

environmental protection agency

# NATIONAL WATER EVENT 2018



## PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS



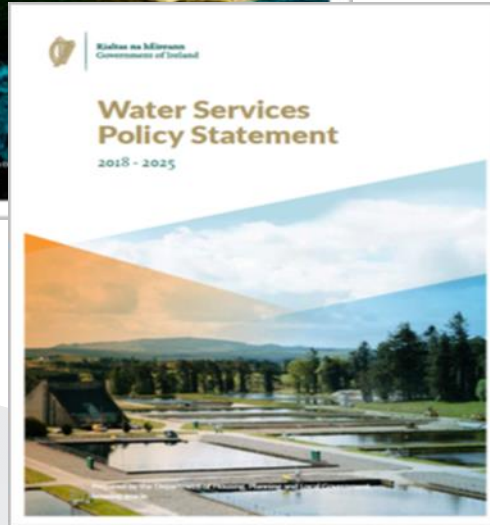
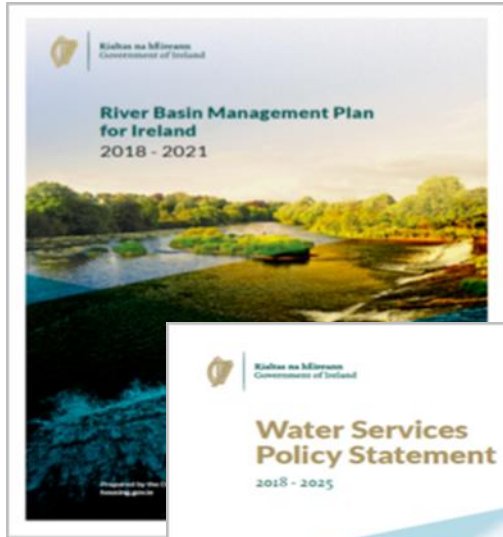


An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local Government

# Water Policy and New River Basin Management Plan

Maria Graham

20 June 2018



# Overview

- Developing the Policy and Plans – key building blocks
- Overview of the RBMP and the WSPS
- Next steps

