

Taking Stock and Next Steps



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June 2017

Overview

- Context - State of the environment and an update on water status
- Getting the evidence and governance right
- The journey since 2014
- Where to next

Ireland's Environment An Assessment 2016



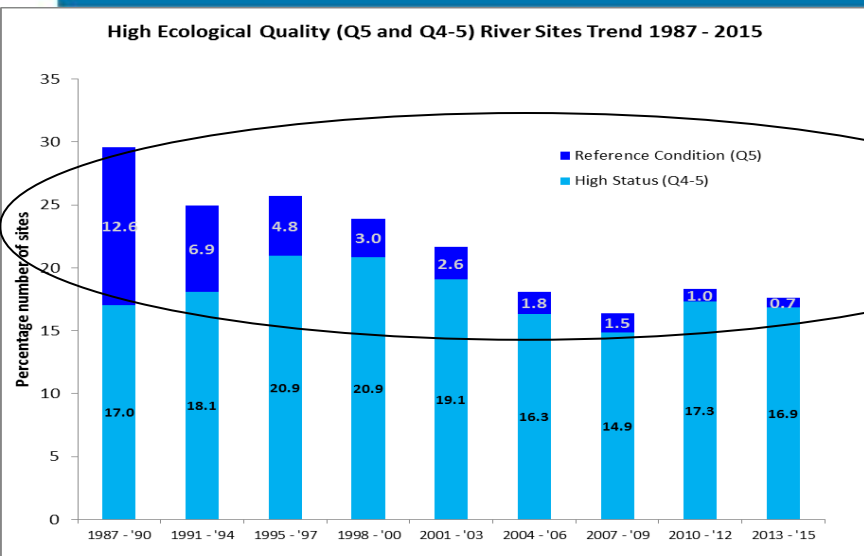
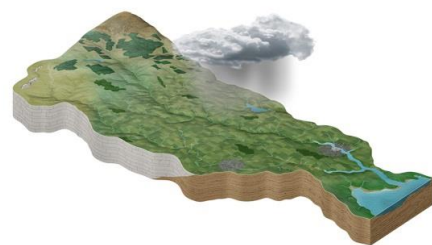
 **epa**
Environmental Protection Agency
An tSeirbhís um Chaomhú Comhshaoil

Headline findings

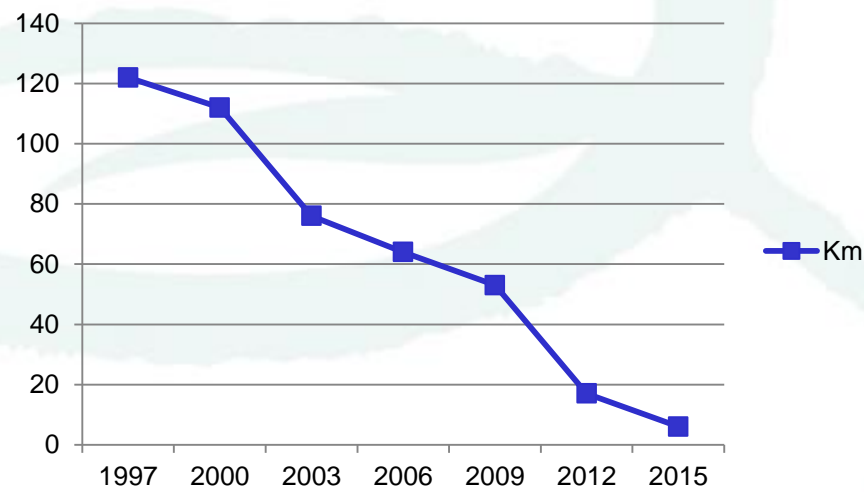
- Climate change the defining environmental issue of our times
- Ireland's environment generally "good" - but serious underlying signals of concern
 - While the worst of the worst rivers have improved, we have lost the best of the best
 - Localised problems such as poor air quality and water pollution masked by national figures
 - Species such as the corncrake and curlew almost extinct in Ireland
- A good quality environment supports our health and well-being
- Environmental protection legislation keeps us safer and healthier and needs to be implemented

ALL RELEVANT TO WATER!

Key Findings for Water



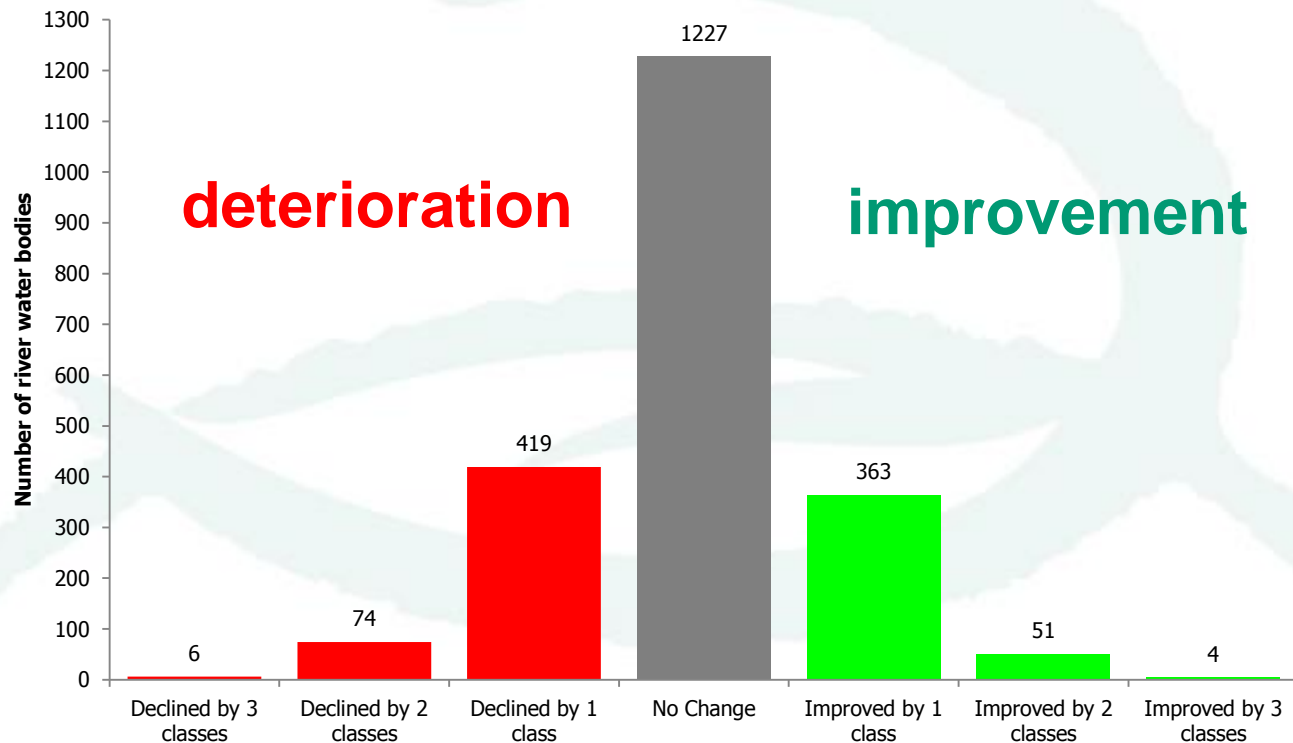
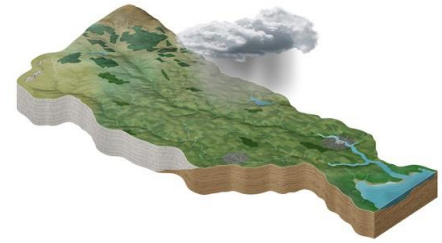
Losing the best of the best



