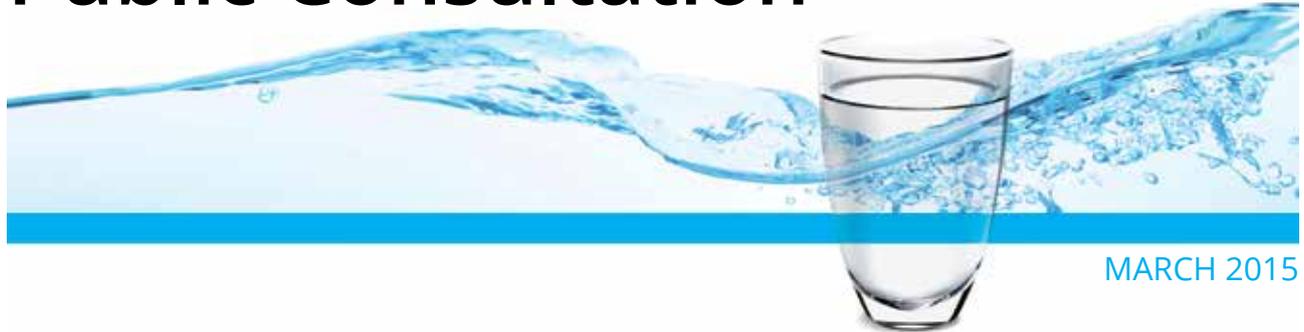


Water Supply Project

Eastern and Midlands Region

UISCE
ÉIREANN : IRISH
WATER

Project Need Report Public Consultation



MARCH 2015

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, and it is currently in the project planning stage.

Ireland has not invested adequately in development of its 'new source' water infrastructure, in Dublin, for over half a century. The need to take action to ensure our water supply meets today's and future demands for residential, industrial, agriculture and commercial use, is now essential and urgent.

The need for a new water supply to service projected demand in Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region has been assessed by extensive independent research and consultation with relevant experts and authorities. We would like to hear your opinion on this assessment as part of this first phase of consultation.

The purpose of this newsletter is to:

- Provide information to you on the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP) and the Project Need Report.
- Invite you to participate in this round of public consultation.
- Provide the proposed "Roadmap" for the next steps in the WSP planning process. The Roadmap outlines how a preferred new supply option would be selected and the public consultation milestones involved in that process.

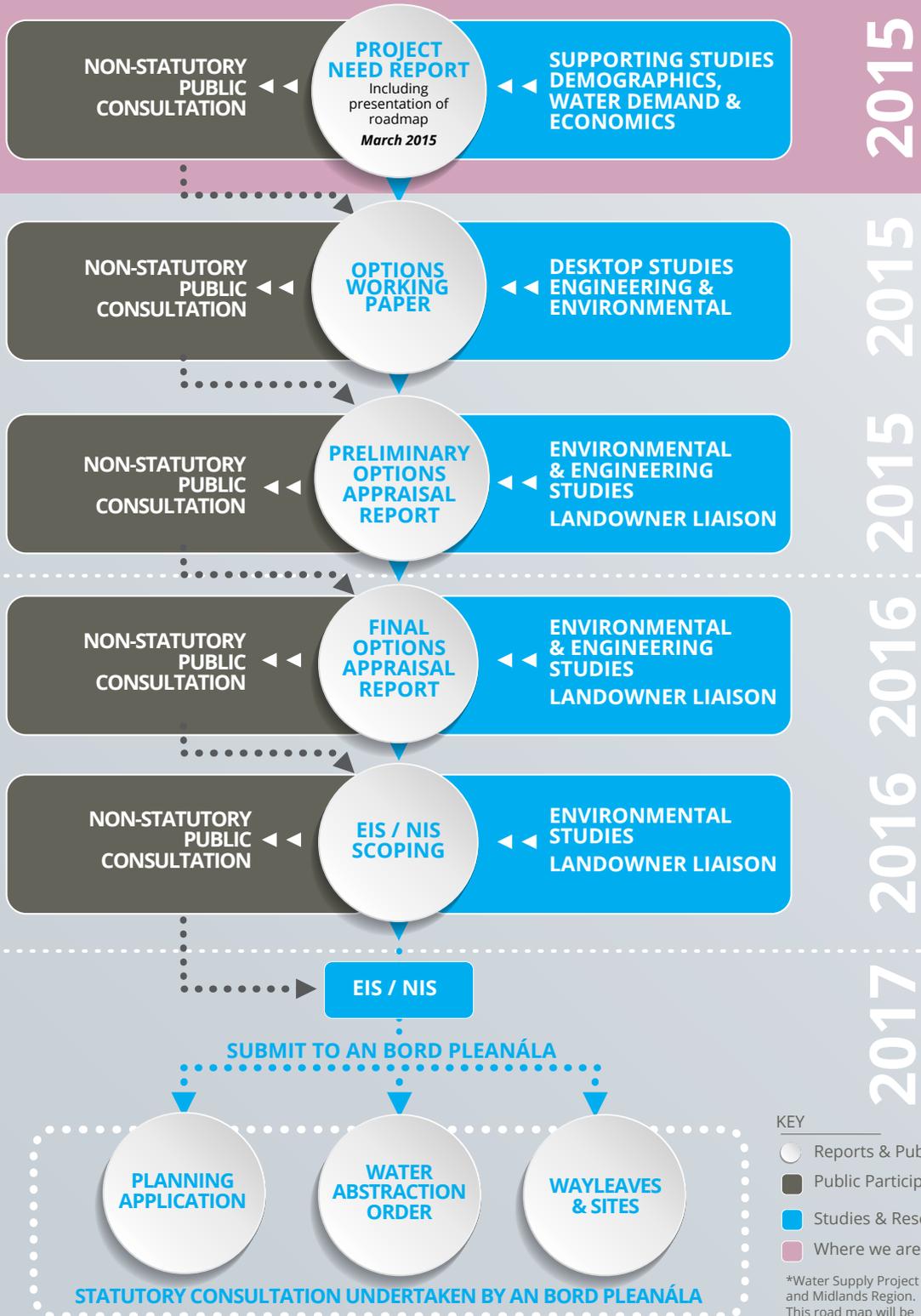
What is being consulted on?