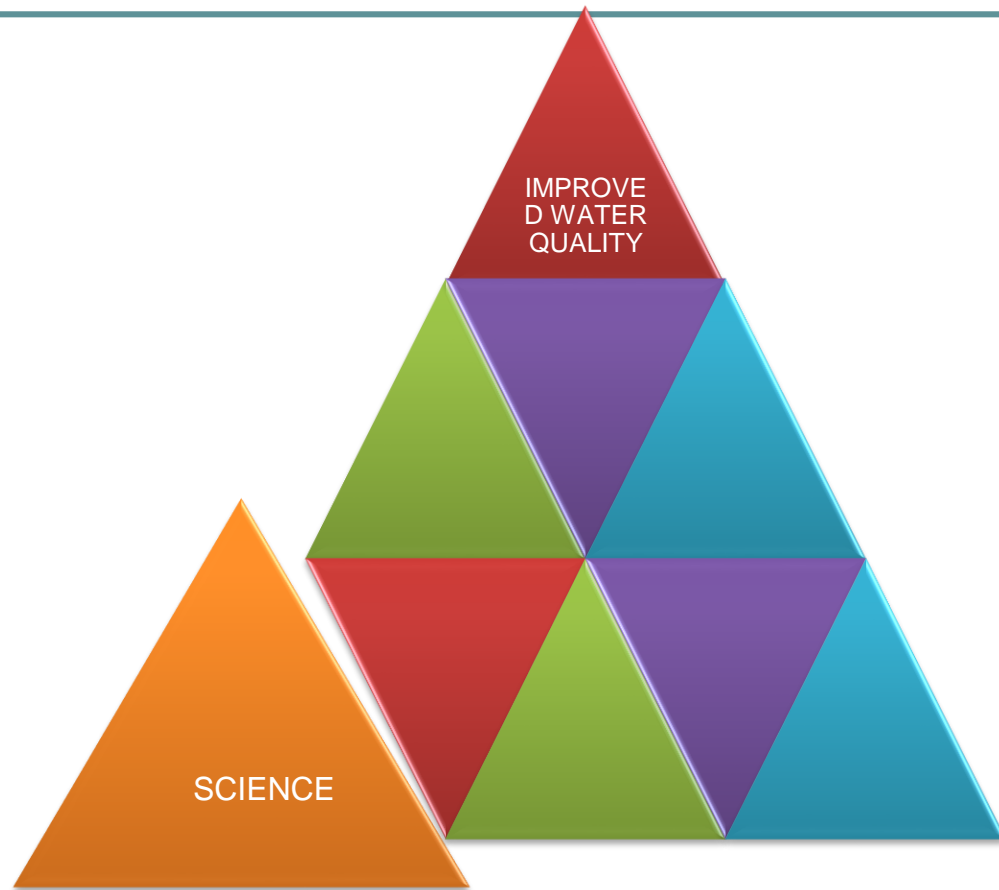


**DEVELOPING  
POLICY & PLANS:**

**THE BUILDING  
BLOCKS OF POLICY  
TO IMPROVE  
WATER QUALITY**



# Science



46 catchments, 4832 water bodies

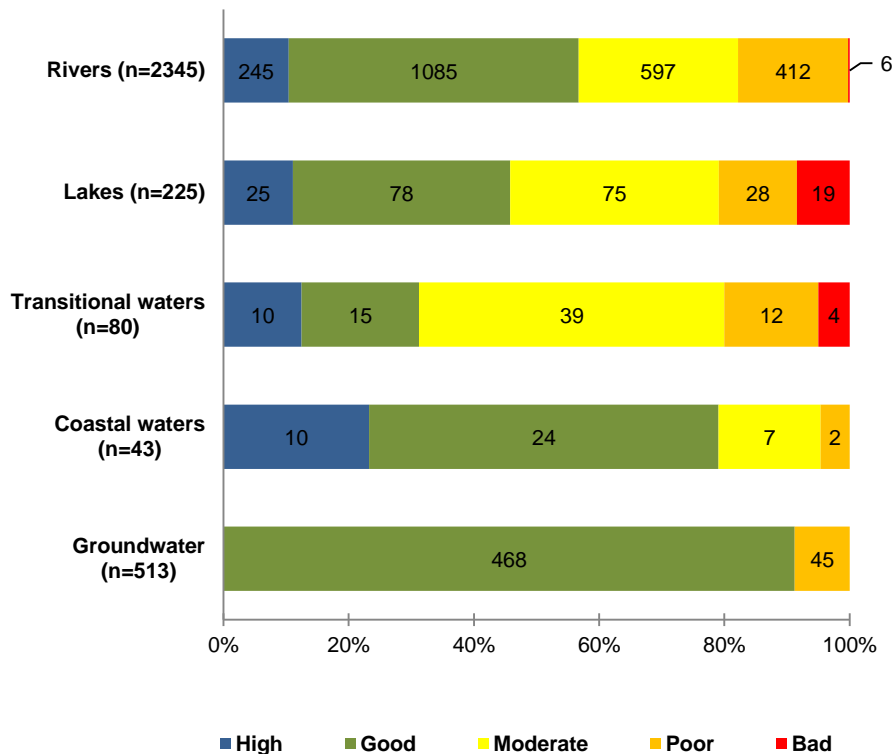
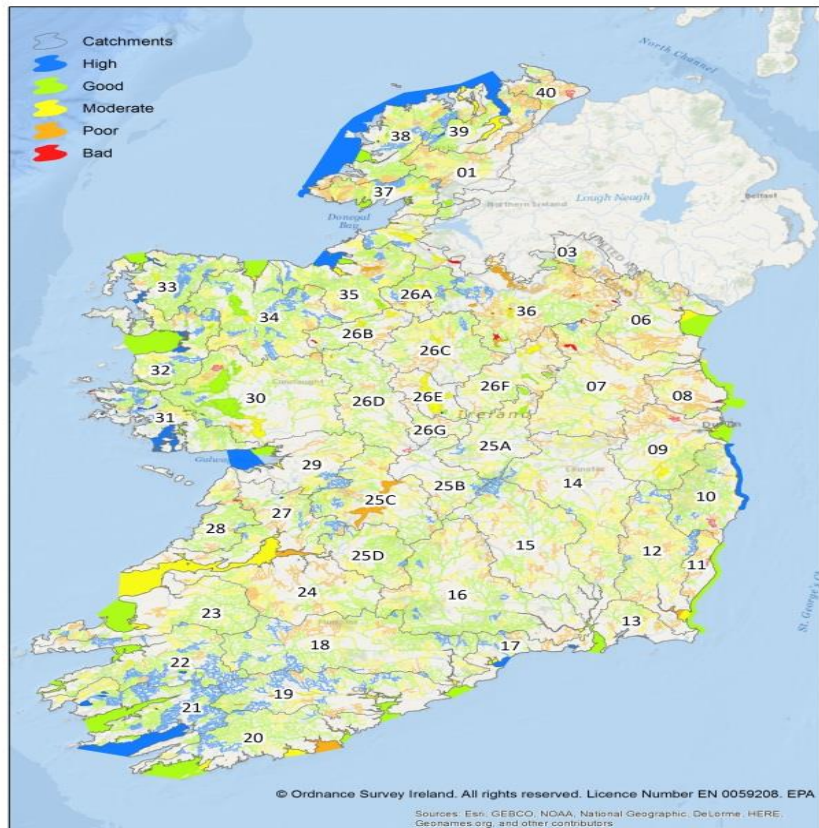


# Outcomes from 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle

- 13% target for improvement not met
- Circa 1000 waterbodies changed status:
  - 550 deteriorated
  - 450 improved
- 45% of rivers, 54% of lakes, 70% of transitional waters and 20% of coastal waters at less than good status
- Continued long term decline of high status waters –13% to 10%
- Protected areas meeting requirements in 2015
  - Bathing waters: 128 of 140
  - Nutrient Sensitive Areas: 26 of 42 meeting treatment standards
  - Shellfish Waters: 48 of 64 shellfish areas meeting guide values
  - SACs: 60% of rivers and 69% of lakes meeting required status