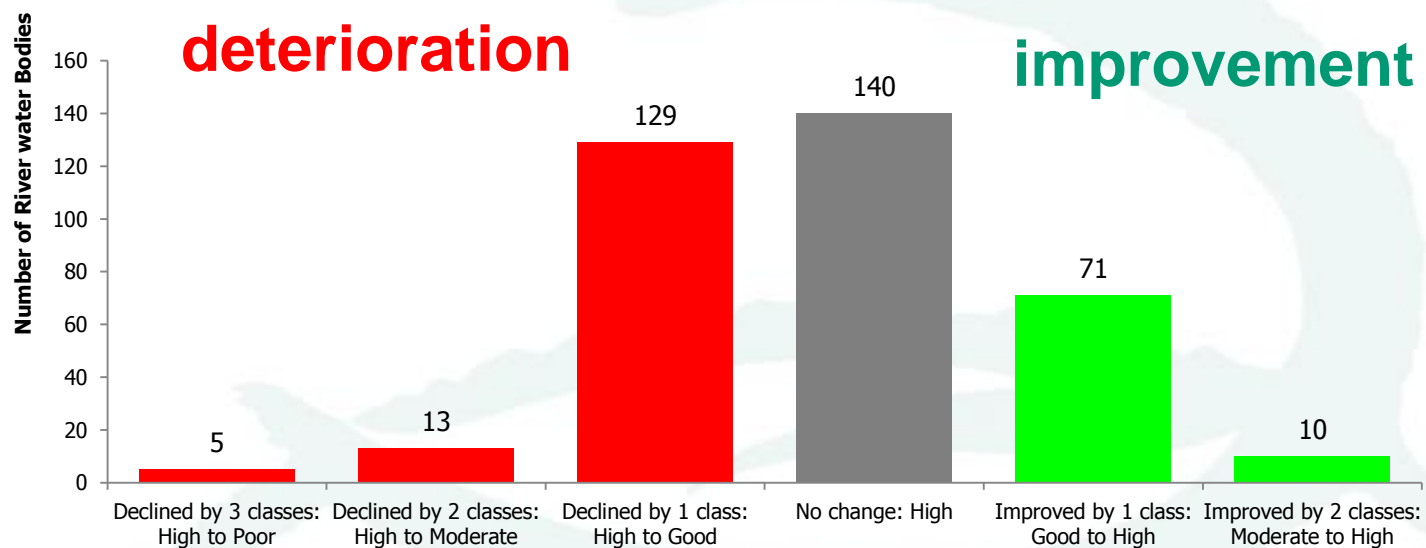
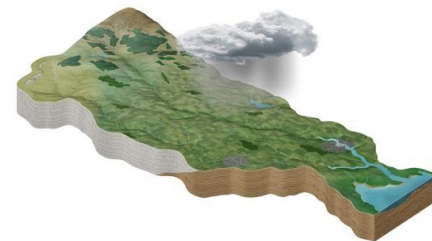
Reducing the worst of the worst

- **Preview of some of the next water quality in Ireland report findings**
- **Plots showing improvement and deterioration**
- **Focus on the colour**

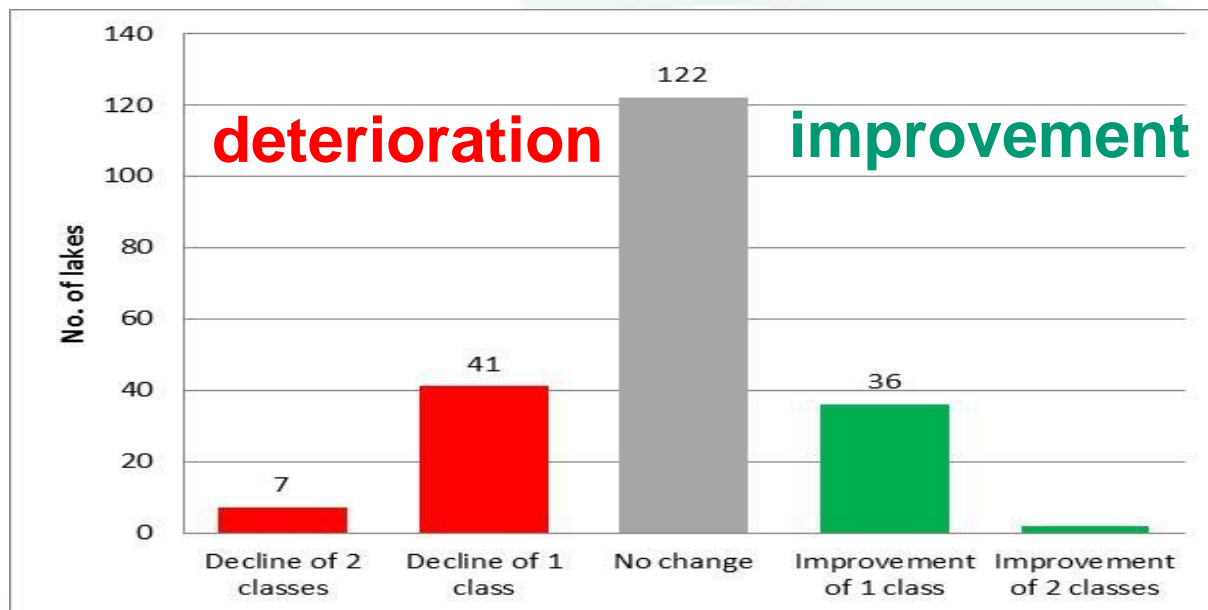
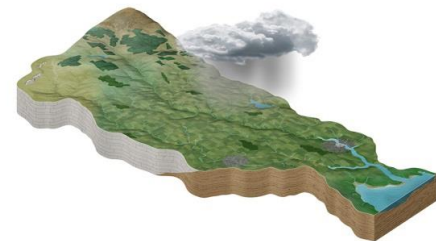
Changes in ecological status of river water bodies between 2007-2009 and 2010-2015.



