



11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Ms. McMahon,

I refer to your presentation to An Fóram Uisce on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January with regard to Irish Waters SEA Scoping Report and consultation process in relation to their 'National Water Resource Plan' (NWRP) and thank you for same. I wish to thank you for forwarding a copy of your presentation which has been circulated to our members today.

An Fóram is appreciative of the fact that, as the closing date for Submissions was in late December and as An Fóram was not in a position to meet at that time, you had agreed to present at this meeting and extend the closing date to facilitate our response.

During the course of the presentation and subsequent questions and answer session, the following issues were noted/raised:

- This is an initial consultation process and there will be further consultations generally and also specifically with An Fóram during the year.
- You confirmed that the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Scheme is a standalone project in the context of the Plan and is proceeding through a separate consultation process. The members of An Fóram have requested that we arrange for a presentation from Irish Water on this project at our next meeting.
- Inclusion of waste water treatment schemes in the plan – it was noted that these schemes are being treated as a different programme and as such are not provided for within the NWRP. The members of An Fóram are concerned with regard to same and have requested that we arrange for a presentation from Irish Water on the proposals in respect of same in due course.
- You will recall that a number of queries were raised in relation to conservation including:
  1. proposals to utilise grey water for non-drinking water requirements;
  2. the range of conservation issues including the use of rain water harvesting,
  3. financial incentives for households to reduce use.
- Queries were also raised in relation to Irish Water's input into national policies on water conservation provisions in legislation and regulations e.g. building regulations and also linkages to the National Planning Framework;

- A particular issue of concern, which was raised during our meeting with you in Portlaoise, is service provision in relation to rural areas where there is no current public supply but where population increases are leading to demands for services – both water supply and waste water treatment;
- A particular emphasis was placed on a public education/awareness programme in relation to water provision costings, conservation requirements and solutions etc.;
- A query was also raised in relation to linkages between Irish Water and Local Authorities in terms of planning control and provisions for water conservation etc.

In summary, An Fóram's concerns can be categorised as follows:

1. Water Conservation.
2. Public education and awareness programme.
3. Requirements in relation to the planning approval process by Local Authorities.
4. Consultation requirements.
5. Integration of waste water treatment plans with this NWSP.
6. Potential of customised and localised responses in relation to water provision.
7. Overarching water quality issues.
8. The Eastern and Midland Water Supply Project

We hope that this submission will be of assistance to you in your work and look forward to further engagement during the year as the consultation process progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Kennedy  
Senior Executive Officer  
An Fóram Uisce  
087 4194547

**Mary McMahon**  
**Water Resources Strategy Specialist,**  
**Asset Planning**  
**Irish Water**  
**Colvill House,**  
**24-26 Talbot Street,**  
**Dublin 1.**