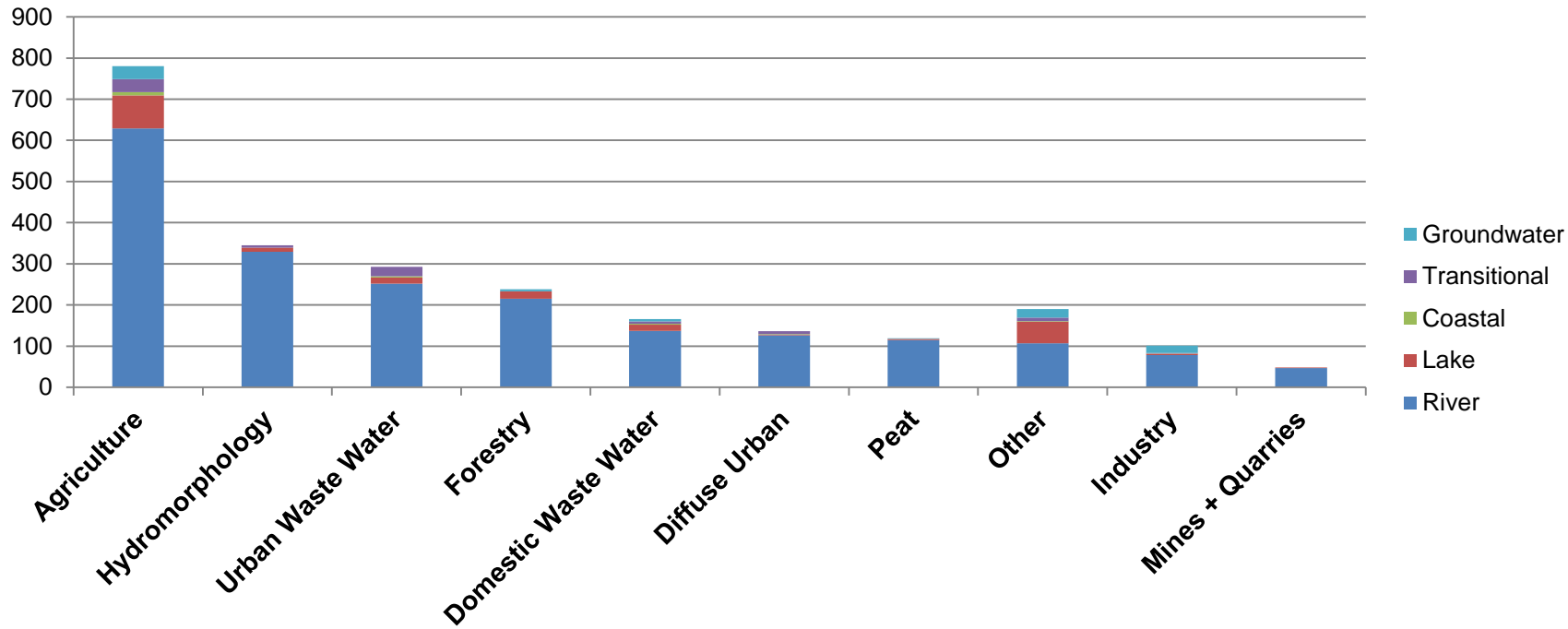
# Water Quality Status







# Identified Pressures

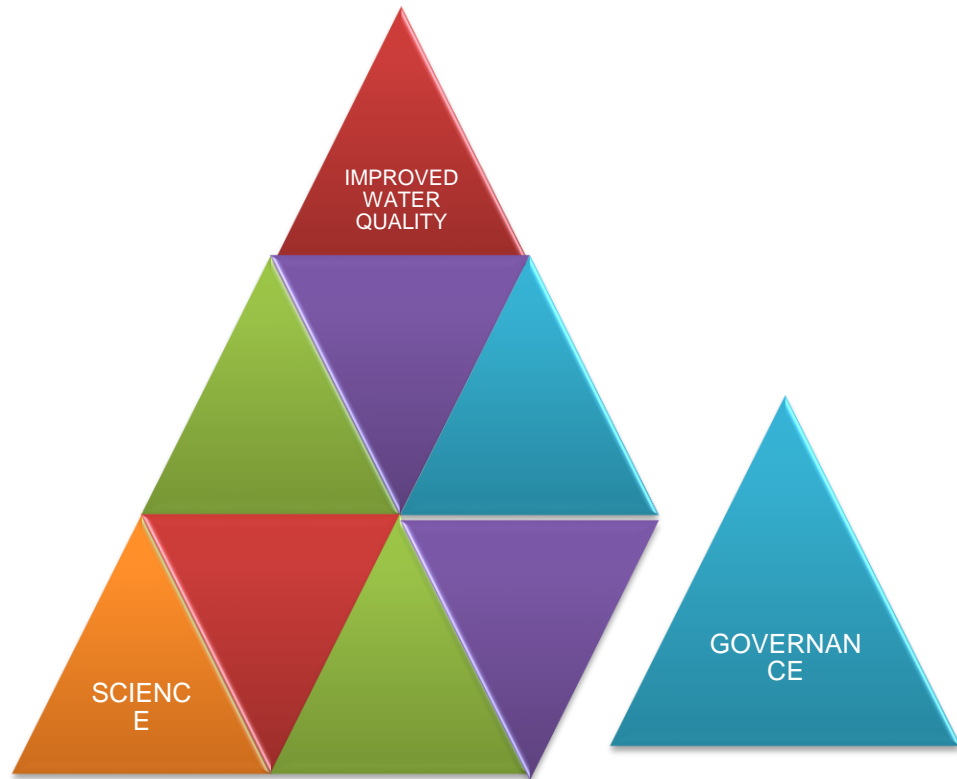


The number of waterbodies being impacted by each of the significant pressure types