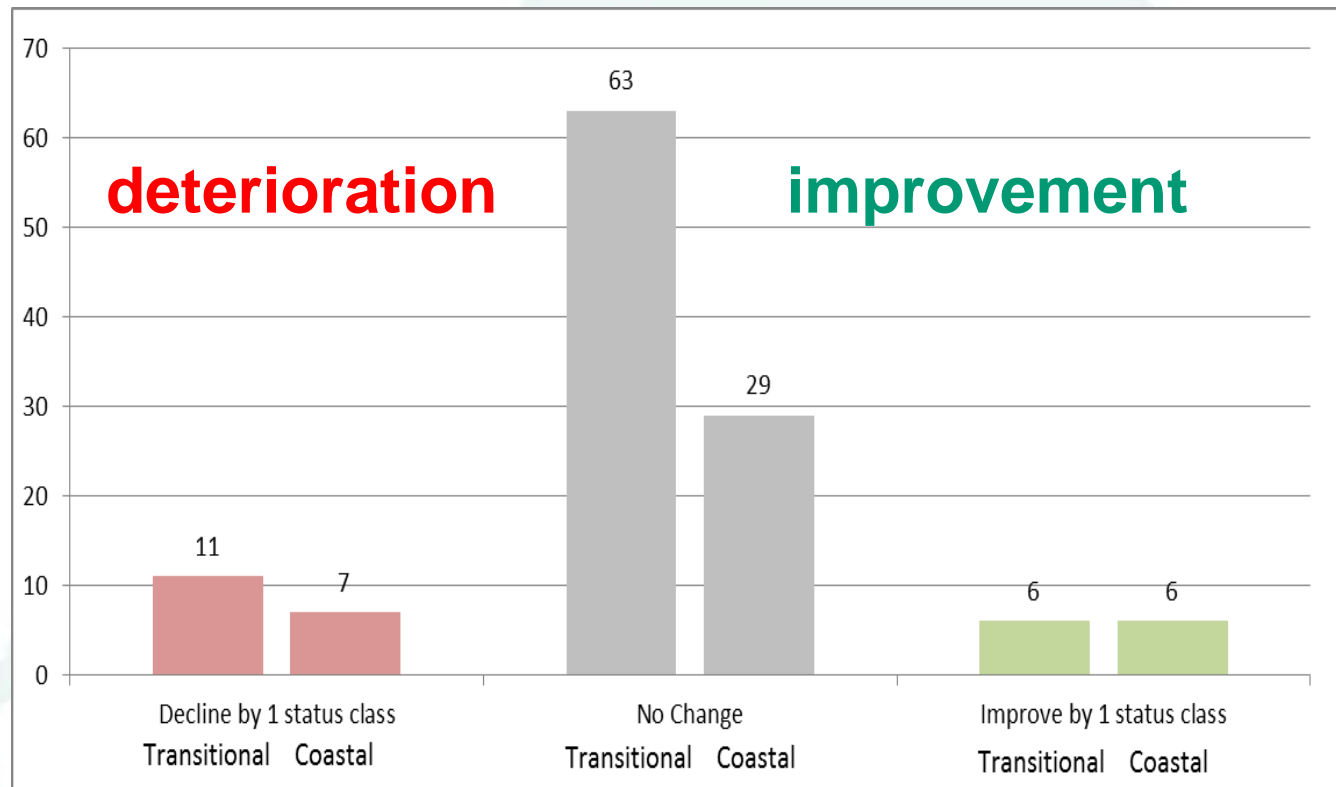
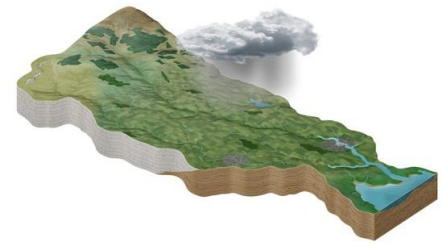
Changes in high ecological status river water bodies between 2007-2009 and 2010-2015.



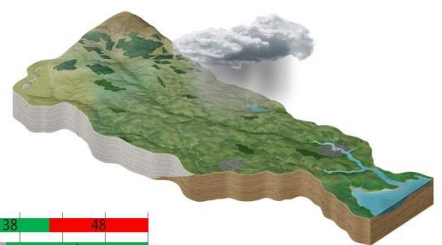
Changes in ecological status for lake water bodies common to 2007-2009 and 2010-2015.



