roinn Uisce, a wholly State-owned and operated department, the sooner our country can move forward to a prosperous future,” said Cllr Morris.</p> | <p>Community Groups</p> | <p>Mainstream Media</p> |
| <p>22/04/2015 10:49:48</p> | <p>RT @LoughDergHouse: Amazing Lough Derg Way @RingofLoughDerg @clarevirtually @Info_RSPA #tourism #ireland #walking http://t.co/g00cNs5k5b</p> | <p>Community Groups</p> | <p>Twitter</p> |

Appendix G Submission Summaries

The table below summarises the submissions received as part of the WSP PNR and Project Road Map Consultation period from March 10th to May 5th 2015. Additionally, it categorises each response into themes which will be used in Section 4, where response by theme is discussed.

Table 0.1: Summary of Submissions and Themes

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|--|
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why not build more water towers in Dublin, there is plenty of rain, surely they would help the storage. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Phone line | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was queried why water is not taken from the sea. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Phone line | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water was offered from springs on a local farm and the land is around Tullamore and has a plentiful supply. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted the pumping of water from Lisheen Mine in Moyne, Templetuohy, Co. Tipperary to a near-by river to aid in the mine dewatering process and how this water could be used as a water supply (references approximately 100mega litres per day as being pumped from the Mine). It is also suggested that Tara mines might offer similar opportunities. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Letter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplied information regarding Poulaphouca Dam that it is remotely controlled from Turlough Hill and it's only used as back-up. Suggested using water from Poulaphouca. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|---|
| Letter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested that if abstraction takes place from the Shannon, it should be from the southern end of the Parteen Reservoir. Advised that removal of water from Carrigahorig / Slevoir Bay (north eastern part of Lough Derg) might contribute to ecological stress in the lake, whereas abstraction from Parteen would not. | <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options <p>Environment</p> |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested that this plan does not take the needs of the communities along the Shannon into consideration and that the predicted demand for Dublin alone is projected to increase by over 50% by 2050 and half of the water supply is being lost through leaks – so addressing basic maintenance will reduce the size of the predicted crisis significantly. Suggested that the drop in demand will happen when the customer charges start and water conservation kicks-in. Advises the need to get the building sector involved with water conservation, rain water harvesting and building more reservoirs. Advises that a system of reservoirs would be cheaper and better for the environment. Suggests that the Shannon is key to the communities that live by its shore for tourism and agriculture and it is important financially, environmentally and culturally. Detailed that the rigorous cost benefit analysis of the Shannon project and other alternatives has never been published, taxpayers are entitled to see such an analysis. | <p>Communities</p> <p>Water Conservation</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advises that people must conserve water. | <p>Water Conservation</p> |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advises that water should not be looked for from new sources for Dublin water (especially not from the Shannon). Suggests that we can live within our current resources if we reduce wasteful consumption and minimise leaks, also metering will bring down the consumption considerably. | <p>Water Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted Irelands ability to remain competitive on the essential requirements of a world-class water system Advised that the Eastern and Midlands Region is critical for the economic wellbeing of the state, and that the strategic importance of this Region for the national economy means that an adequate, reliable water supply is crucial for the continued wellbeing of existing, indigenous business. A new supply is also a prerequisite for future growth, especially for meeting ambitious targets for tourism and foreign direct investment. | <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Direct Investment <p>Project Road Map</p> |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation is pleased to see the criteria for evaluation included, which should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current and projected population in the Region - Economic growth - Dublin’s competitiveness versus other city-regions - Growth in domestic and non-domestic demand - Demand from Large Water Users • The organisation fully accepts the findings of the present study that a new water source is needed. • The organisation shows concern regarding the need for the prompt implementation the proposed Road Map for delivery of the Project. • They suggest that Irish Water should consider all ways in which the Road Map for delivery can be accelerated, in recognition of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The urgent need for a new water source - The non-delivery of this source to date - The potential political and planning uncertainties in the coming years | |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed that fresh water could be extracted from the Shannon Estuary. Advantages of this include no ecological damage to the River Shannon and no requirement to build a pipeline to the east of the country as the proposal is to ship fresh water to wherever it is needed including abroad, as a valuable export. • Future development of a desalination plant in the estuary to produce potable water from brackish water from the estuary. • Disadvantage is that the existence of adequate supplies of fresh water in the Shannon Estuary has yet to be proven. | <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options <p>Environment and Communities</p> |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission welcomed the PNR, focusing on the implications for Enterprise Development and Job creation. Suggested that water is vital to businesses and the provision of a reliable, secure and competitively priced water service is critical to support national and regional economic growth and job creation, particularly in key growth sectors such as food and drink, life sciences, ICT and the hospitality and tourism sectors. • The submission also suggested that ensuring sufficient water services capacity to meet current and future demand is vital for existing companies and their new business development is critical to the economic growth for the region. | <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic predictions • Strategic Industrial water |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|--|---|
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission from an individual talking about balancing industrial and business intake across Ireland, particularly the Midlands region, instead of allowing 94% of all new business into the Dublin area. The submission highlights this would remove the need to transfer water to Dublin. The submission also mentions flooding along the River Suck and how it floods about 6 months every year because of the Shannon, suggesting that the ESB could alleviate flooding. The submission states that Government is wrong to allow Dublin to expand without consideration for proper planning and bringing water to Dublin is supporting terrible planning. | Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic predictions |
| Email | <p>Asking that Irish Water consider the Singapore Model in the interest of sustainability and environmental protection. The Singapore model is a four pronged approach to water supply, which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainwater harvesting and storage Treatment and re-use of wastewater Desalination of sea water Supply of water from an adjacent country | Water Conservation Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested that the demographic targets seem to be a little on the low side given resumed growth in population in the Dublin region and nationally. Projected water supplies will need to respond to this growth. Additional supply from the Shannon has been necessary for two decades and we didn't need the completely unnecessary establishment of Irish Water to achieve this. Calls for the restoration of the National Water Supply and Drainage to the Irish local authorities organised on a regional basis and to the swift completion of the consultation necessary to build a new water supply from the Shannon. | Demographics Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the Project through the established Regional Planning Guidelines Policy and recognises the soundness of the methodology used to predict the level of demand both in the supply area and the benefitting corridor. | Economic Development |