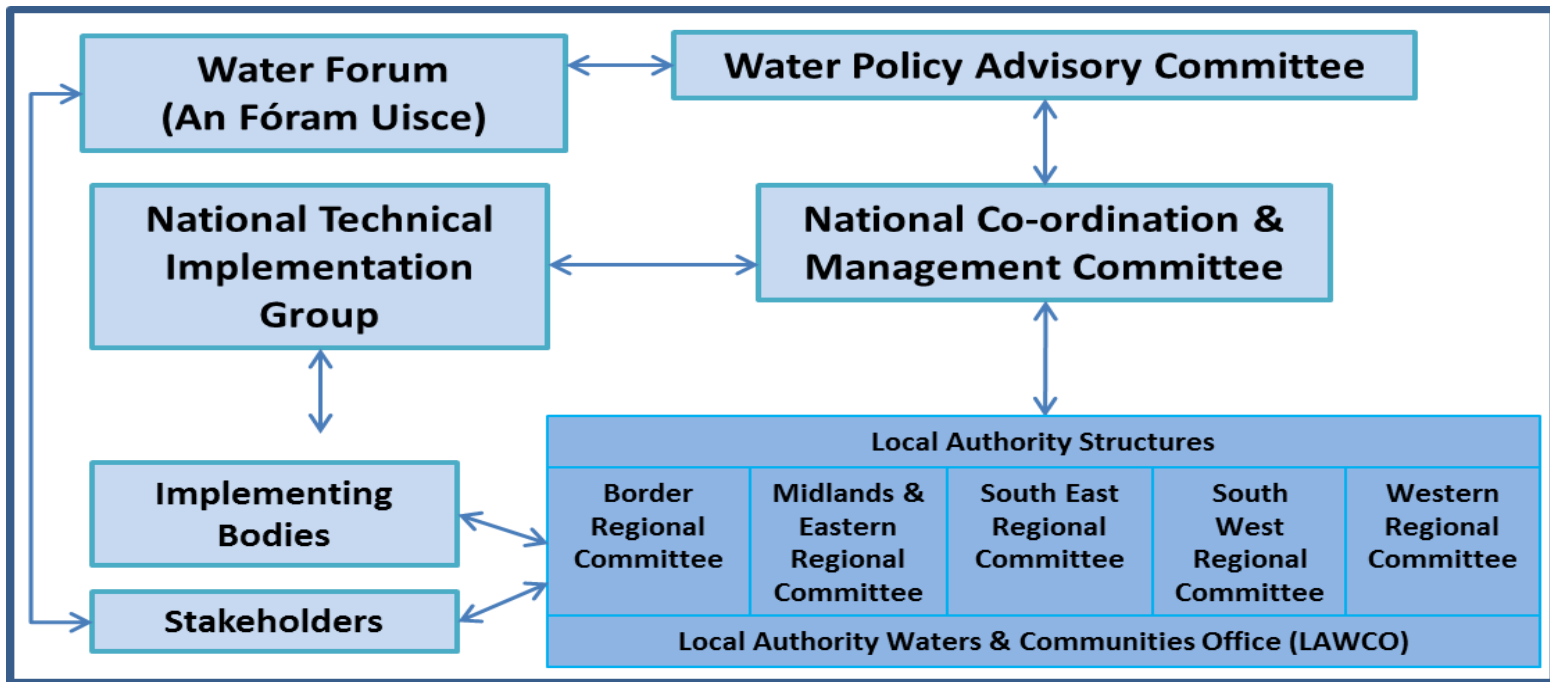
# Governance



OECD Principles of Water  
Governance – Effectiveness,  
Efficiency and Trust and  
Engagement

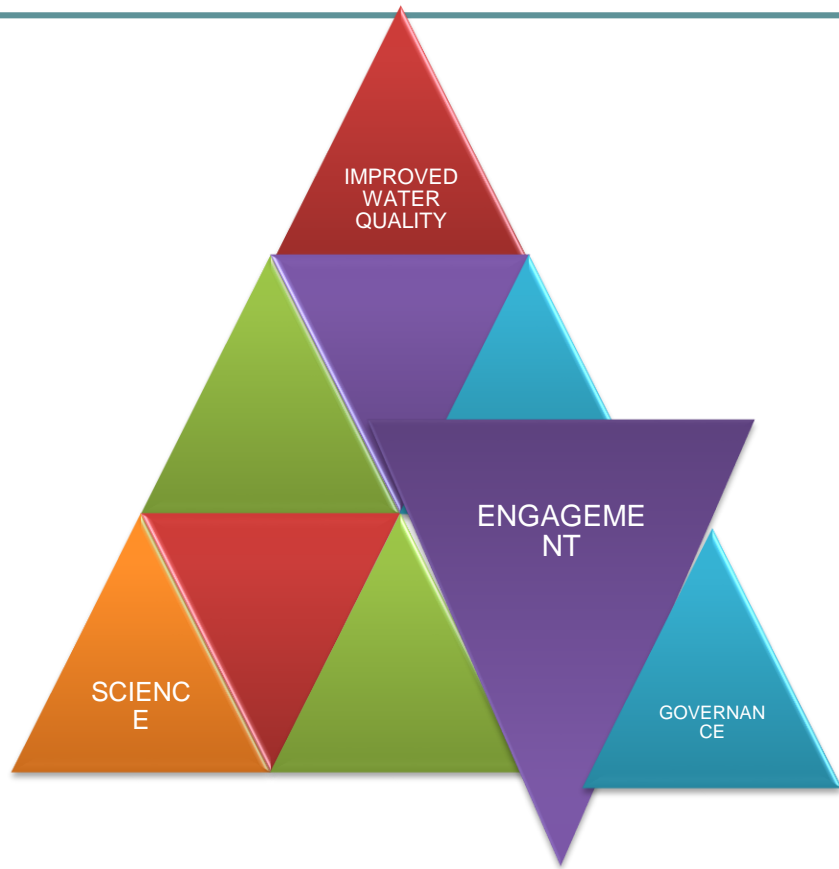


# New Implementation Structures





# Engagement




- Policy seminars
- Local authority water and communities office (LAWCO)
- An Fórum Uisce





