



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Water Framework Directive

Significant Water Management Issues

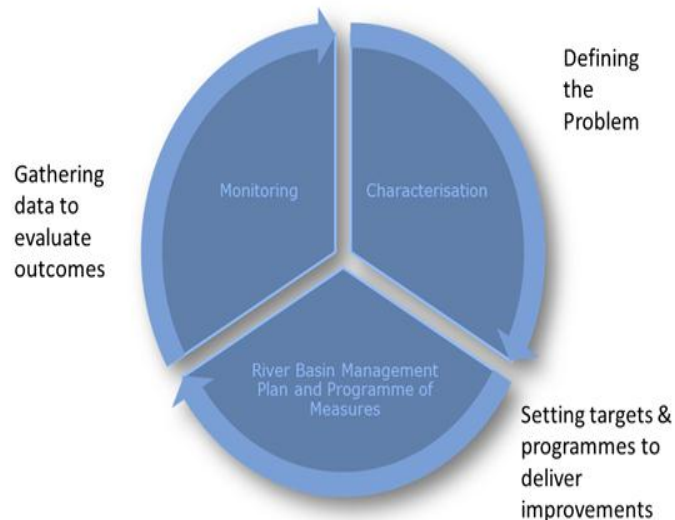
EPA National Water Event
Galway Bay Hotel 17–18 June 2015

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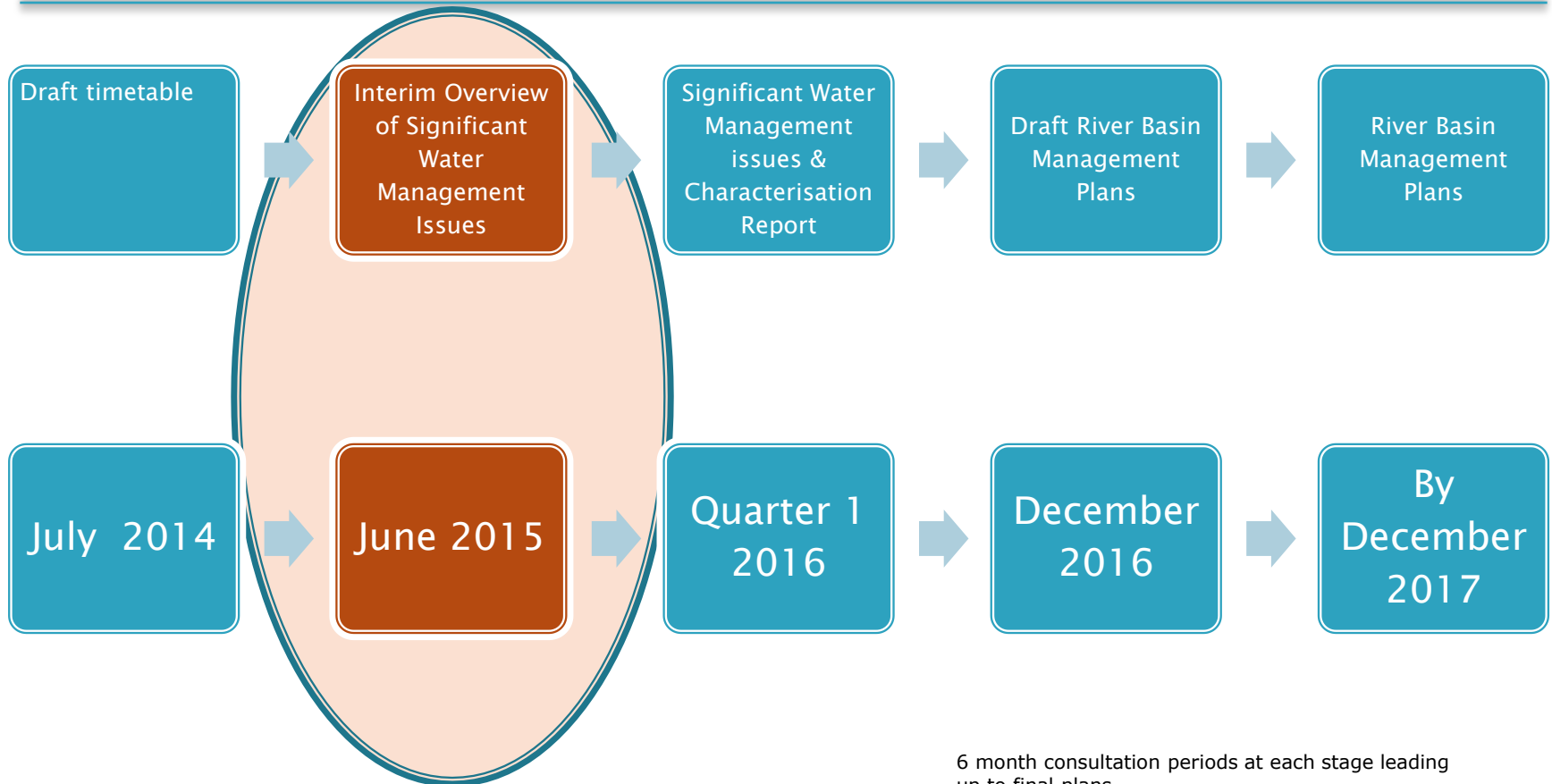
Purpose of SWMI Report