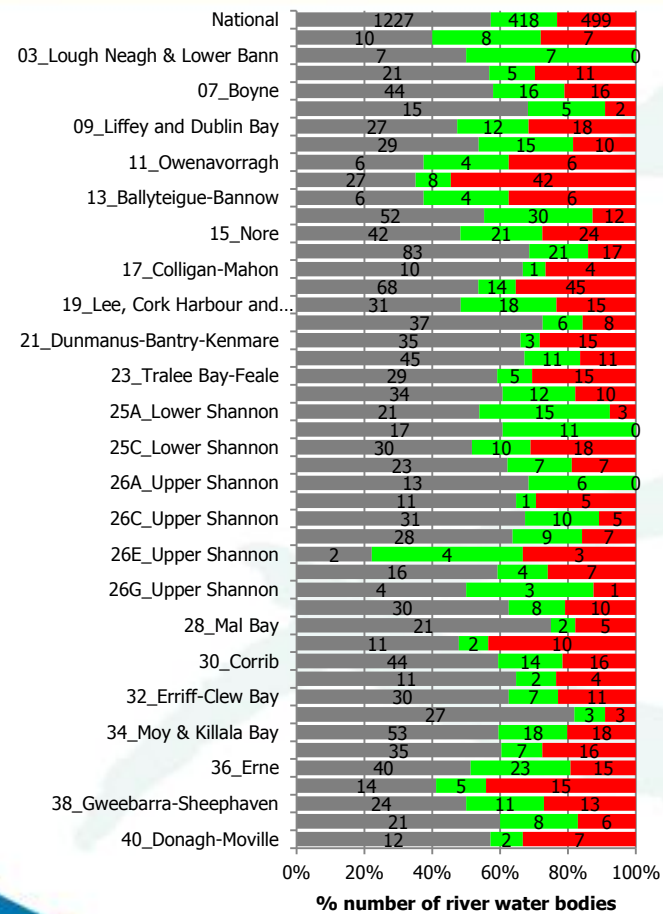
Changes in transitional and coastal water status class since 2007-2012.



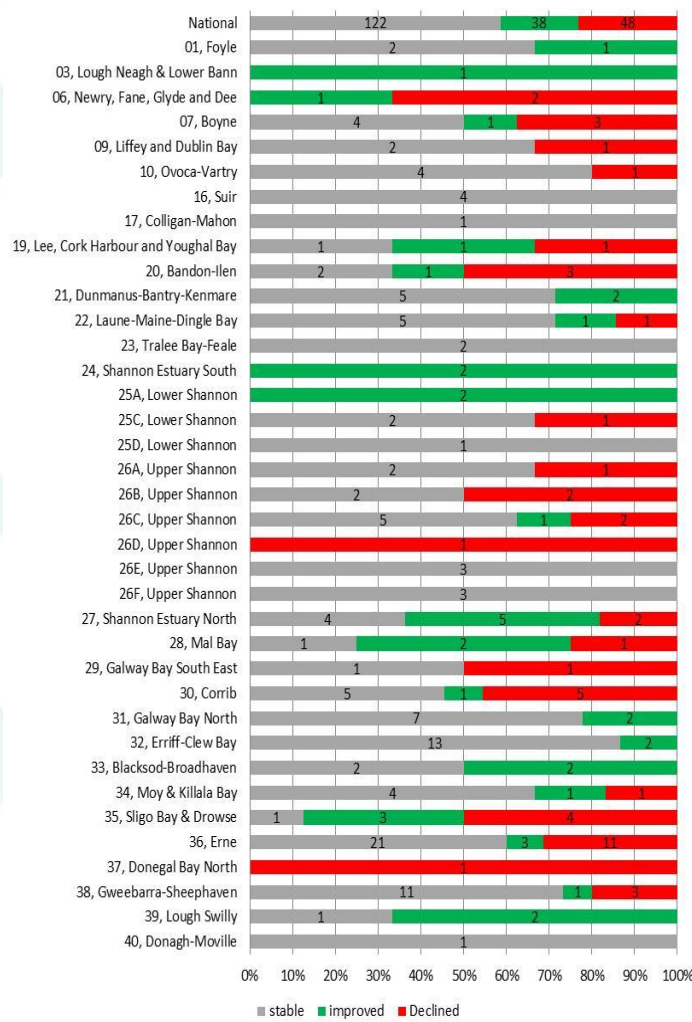
Changes in ecological status by catchment and between 2007-2009 and 2013-2015.



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■ No Change in ecological status



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- **TOO MUCH RED**
- **NO DETERIORATION ALLOWED**
- **SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE IS CLEAR**

A question for all of us here is....

How do we reverse this trend and get on the right track?

- 1. Get the evidence right**
- 2. Get the governance right.. And then:**

Focus on the right measure in the right place based on the evidence

So.....

**WHAT ARE WE
COLLECTIVELY
DOING ABOUT
THIS?**

1. IMPROVING THE EVIDENCE BASE AND IDENTIFYING THE PRESSURES TO TARGET THE RIGHT MEASURE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