# Public Consultation Outcomes

	State Responses to Improve Water Management	Pressures on Waterbodies and Water Quality	Physical Condition of Surface Waters	Value of Water Bodies
<b>More Frequently Raised</b> 	Policy Issues, Regulation and Enforcement	Agricultural Practices	Biodiversity Management	Water & Health
	Organisational Coordination	Nutrient Enrichment	Flooding	Education
	Public Engagement	Forestry	Abstraction & Flow	Recreation
	Coordination of Plan Implementation	Hazardous Chemicals	Physical Elements	High Status Waters
	Resourcing & Prioritisation	Invasive Species	Hydromorphology	
	Level of Ambition	Climate	Land Use Planning	
<b>Less Frequently Raised</b>				



# LAWCO Public Consultation Outcomes

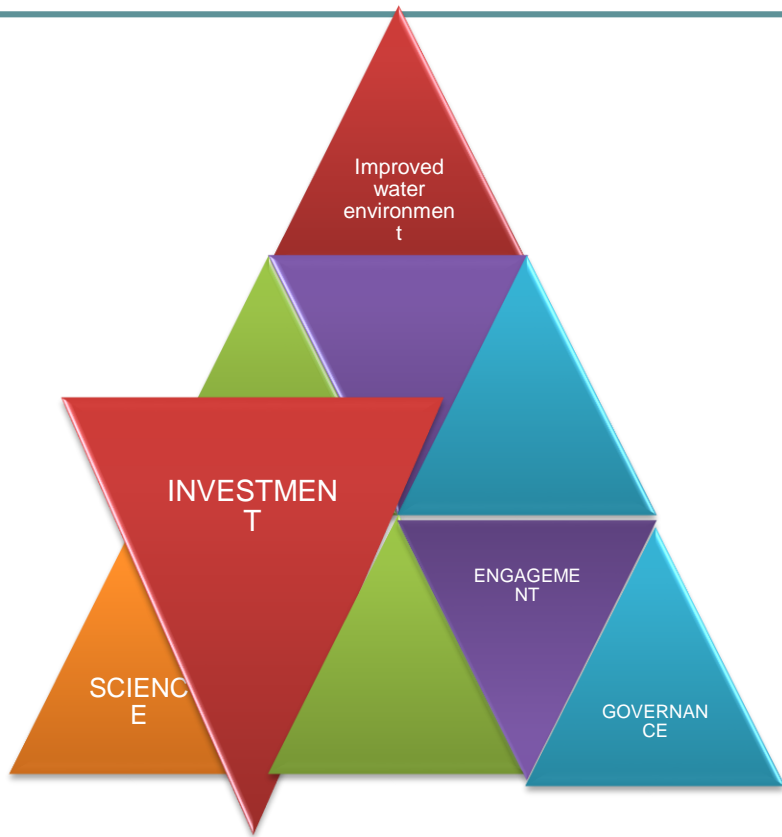
More  
Frequently  
Raised

Less  
Frequently  
Raised

State Responses to Improve Water Management	Pressures on Waterbodies & Water Quality	Physical Condition of Surface Waters	Value of Water Bodies
Prioritisation of (Local) Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants	Agriculture	Physical Modification	Concerns over Access/walks etc.
Drinking Water Treatment	Dumping	Abstractions/ Diversion	Impacts on Bathing Water Quality
Fragmentation of State Actors and their Roles (clarity of responsibilities, contactability, response)	Forestry	Siltation (origins may be on land)	Recreation
	Industry	Biodiversity	
	Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems		