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.



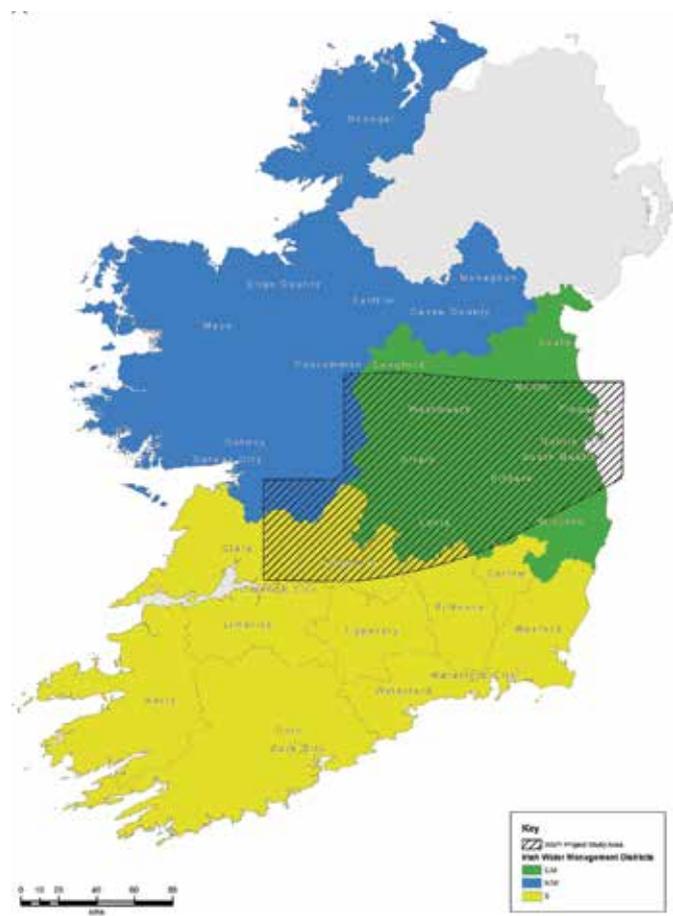
PROJECT ROAD MAP WSP* CONSULTATION



What Does the Report Say?

The report (Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region, Project Need 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 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



Independent research on this project

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 household and network leakage. Non-domestic demand, which is water used in business, industry and agriculture, is analysed and growth is projected by sector.

Trends on reducing per capita consumption and reducing intensity of industrial water use, are incorporated into projections.

The Report concludes that after fully using the available water supply from the existing sources and 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 area 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

What is Happening Now? How can you take part?

Following publication of the Project Need Report and Project Road Map on 10th March, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week public consultation process where you can have your say. This first phase of consultation will conclude on 5th May 2015.

Feedback from the consultation process will be obtained through a combination of stakeholder meetings and an invitation to 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 Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region, Project Need Report and Project Road Map are available to view in County Libraries and at Planning Counters within the project study area* and can be downloaded from www.watersupplyproject.ie

**The project study area includes Counties; Clare, Dublin (including Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin) Kildare, Galway, Laois, Limerick, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Westmeath and Wicklow.*

Happen Next?

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

Where can I get more information?

The Project Need Report and Project Road Map are 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.

Further information can also be obtained by calling 1890 252 848

Contact Us

Should you have any questions or queries about this project, wish to request hard copies of any of the publications mentioned in this newsletter or wish to be included on a mailing list for project updates, please do contact us using the details below.

**Water Supply Project
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Merrion Road
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www.watersupplyproject.ie