How do we know what the significant pressures are? Weight of evidence approach

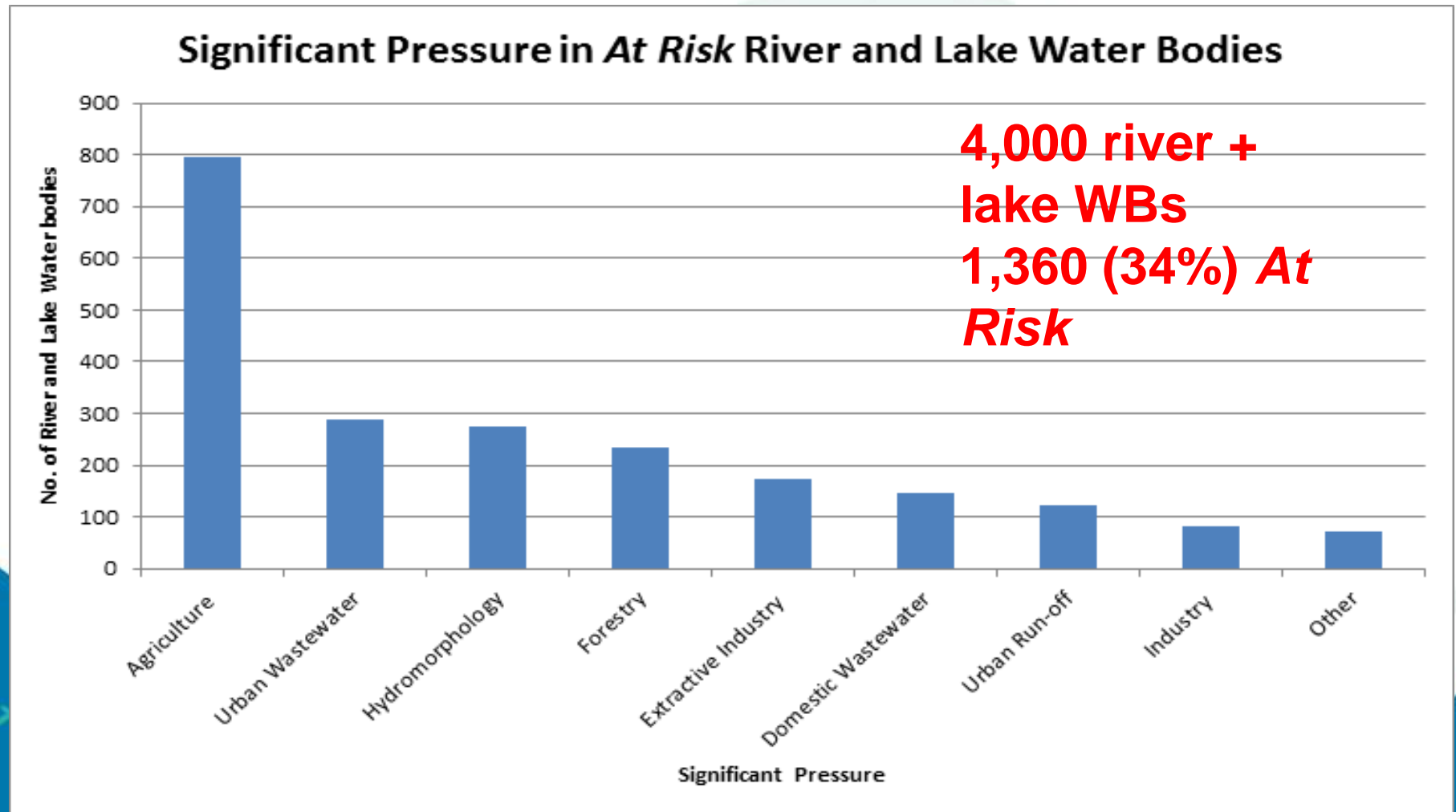
- **Clues from monitoring – chemistry and biology**
- **New nutrient modelling tools**
 - Source Load Apportionment Model
 - Load reduction calculations, and stream profiles
 - Pollution Impact Potential Maps for diffuse agriculture
 - TraCs team estuary models, GW load models
- **Local information and knowledge from local authority, inland fisheries, EPA staff and others**
- **Continuing to build, review and refine the evidence base**

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Significant Pressures in *At Risk* rivers and lakes

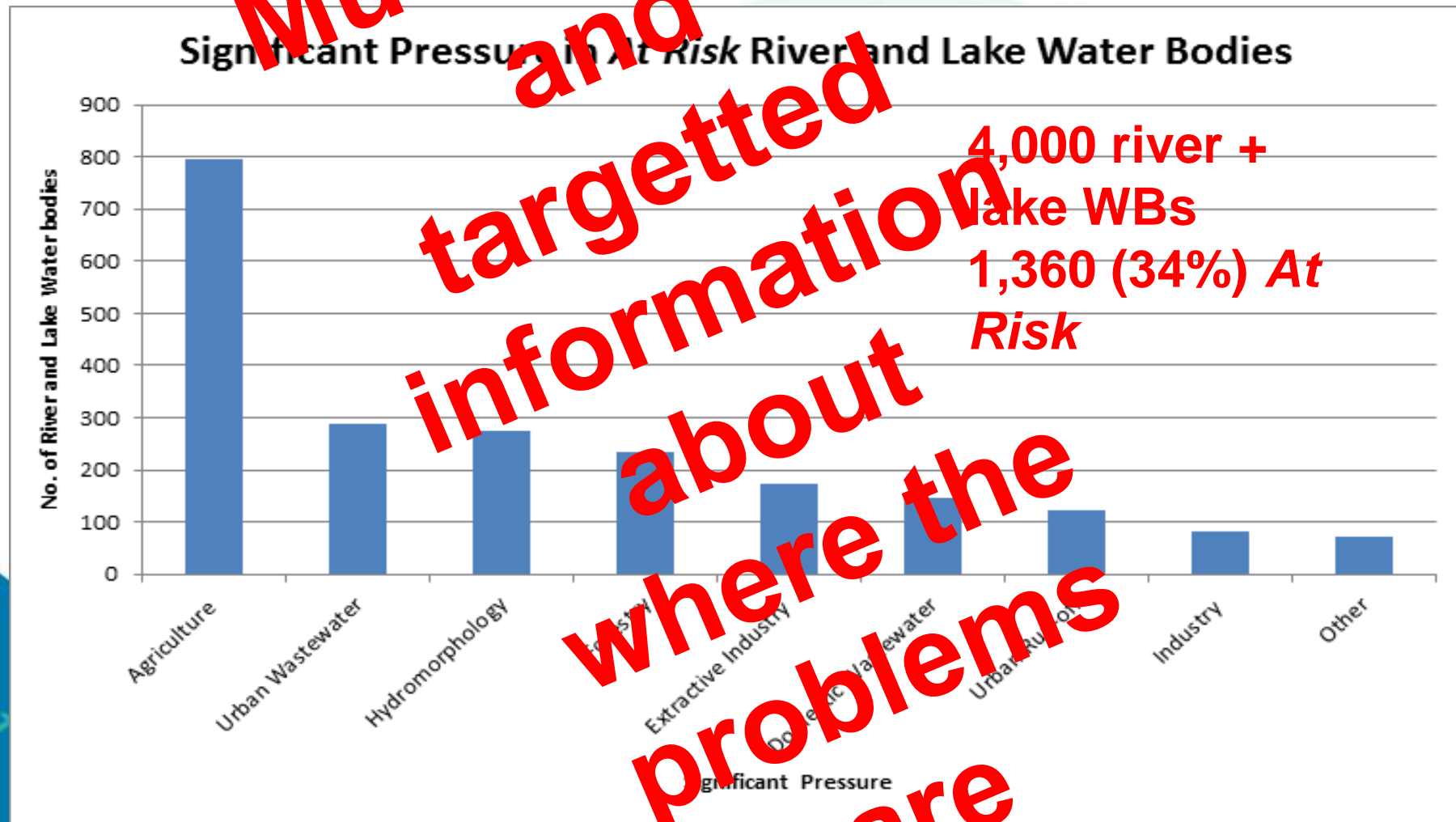
Significant pressures



Significant pressures may be single or multiple

Significant Pressures in At Risk rivers and lakes

Significant pressures



Significant pressures may be single or multiple



2. IMPROVING COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE

My Mantra This Past Three Years

- We achieve more working together than apart – very good progress in last three years
- Seek out the common ground and work with this
- Collaboration works but is not always easy
- Perseverance pays off in the end

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

IT'S THE GOVERNANCE STUPID!