# Investment





# New funding model for Irish Water

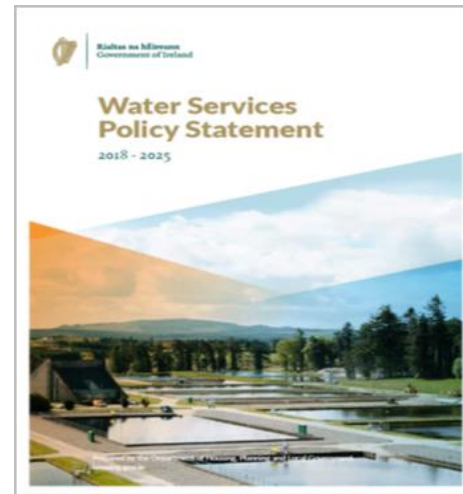
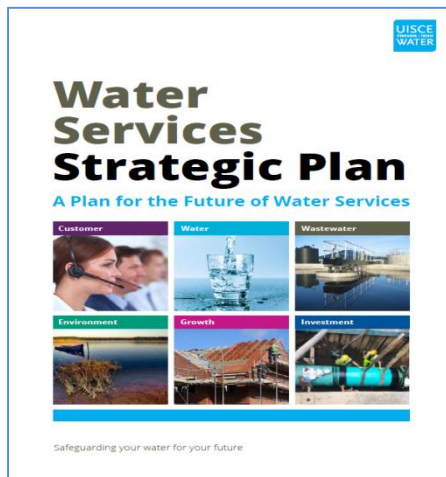
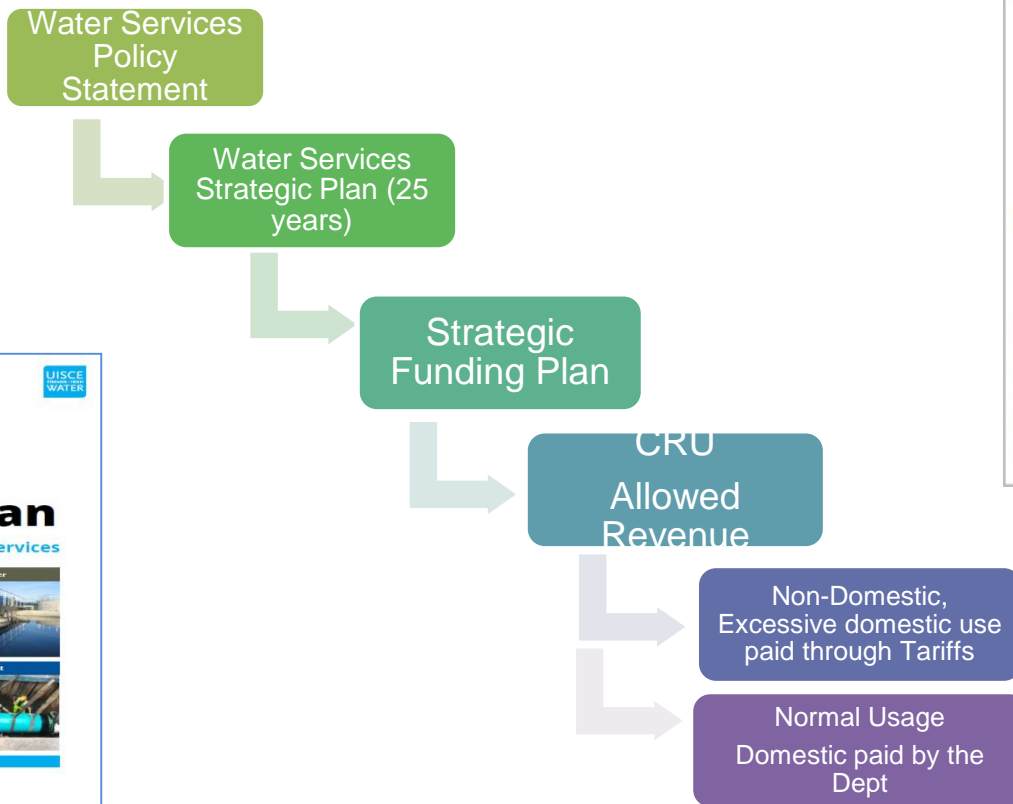
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- Ensure Compliance with the Water Framework Directive;
- Support the Economic Regulatory Process;
- Improve the transparency and accountability of funding arrangements and ensure compliance with public financial procedures;
- Avoid cross-subsidisation between domestic and non-domestic water services;
- Drive operational and capital efficiencies in line with regulatory regime; and
- Provide the necessary clarity to facilitate appropriate capital investment by Irish Water.



