

Our Waters, Our Future, Our Plan.

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027



Corrib Catchment,
Public Meeting, 22nd February,
7.30m pm



Thank you for taking the time to attend this meeting

Meeting format

- **30 minutes presentations**
- **30 minutes discussion/ Q&A**

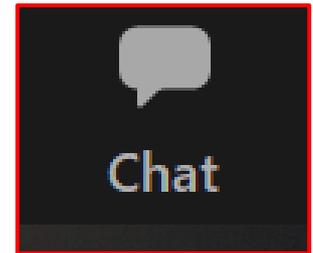
Conor Ruane, Community Water Officer

Francis Deery, Catchment Scientist

Zoom Etiquette, for everyone's benefit

Our aim is to have a good, engaging, and constructive public meeting.

- Remember, we are in a virtual meeting setting.
- We ask for your patience, as technology can go wrong!
- Keep your microphones muted during the presentations.
- Keep your cameras off during the presentations.
- If you want to comment or ask a question during the presentations use “*Chat*” button at bottom of your screen.



Note: this meeting is being recorded to allow us take time to gather your views and comments for feedback to Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage for the final RBMP. The recordings held for 3 days.



What this meeting is about

- Overview of Draft River Basin Management Plan
- Water quality nationally
- Water quality in *Corrib Catchment*
- Work to date for protecting and restoring our rivers and lakes
- Active local communities and examples of projects
- Open discussion on local water quality issues and water bodies

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027

A national plan that aims to protect and restore good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters.

For the benefit health, biodiversity, climate, and communities.



EU Water Framework Directive

- Achieve at least good water quality in all waters by 2027.
- State agencies, local authorities and public bodies working together
- Involvement of water users and the public
 - *giving a voice to communities!*
- River Basin Management Plans, in three cycles:
 - ~~1st Cycle 2009-2015~~
 - 2nd Cycle 2018-2021
 - **3rd Cycle 2022-2027**



Water Quality

Nationally and Locally

Focussing on Galway

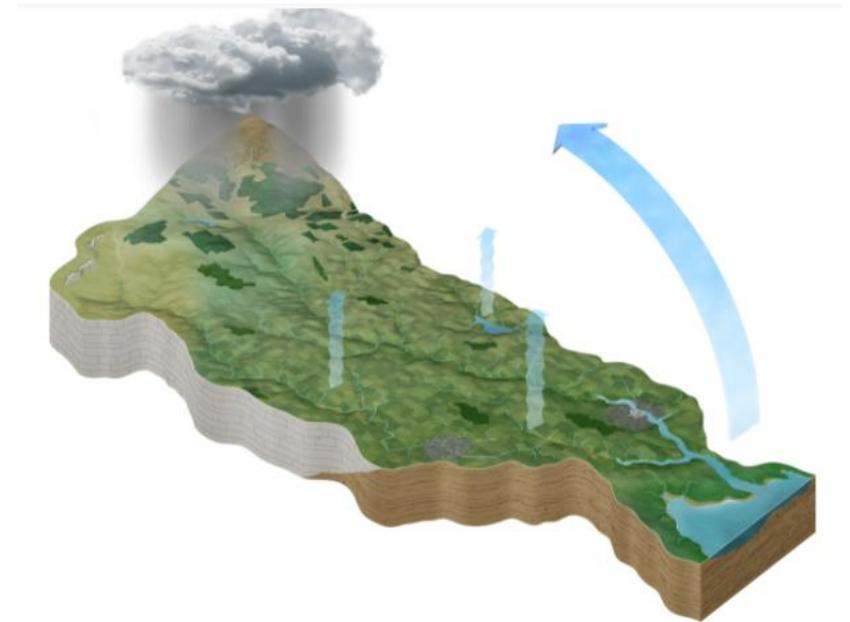
Francis Deery



What is a catchment?

‘A catchment is a specific area of the landscape that collects rainfall and allows it to flow through rivers, lakes and groundwater to reach the sea.’

The health of water within a catchment reflects both the natural attributes and the human activities occurring within that specific area.



What do we mean by water quality?