Cast Your Minds Back to 2014

A Blank Canvas

A Fresh Start

New Beginnings

Remember This?

Tier 1: National Management & Oversight

- Led by DoECLG
- Policy, regulations and resources
- Sign-off of river basin management plans

Tier 2: National Technical Implementation and Reporting

- Led by EPA
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting
- Evaluation and implementation of measures
- Support for river basin management plans
- Monitoring of enforcement tasks and environmental outcomes

Tier 3: Regional Implementation via Water Networks

- Led by the lead Coordinating Authority
- Local authority monitoring, licensing and enforcement actions
- Detailed River Basin Management Plans
- Implementation of Programmes of Measures by relevant public bodies, tracking and reporting, in consultation with EPA

JUST AN IDEA IN 2014

Remember This?

MOVING FROM AN IDEA TO REALITY – THE WORK OF THE LAST THREE YEARS

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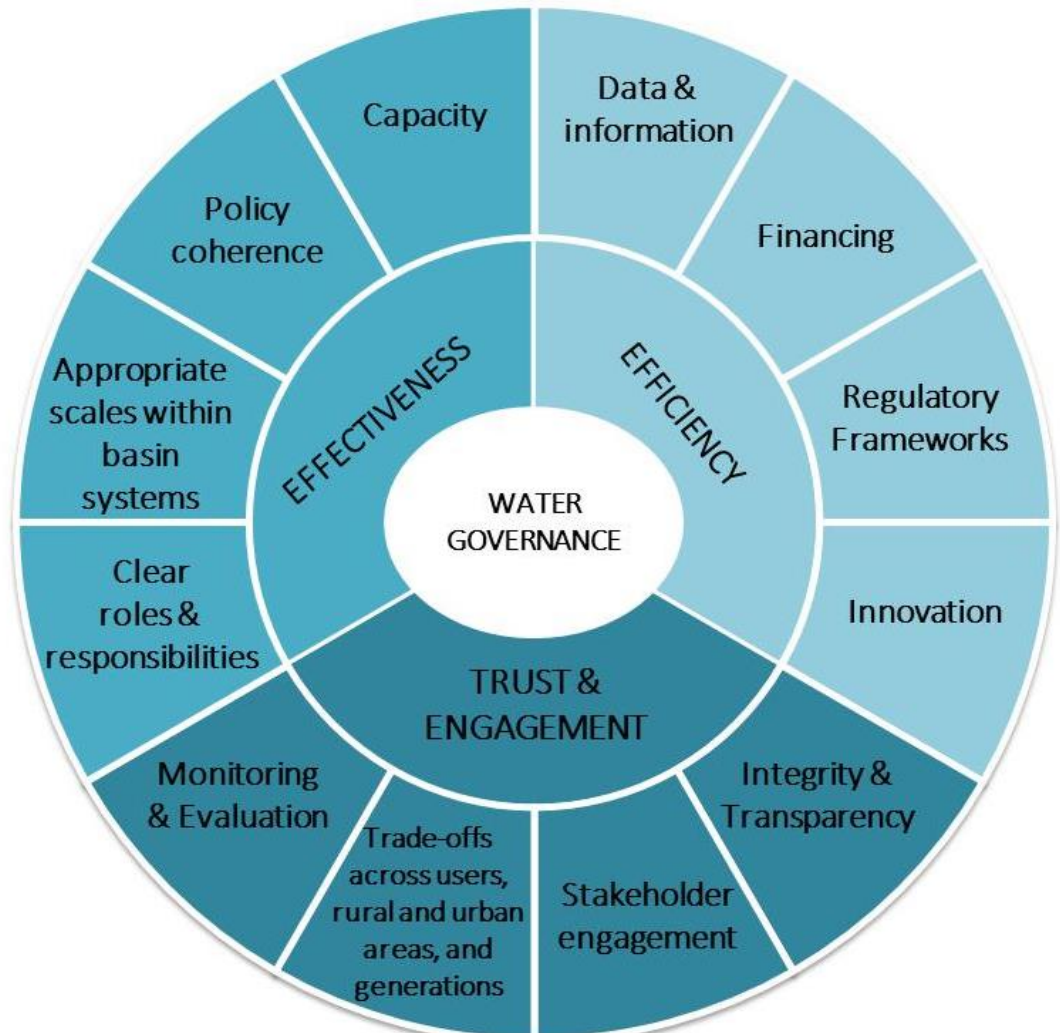
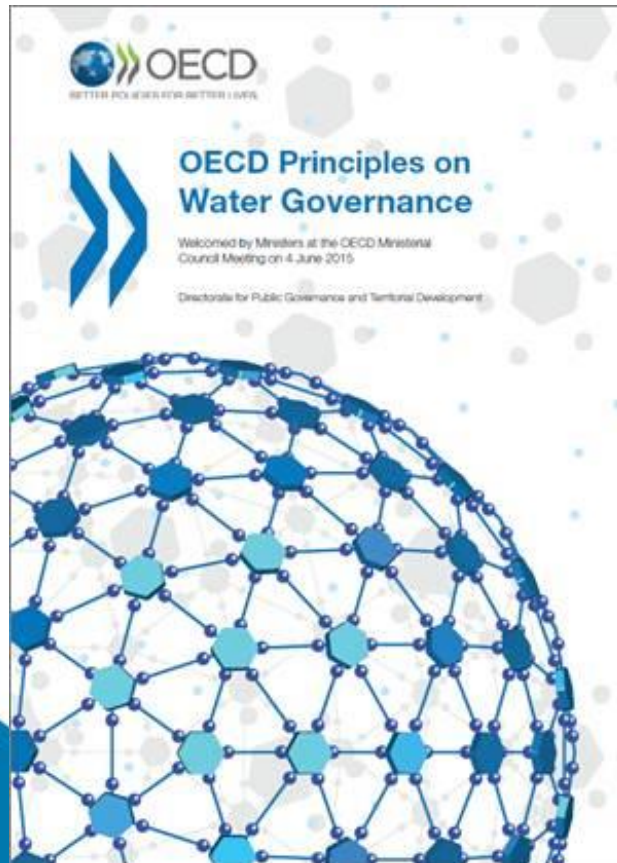
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- Template for River basin management plans
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2015: OECD 12 Principles on Water Governance can help guide us