Water Framework Directive – the Cycle



- Currently planning for 2015–2021 river basin cycle
- Final plans to be in place by end 2017 (2 years late)
- Wish to open up public discussion on the content of river basin management plans and encourage the active involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of plans
- Identify key water management issues to be addressed in programmes of measures
- Take opportunity to learn from the first round of plans and build on the learning experience for the next round

Where are we in the planning cycle?



First Cycle River Basin Management Plans

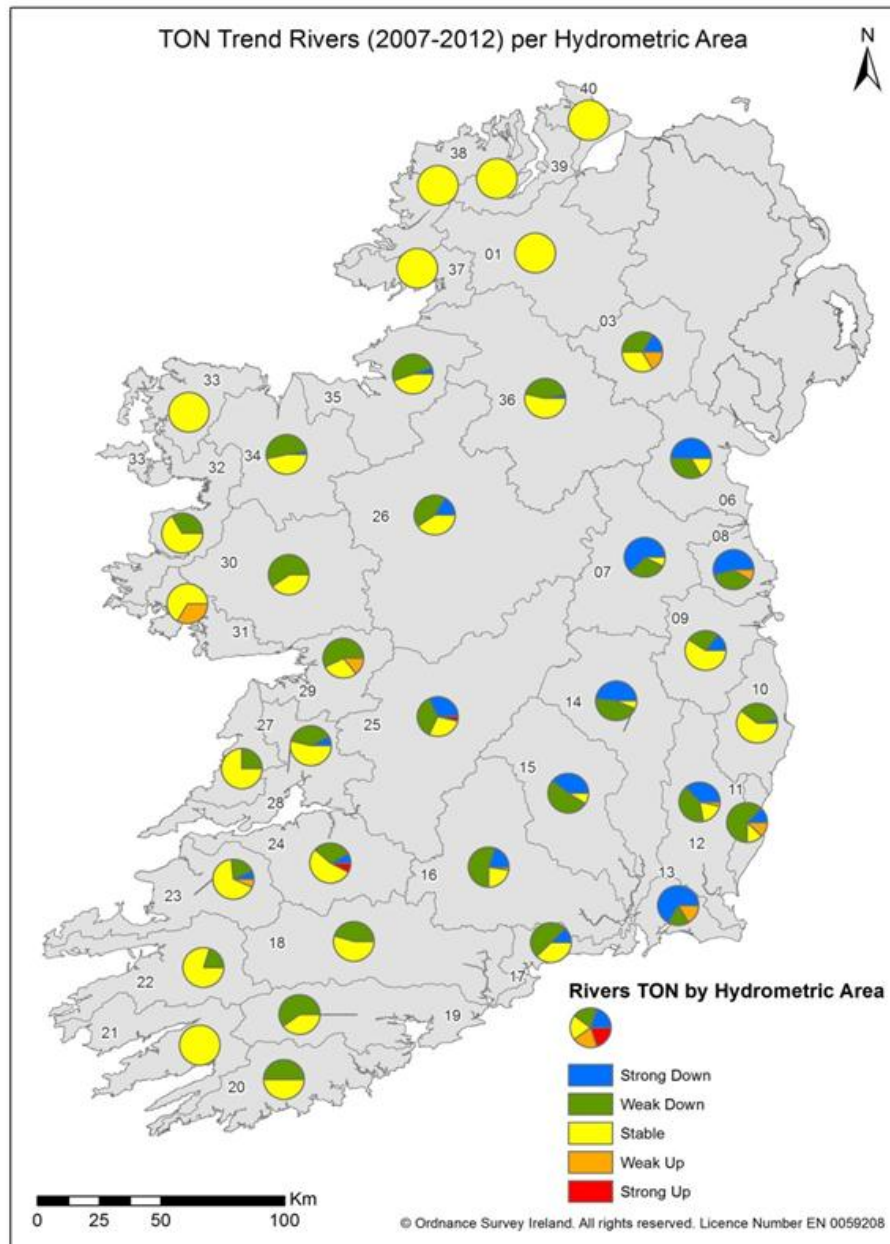


- Very ambitious targets in 2009–2015 river basin management plans
- Anticipated good status for approximately 95% of water bodies by 2021
- Many successes
- However
- Important to reflect on how we can do better this time