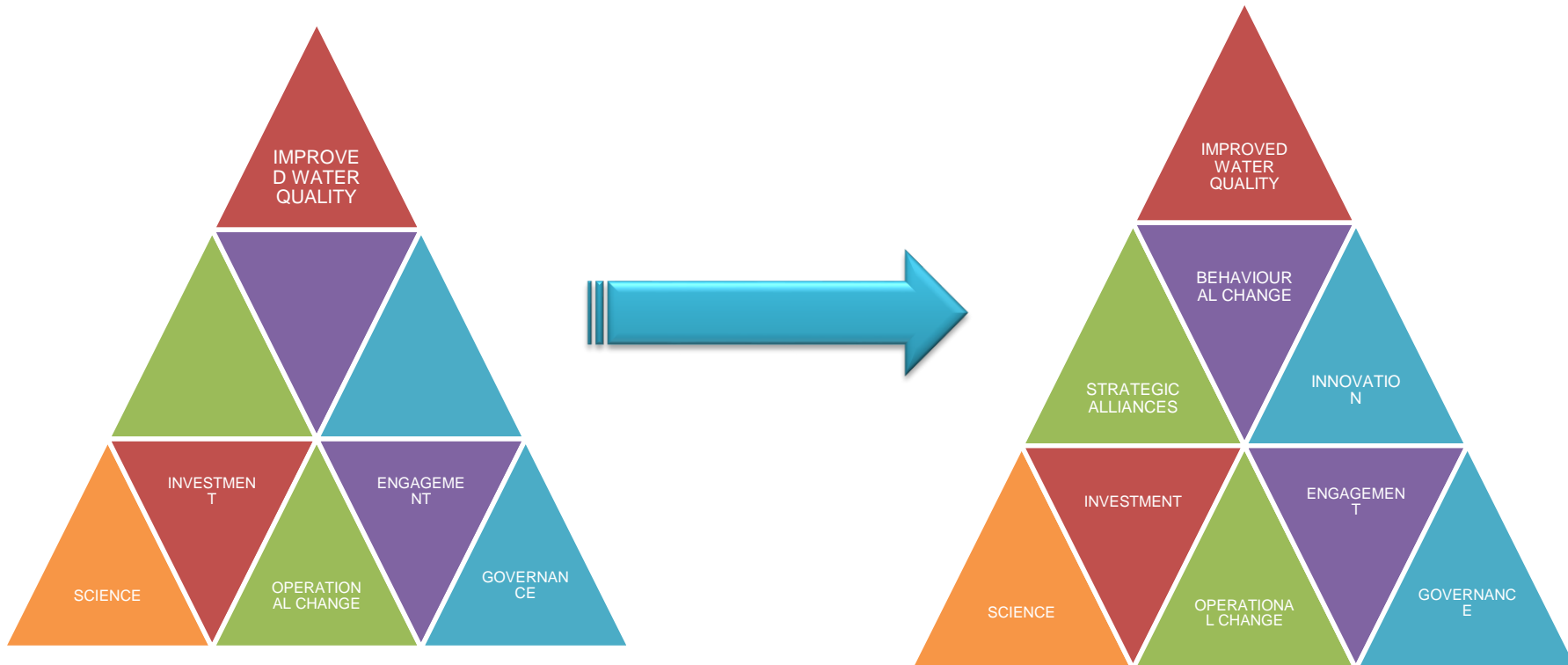


# Ensuring Funding Security



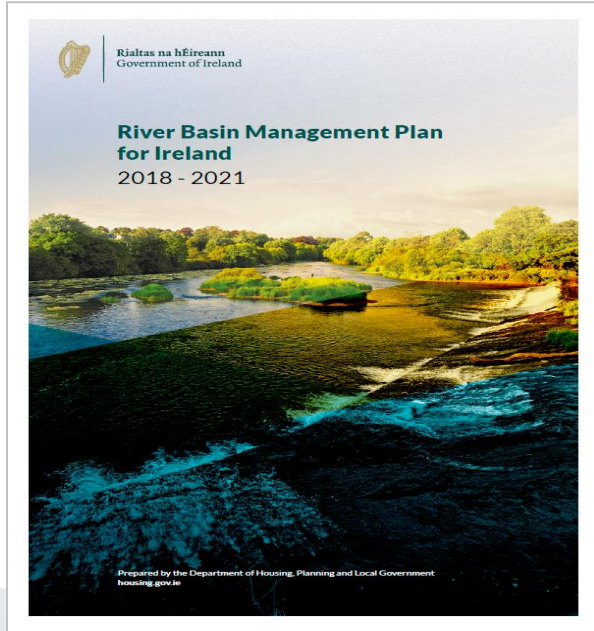


# + Operational changes





# Overview of river basin management plan 2018-2021





# Programme of measures

- Agriculture
- Urban waste water
- Water abstractions
- Water and Planning guidance
- Drinking water source protection
- Domestic waste water treatment systems
- Physical condition of surface waters
- High Status waters
- Forestry
- Peatlands
- Hazardous chemicals
- Lead strategy (drinking water)
- Flood risk management
- Climate change
- Invasive alien species



# Key measures by pressure (1)

## Agriculture

- New and strengthened Nitrates Action Programme (2018-2021)
- New collaborative Sustainability and Advisory Support programme (30 advisers) will promote best practice in 190 areas for action & within dairy sector (Dairy Sustainability Initiative)
- Continued targeting of RDP

## Urban Waste Water

- Compliance with the UWWT Directive a priority
- Waste Water Discharge Authorisations will be reviewed to meet the environmental targets set out in the new Plan
- Planned investment (€1.7bn)
- 117 upgrades will address water bodies at risk
- 138 upgrades will address future needs (e.g. population growth)
- Drainage Area Plans for 44 urban areas

## Water Abstraction

Authorisation system -Tiered and risk based single regulatory framework – legislation on Government programme

Regulations under 1972 EC Act to establish the Water Abstractions Register in 2018

Online register for all abstractions above 25m<sup>3</sup>/day: expect 2,500-3,000 registrations

National Water Resources Plan – Irish Water



# Key measures by pressure (2)

## Leakage Reduction

- 45% of all water entering the supply network is lost
- Reducing water leakage: Irish Water to invest €73m/annum to 2021
  - Pressure management & active leakage control
  - Water mains renewals & customer-side savings
- 61 million m<sup>3</sup> savings / annum by 2021, target: leakage reduction to 38%

## Protecting High Status Waters

- 384 water bodies with High Status objective
- 149 at risk or under review (uncertain). 64 are in Areas for Action
- Blue Dot Catchment Programme

## Climate Change

The National Adaptation Framework (NAF) requires the Minister to prepare a specific sectoral adaptation plan in relation to water quality and water services infrastructure under the thematic area of water resource and flood risk management.

The Minister is committed to drafting a comprehensive, whole-of-sector plan within the timeframe specified.



# Key measures & public consultation

## State responses to improve water management

- New co-ordinating, governance and delivery structures
- Improved evidence base
- Enhanced fora for public engagement
- Focus on water conservation with leakage targets for Irish Water

## Pressures on water bodies and water quality

- 43 Local authority catchment assessment personnel
- 30 Agricultural Sustainability Support advisers
- Collaborative approach to drinking water source protection
- Expansion of septic tanks grant
- Multiagency approach to dealing with pesticides

## Physical Condition of surface waters

- IFI assessment of barriers to fish movement
- Water abstraction register and legislation
- Water & Planning guidance for local authorities
- Improvement of hydromorphological assessment methods