| Email | <p>Calls on Irish Water to meet the following points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The water level of Lough Derg always remains above Summer levels (Waterways Ireland Navigation Level) otherwise damage could be done to flora and fauna and affect navigation and water use. The amount of water abstracted is related to the flow rate in the river and the water | Environmental and Communities |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|--|--|
| | <p>required at Ardnacrusha Power Station.</p> <p>3. The method of controlling the water level at the summer level for navigation should be agreed and adhered to by Waterways Ireland, Irish Water, OPW and ESB.</p> | |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In agreement with the long term view and national point of departure underpinning the report. The submission suggests that the stable supply of high quality water is a key for Ireland's future economic growth. Not only is it critical for citizens but investment in water services infrastructure is also linked directly to Irish businesses ability to compete internationally as well as our ability to attract new Foreign Direct Investment. | <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Direct Investment |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental sustainability of the project seems to be compromised by the fact that leakage is estimated at 40%. Importance of a national water conservation ethos and the need to introduce legislation or incentives to encourage people to conserve water. Irish Water is a commercial entity and will need to make provision for a level of commercial / environmental compensation to the catchment. Potential to dam the Shannon fishery and importance that abstraction will not compromise the potential re-establishment of a viable salmon population. The Project should take into account the importance of the biodiversity of the entire area. Not suitable to pump untreated water from Lough Derg to a reservoir due to the presence of alien invasive species in Lough Derg. Full or partial treatment would be required. | <p>Water Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage <p>Environment and Communities</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email and Post | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are ample supplies of raw water available to Greater Dublin Area (GDA), both now and well into the future, and a range of additional sources exist in close proximity to Dublin, should they become necessary in the future. Close to half of Dublin's water supply is currently lost due to leakage, and no serious commitment toward system repairs are included in the Irish Water proposal. The introduction of Shannon water would result in a disincentive to eliminate profligate waste of hundreds of millions of litres per day. The Irish Water proposal poses many serious risks to the communities along the complete length of the Shannon from the Shannon Pot to the Shannon Estuary, economically, socially, and environmentally. The report fails to outline any form of pumping strategy or water level monitoring or water level control on the river Shannon and its lakes as a whole, being envisaged by Irish Water, in the interest of protecting the well-being of the water quality; the ecology; the navigation; the angling industry; | <p>Water Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treated water / network restrictions Raw water restrictions <p>Water Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic predictions Strategic |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|---|
| | <p>the boating industry; the hotel, B&B, and catering industry existing in the River Shannon catchment area, particularly during Summer / dry periods when water availability is lowest and demand is highest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme is promoted by vested political and commercial interests in Dublin City Council and its east coast satellite counties, so as to ensure a continued inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Dublin and the east coast, with scant regard for the economic development requirements of the regions outside the pale, and particularly the riparian communities (more than one million people) along the full length of the Shannon. The 'benefitting corridor' is an add-on feature that has little relevance to the primary objective which is the GDA water supply. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Direct Investment <p>River Shannon Levels</p> <p>The Benefitting Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefitting corridor water supply Benefitting corridor demand <p>Peak and Headroom</p> <p>Risk and Consequences Economical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source and conveyance risk <p>Environment and Communities</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuary navigation |
| email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six Councillors endorsing and supporting a submission made to the Water Supply Project from an organisation. | <p>The themes of the reference submission are as follows:</p> <p>Water Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treated water / network restrictions |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw water restrictions <p>Water Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leakage <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic predictions • Strategic Industrial Water • Foreign Direct Investment <p>River Shannon Levels</p> <p>The Benefitting Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefitting corridor water supply • Benefitting corridor demand <p>Peak and Headroom</p> <p>Risk and Consequences Economical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source and conveyance risk <p>Environment and Communities</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuary |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|---|--|
| email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsing and supporting a submission made to the Water Supply Project from another organisation. | navigation The themes of the reference submission are as follows: Water Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treated water / network restrictions Raw water restrictions Water Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic predictions Strategic Industrial Water Foreign Direct Investment River Shannon Levels The Benefitting Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefitting corridor water supply Benefitting corridor demand Peak and Headroom Risk and Consequences |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|--|--|
| | | <p>Economical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source and conveyance risk <p>Environment and Communities</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuary navigation |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about not including Portlaoise in the PNR as the joint largest town in the midlands and is experiencing substantial population growth. Central / North Laois previously requested that the scheme would provide up to 15MLD to satisfy the ultimate projected demand from the larger towns. • The original plan included the provision of a reservoir in Garryinch which would be developed as an amenity. It is noted with concern that this facility is not now envisaged. | <p>The Benefitting Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefitting corridor water supply • Benefitting corridor demand |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that Irish Water match wastewater treatment capacity in tandem with the planned water supply. The submission also welcomed the economic, employment and overall development benefits of the corridor. • They also suggested that in their region, groundwaters are the predominant schemes and are running out of capacity. The submission reports that all water schemes in the county will benefit directly from the project and welcomed it. | <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Industrial Water |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is crucial that water constraints do not act as an impediment to development necessary to drive economic development in the city and the Eastern Region. However the submission suggests that the current design horizon is not sufficiently long and suggest that the design and planning approvals for this project should allow for increasing demand. • It is recommended that the water demand figures should be kept under review during the planning phase especially in the case of non-domestic consumption. • The current design horizon is not sufficiently long, and should be looking to 2075 • Projections should be reviewed for ongoing consistency with the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines, and planning authority projections | <p>Project Road Map</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic predictions |