OECD Principles on Water Governance

The main focus of the first WFD cycle

Moving beyond the question of WHAT to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL and HOW

To do this we have to progress on all 12 fronts

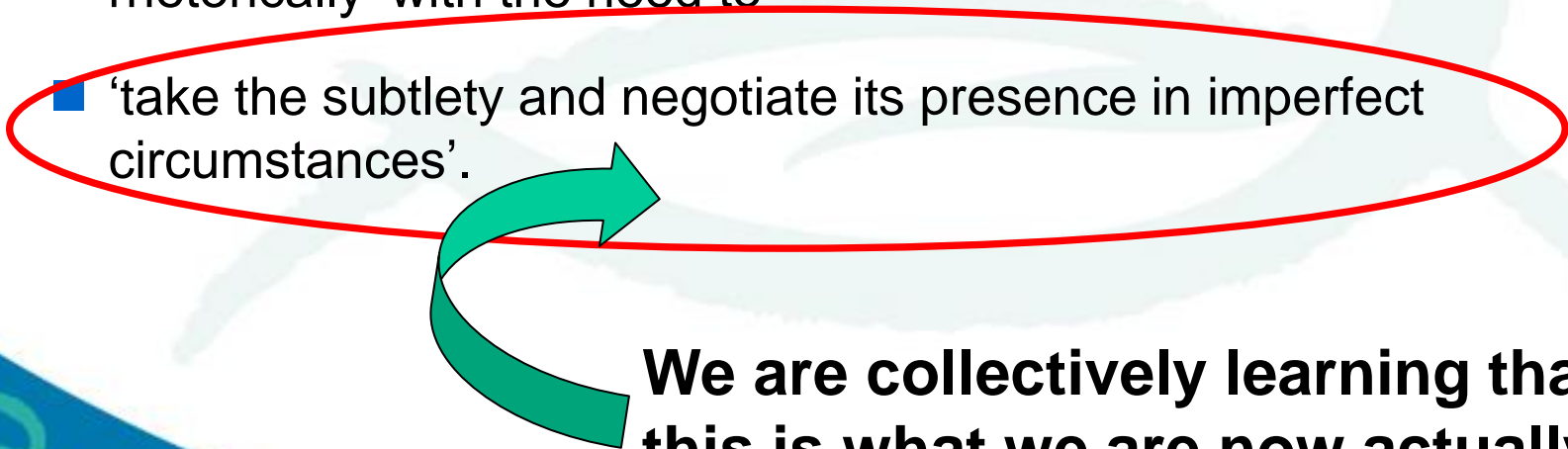
Where we are going for cycles 2 and 3

A Pause for Thought

- Recent quote from President Micheal D. Higgins
 - When considering the inevitable imperfections of all political ideas and actions, he contrasted the desire to
 - ‘take charge of the elements of a big vision and hammer it out rhetorically’ with the need to
 - ‘take the subtlety and negotiate its presence in imperfect circumstances’.
- It is worth reflecting on the meaning of this for water governance

A Pause for Thought

- Recent quote from Micheal D. Higgins, President of the Irish Republic,
 - When considering the inevitable imperfections of all political ideas and actions, contrasted the desire to
 - ‘take charge of the elements of a big vision and hammer it out rhetorically’ with the need to
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**We are collectively learning that
this is what we are now actually
doing and need to do**

And so.....

A speed refresher on the governance journey from 2014 - 2017

2014 – 2017 – Building the Foundations – A Short Refresher!

■ 2014

- **Legal and Policy Foundations** - New Water Policy Regulations with new governance arrangements and re-allocation of responsibilities to Minister, EPA and local authorities (**who does what**)
- New Catchment Science and Management Unit in EPA and start of new 'catchment' and **evidence-based and targeted** approach to characterisation
- Establishment of Water Policy Advisory Committee – Tier 1 (**who does what**)
- Establishment of National Implementation Group and Catchment Management Network by EPA – Tier 2 (**who does what**)

New Teams and People Since 2014



EPA Catchments Team

Building the Foundations

■ 2015

- SWMI Consultation and first of a series of **stakeholder engagement** events at Farmleigh House in May 2015
- Establishment of Local Authority Water and Communities Office and laying foundations for better **community engagement**
- Better **Public Information** – First Catchments Newsletter
- **Building the Evidence Base** – EPA working hard on characterisation

Building the Foundations

■ 2016

- Improving **Public Engagement** - Appointment of new LAWCO RBD coordinators and water community officers
- Establishment of new local authority led regional committees (5) - Tier 3 (**who does what**)
- Debating **Priorities** – Second Farmleigh stakeholder event in May
- **Building the Evidence Base** - Completion of catchment-based characterisation work by EPA for national planning purposes
- Improving **Public Information** – Launch of Catchments.ie
- Improving **Stakeholder Engagement** – new DAFM stakeholder forum and National Dairy Sustainability Forum



Matt Shortt



Carol McCarthy



Sharon Kennedy



Bernie O'Flaherty



Michael Pollard



Ray Spain



Alan Walsh



Fran Igoe



Sheevaun Thompson



Jimmy McVeigh
Donegal Town



Gretta McCarron
Monaghan



Mick Kane
Castlebar

Karen Kennedy
Carrickonshannon



Aoife McGrath
Navan



Catherine Seale
Galway

Basil Mannion
Tullamore



Sinéad Hurson
Dublin



Ruairi Ó Conchúir
Limerick



Ann Phelan
Kilkenny



Bláithín Ní Ainín
Tralee



Kieran Murphy
Cork



& Sharon



Building the Foundations


■ 2017

- Publication of Draft national river basin management plan – February 2017 for six month **consultation**
- Improving **Public Engagement** - Creation of a new national water forum
- Extending the **Collaboration** – Five regional workshops and bedding in of the five regional committees
- LAWCO public consultations (over 100 events) and **engagement** on draft RBD plan
- Completion of business case for local authority WFD **resourcing**