## Value of water

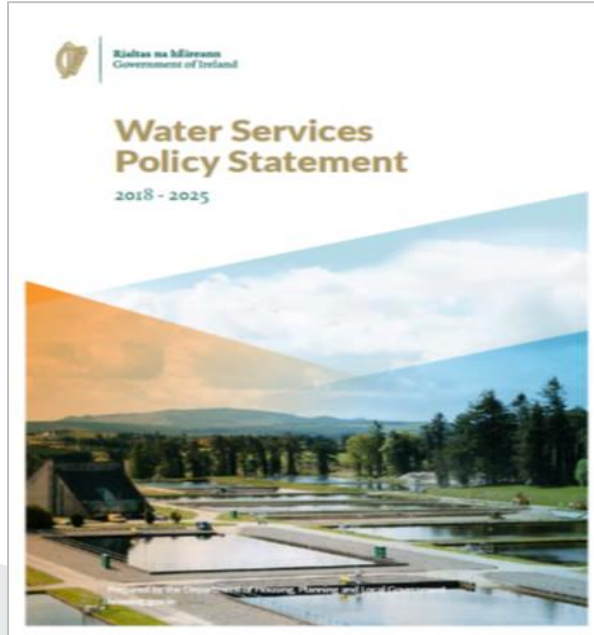
- LAWCO engagement at community level
- Blue dot programme for High Status catchment
- Community Water Development Fund





# Expected outcomes

- Comprehensive programme of measures in place
- A total of 190 Areas have been prioritised for action (2018-2021). These include a total of 726 water bodies. Improvements are expected in all.
- Conservatively estimate that 152 additional water bodies (10% of all at risk water bodies and 21% of those in AAs) will show improvement in status in AAs by 2021 with further improvements thereafter
- Progress with urban waste water and agricultural measures particularly important
- Key objective is to build the foundations and momentum for delivery in the long-term
- Regional work programmes to be developed by local authorities
- The new governance structures will underpin effective implementation
- Ongoing management of the process is essential

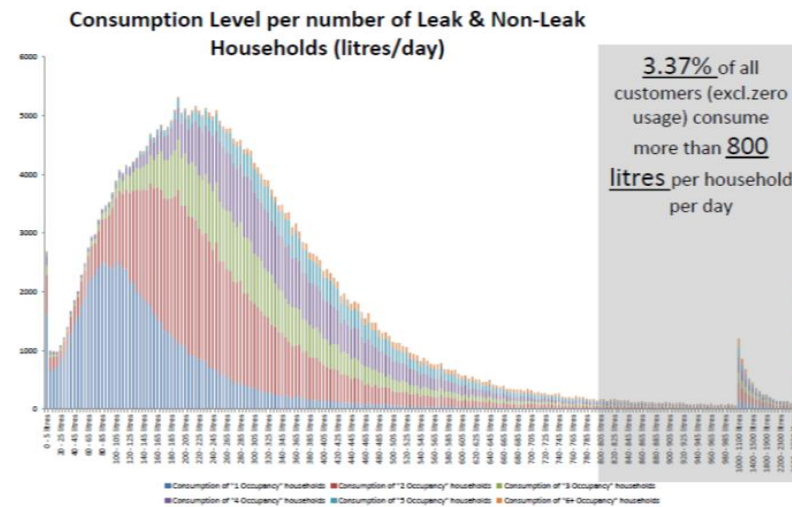


# Overview of water services policy statement



# Water Services Act, 2017

- Provides mechanisms to ensure **security of funding** for Irish Water
- Focus on **conservation** and mechanism for tackling **excessive usage**
- Provides for normal domestic usage to be paid from taxation
- **Water Advisory Body** to report on implementation of Irish Water's Business Plan
- **Water Forum** for Stakeholder engagement





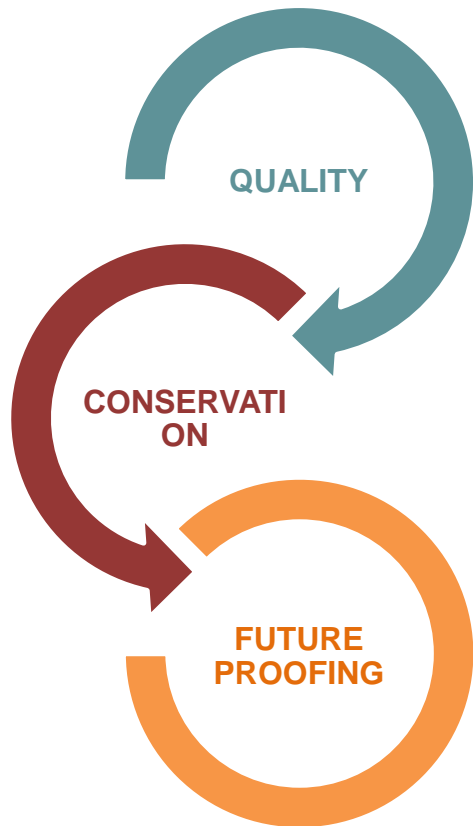
# Principles



- Focus on quality outcomes – including private water supplies
- Ways of working –
  - governance (clarity of roles), Role of Irish Water, Role of regulation
  - engagement and behavioral change, working in partnership



# Water Policy Statement – Themes



- Quality of drinking water and waste water treatment
- Conservation – tackling leakage and excessive usage
- Future proofing - economic growth, resilience and climate change



‘Water is one of those resources, one of those issues, that can only be managed for the long-term. But it is a mistake to imagine that small things don’t matter or that big water issues aren’t manageable.’ (C. Fishman)

## Some conclusions

- Policy framework in place
- Funding in place
- **Focus now on implementation**
- Success dependent on behaviour change and the input of all stakeholders



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Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local Government

# Thank you

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## PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