European Union Water Framework Directive

High

Good

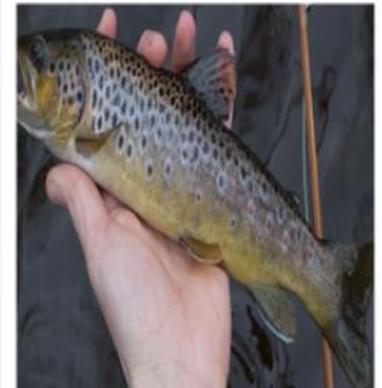
Moderate

Poor

Bad



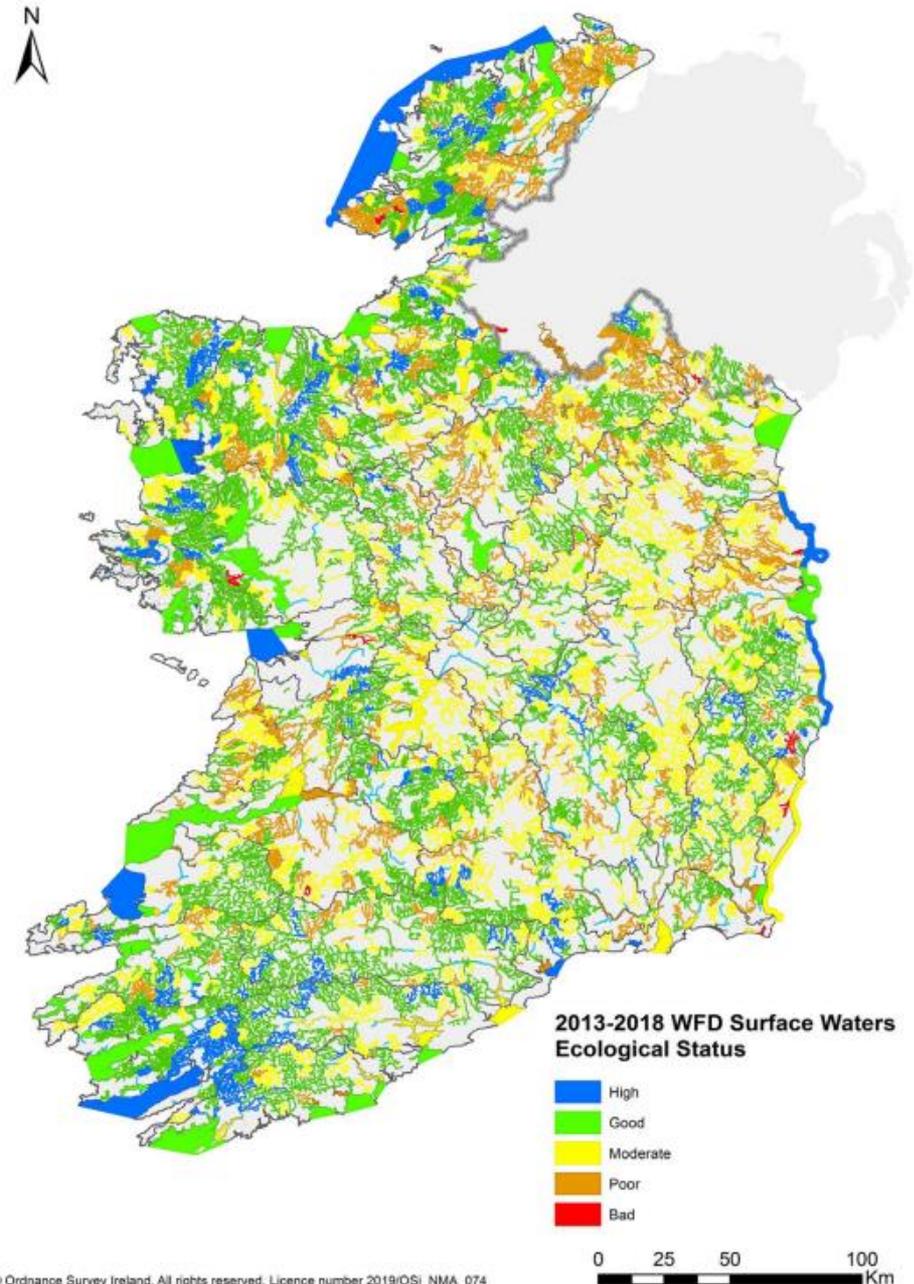
The Biological Indicators (INV)



The health of Ireland's streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

- **53%** of our surface waters are in **Good** or **High** ecological status.
- **47%** are in an **unsatisfactory** ecological status