| Contact Method | Summary of relevant submission received | Theme / Sub-theme |
|----------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCC and non-Domestic water projections should be reviewed as wider and better data comes available during the planning process. The targets on UFW, and allowances for Peak & Headroom are endorsed. | |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Water Resources Plan should be completed before the Water Supply Project. The National Water Resource Plan should inform the PNR and not the other way around. Concerns were raised about some of the assumptions / figures in projecting future demand and suggest that the 2050 figure is underestimated. PNR seems not to make any provisions for expansion in certain areas and the benefitting corridor provision figures seem to be based on somewhat outdated figures based on a consultation that happened several years ago. Concerns are raised about the design horizon and suggests that 2075 should be used and not 2050. Concerns are also raised about the PNR referring to the fact that there are still two source options but contends that the PNR makes very little reference to the desalination option which may be seized upon by some who would use the argument that the decision has effectively been made and Irish Water are simply going through the motions. | <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefitting Corridor water supply <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |
| Email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests that the available water from Srowland listed at 38MLD to GDR supply is not correct and suggests that the actual figure is 21MLD. | <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options |

Table 3.1 Summary of submission and themes.

Appendix H Acknowledgement Letter

Dear X

Irish Water would like to thank you, most sincerely, for your detailed submission and your input into this process. Public participation is an essential element of the development of any infrastructure project and the Water Supply Project team is committed to facilitating an accessible, meaningful and accountable consultation process with members of the public.

Every submission will be logged, recorded and reviewed by the project team. All relevant issues raised from this consultation will be considered as part of the next phase of the process which will result in an Options Working Paper (new Supply Options) due for publication and consultation later this Summer, 2015. This will form the basis of a second public consultation period. We will carry out a similar information campaign to let people know when this phase of consultation is commencing and the report outlining relevant issues raised will be publicised.

It is intended that, having taken into account feedback from the consultation processes, a preferred option for meeting the water supply needs of the region will be agreed and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in 2017. As the competent authority for assessing and determining planning applications, the Board will carry out a statutory consultation which will provide people with a further opportunity to have their say at that third phase of consultation.

Thanking you again for your help and input on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

X
(On behalf of the Project Team)