Current Condition of Our Waters

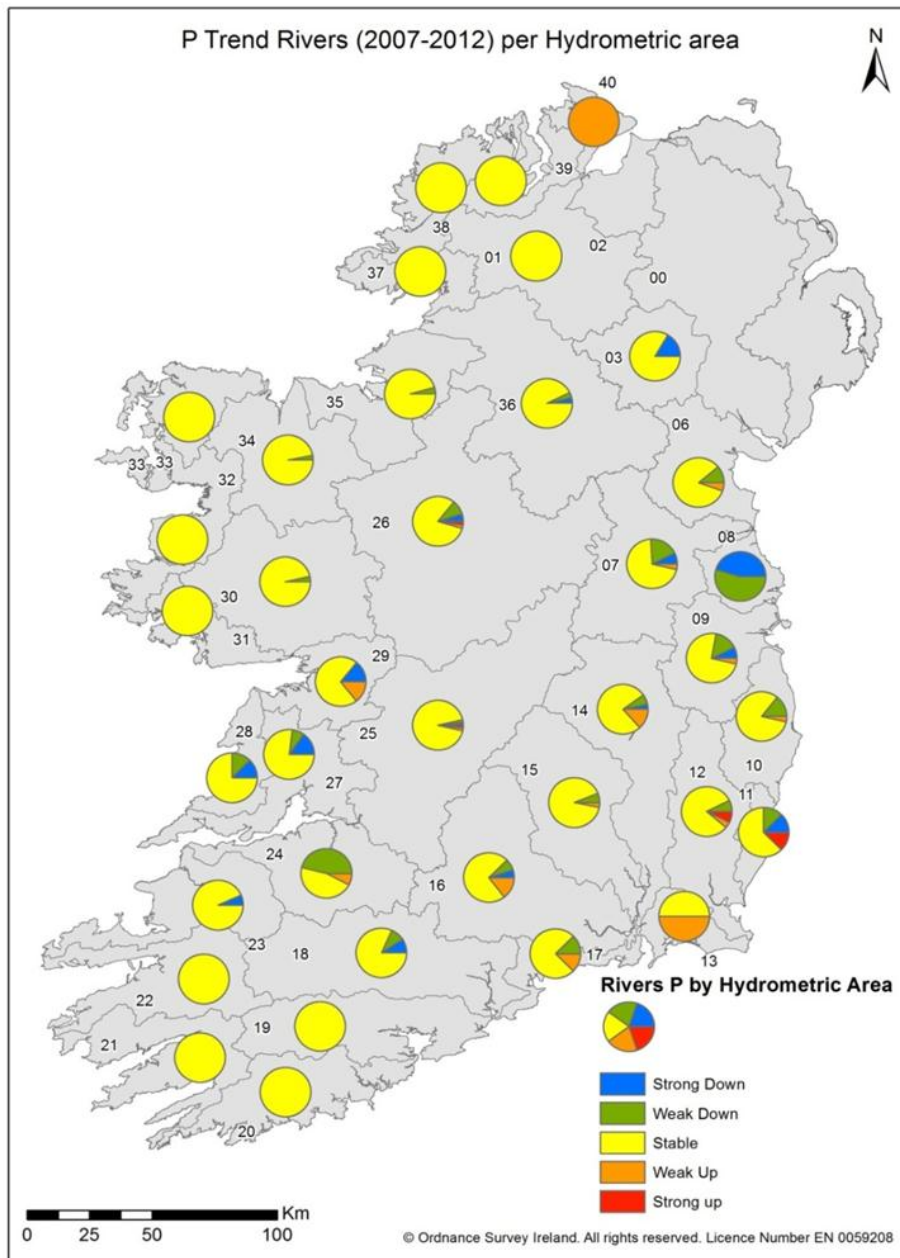


Status 2010–2012	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
Groundwater (% area) (interim status)	n/a	99	n/a	1	n/a
Rivers (% water bodies)	11.5	41	29	17.5	1
Lakes (% water bodies)	9	34	33	15	9
Transitional (% area)	3.6	41.1	43.4	11.4	0.5
Coastal (% area)	63	30	4	1.5	1.5



Some positive trends

Stable or reducing nitrogen levels in rivers (EPA *in press*)