So.....A lot done since 2014

**Are we
there yet?**





NOT QUITE

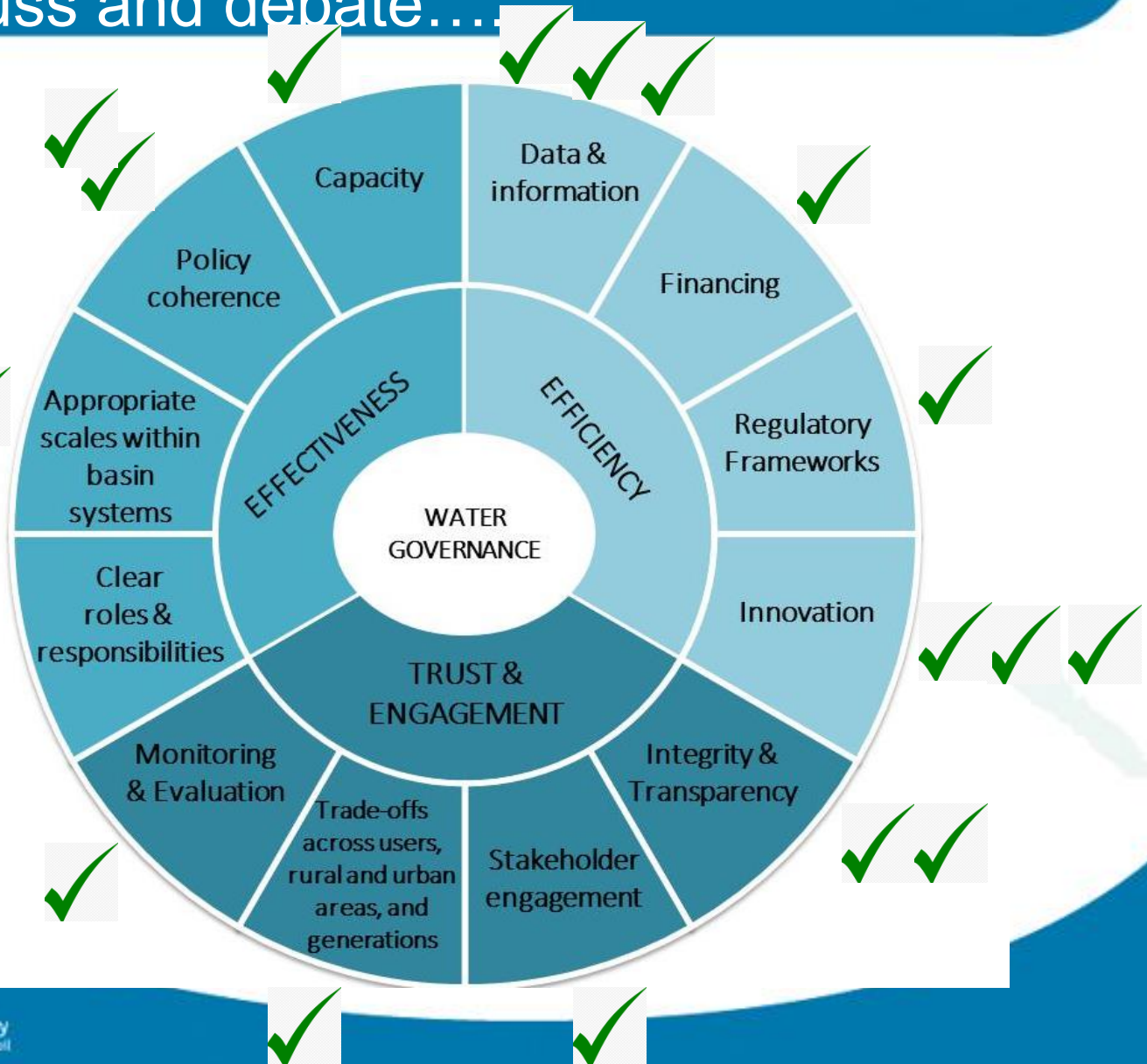
Question Posed in 2014 - What will help us do better?

- Sufficient Capacity
 - People and money
- Clear Objectives and Roles
- Clear Priorities
- Excellent Information and Knowledge

**We are making
good and steady
progress on all of
these fronts
compared with
2014**

Current State of Governance — how are we doing? Discuss and debate....

We are making progress on all of these fronts but some are more challenging than others



OECD Principles on Water Governance

The main focus of the first WFD cycle

WE ARE GETTING MUCH BETTER AT THIS

Moving beyond the question of WHAT to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL and HOW

To do this we have to progress on all 12 fronts

Where we are going for cycles 2 and 3

Some Next Steps for Developing Governance

- Keep building and improving the evidence base so the right measures can be targeted in the right place to deliver better water status – the monitoring will tell us how we are doing
- Nurture and grow the new Three Tier Governance structures
 - Still very new - an on-going job and challenge
 - For example, National Water Forum just established
- Get more local authority resources in place and operational
 - Agreed in principle but will take some time to put in place
- Establish regional operational and consultative networks
 - Broadening the collaboration and engagement within public sector and with civic society

Some Final Thoughts

- Major progress with evidence and governance made since 2014
- Need to broaden out the collaboration and engagement to better include civic society at local and regional level - **take the subtlety and negotiate its presence in imperfect circumstances**
- Foundations not yet fully built – a work in progress
- 2017-2021 will involve completing and strengthening these foundations – we are building for the future
- Keep focused on the idea of ‘the right measure in the right place’ – we are getting really focussed on where to take action supported by the evidence and doing this collaboratively
- Integrated Catchment Management is for ever, not just up to 2021 and 2027
- Never stop innovating and learning – we can always improve what we are doing and how we do it.