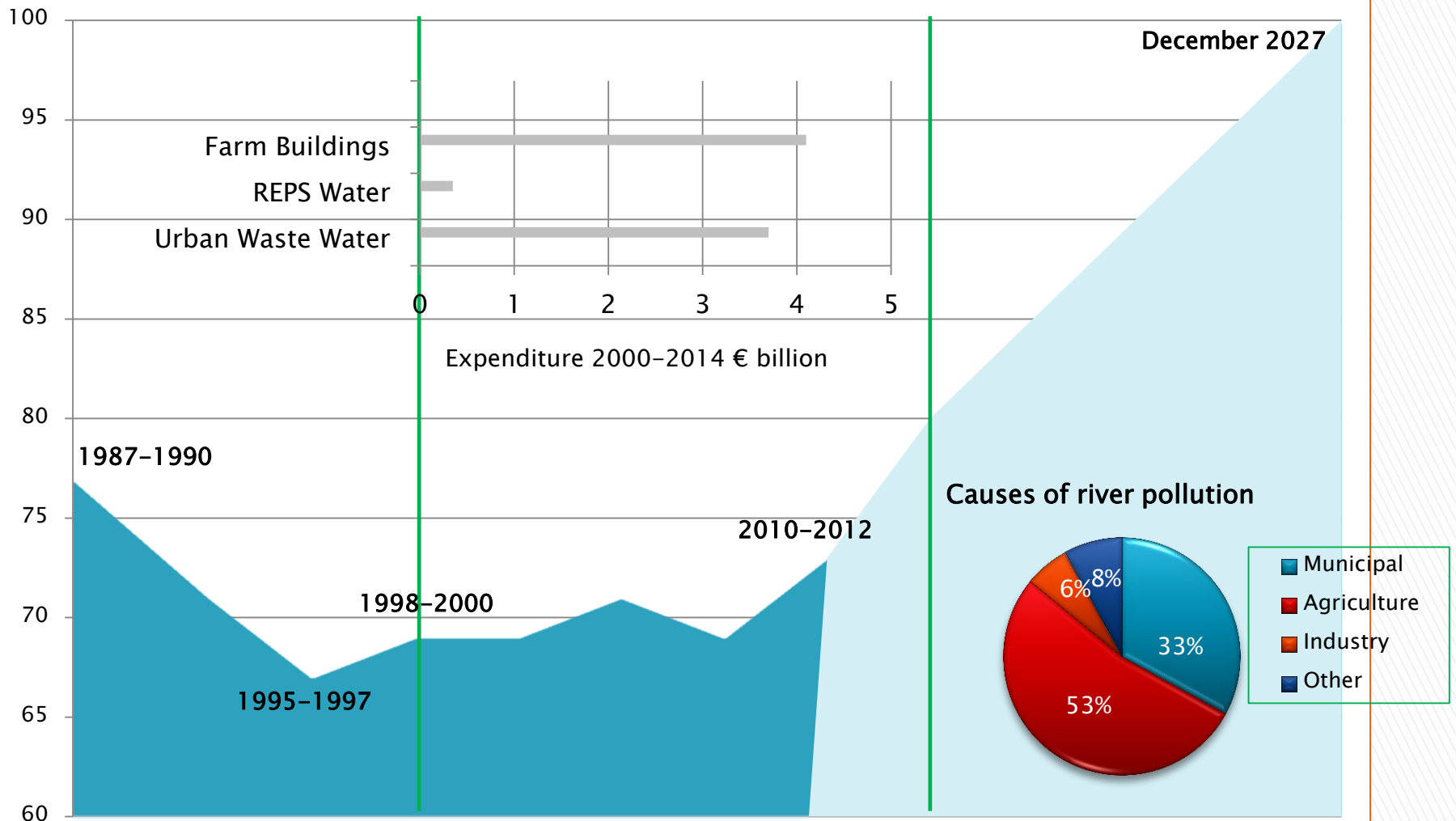


Some positive trends

Phosphorus – stable with some reducing trends (EPA *in press*)

River Water Quality 1987–2012

% unpolluted river channel

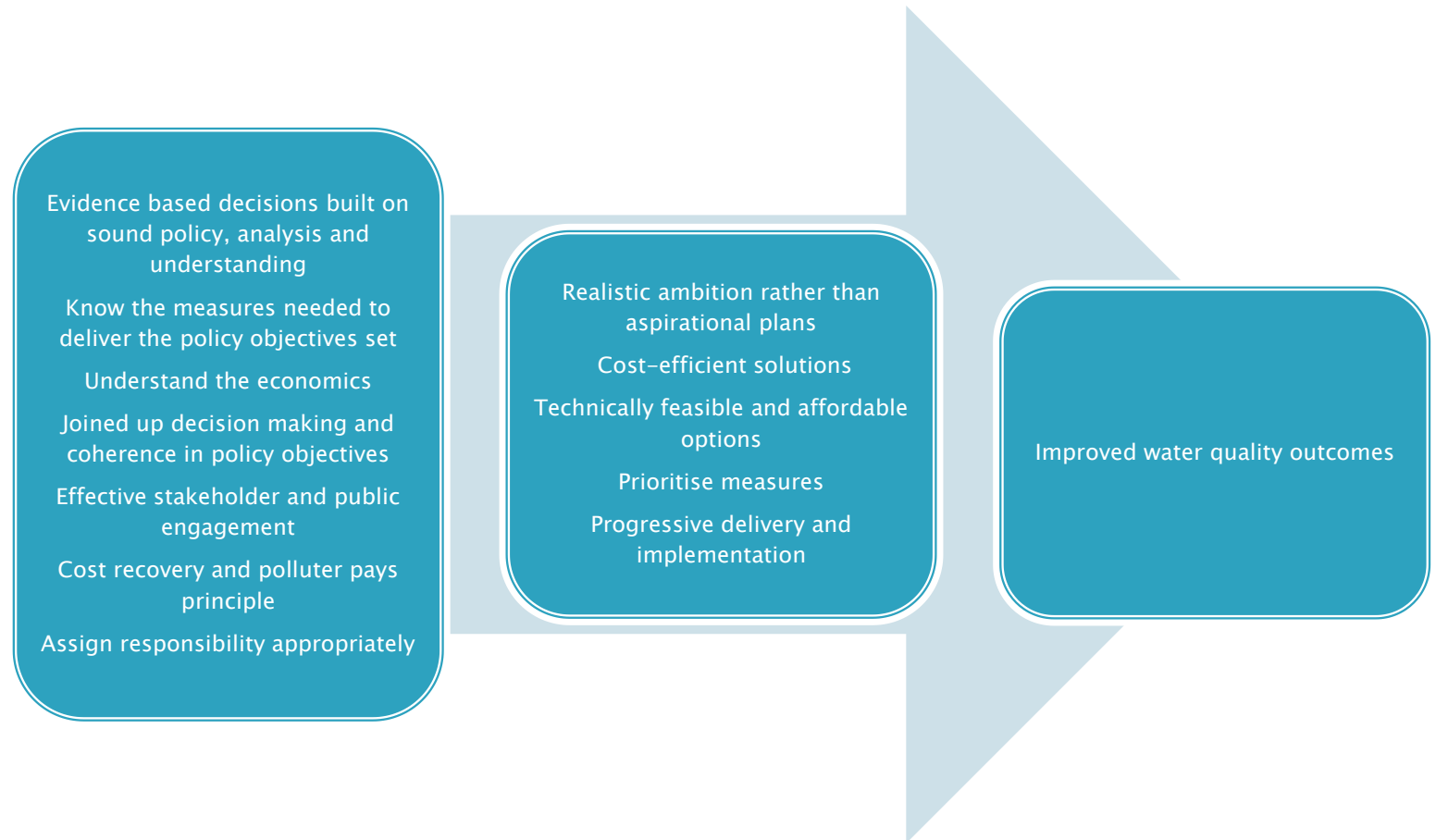


Some thoughts going into the next cycle



- Water quality in Ireland compares favourably with that in other EU countries
- But there is a very steep hill to climb
- Urban waste water compliance remains a big challenge
- How we manage the growth expectations of the agricultural sector will have a defining influence on water quality
- It will not be possible to fully deliver WFD objectives in the next river basin planning cycle
- There will be need to prioritise – must focus on the most important outcomes
- We must deliver what we promise otherwise river basin planning process will lose credibility

What we need to do



SWMI – Main Societal Issues



- How to strengthen coordination and organisational arrangements for WFD delivery – policy coherence and plan implementation
- How to improve public participation and stakeholder engagement in plan making
- What tasks should we prioritise?
- How much can we afford and who should pay?
- How do we get better alignment between land use planning and water management?
- Water management and flood risk mitigation
- Biodiversity and water management

SWMI – Water Management Issues and Environmental Pressures



- Pollution due to nutrient enrichment
- Water management and the protection of public health
- Fine sediment and the control of siltation
- Physical modification of water bodies
- Abstraction and flow regulation
- Chemical pollution
- Climate change adaptation
- Invasive alien species
- Loss of high status waters



Next steps

- Consultation on SWMI Report launched by Minister today – this is a beginning (not the end)
- 6 months public consultation (until 18 December 2015)
- Your input is important
- Will help prioritise water management issues for revised SWMI and characterisation report and will inform the later development of river basin management plans
- Submissions
 - By email to waterq@environ.ie or
 - By written response to *WFD SWMI Consultation, Water Quality Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford*



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Thank you

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