Figure 9. Surface Water Bodies and their Ecological Status



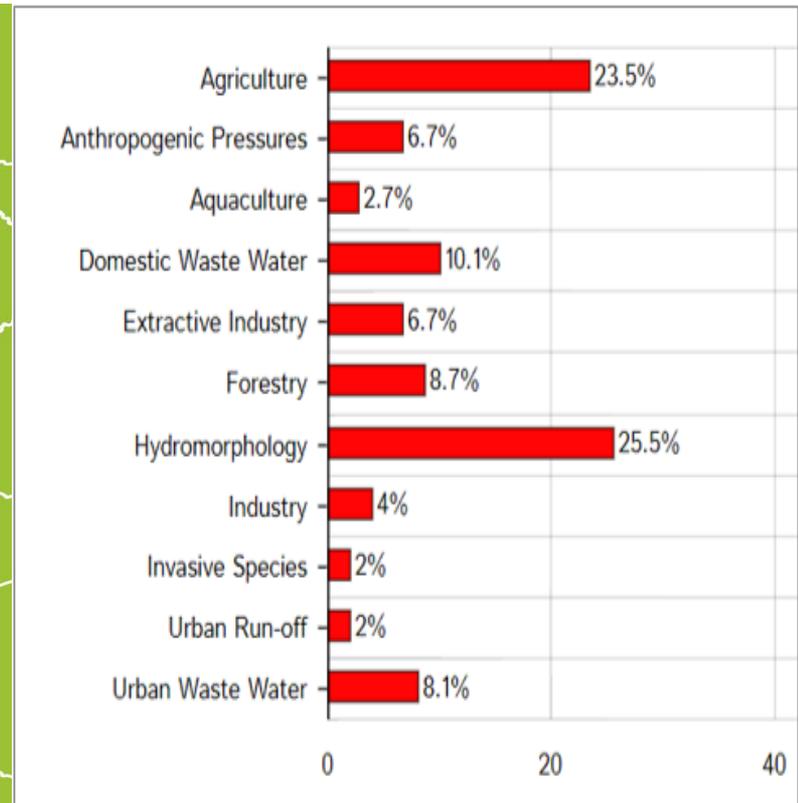
Water Quality in Co. Galway

Period	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
SW 2007 – 2009	21%	50%	18%	10%	2%
SW 2010 – 2012	23%	47%	19%	11%	1%
SW 2010 – 2015	17%	47%	24%	10%	2%
SW 2013 – 2018	13%	48%	24%	13%	2%
National 2013 – 2018	8%	44%	28%	18%	1%



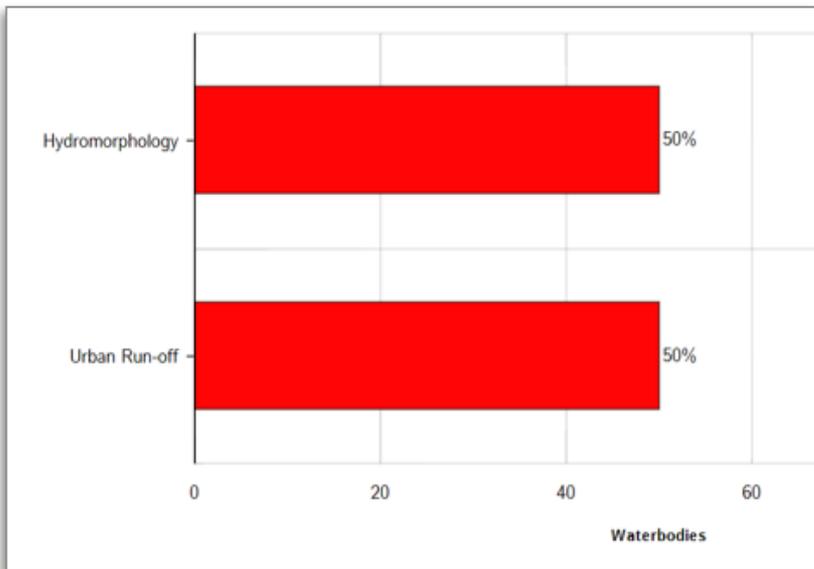
Source: Catchments.ie

Galway Rivers "At Risk"



Water Quality in Galway City

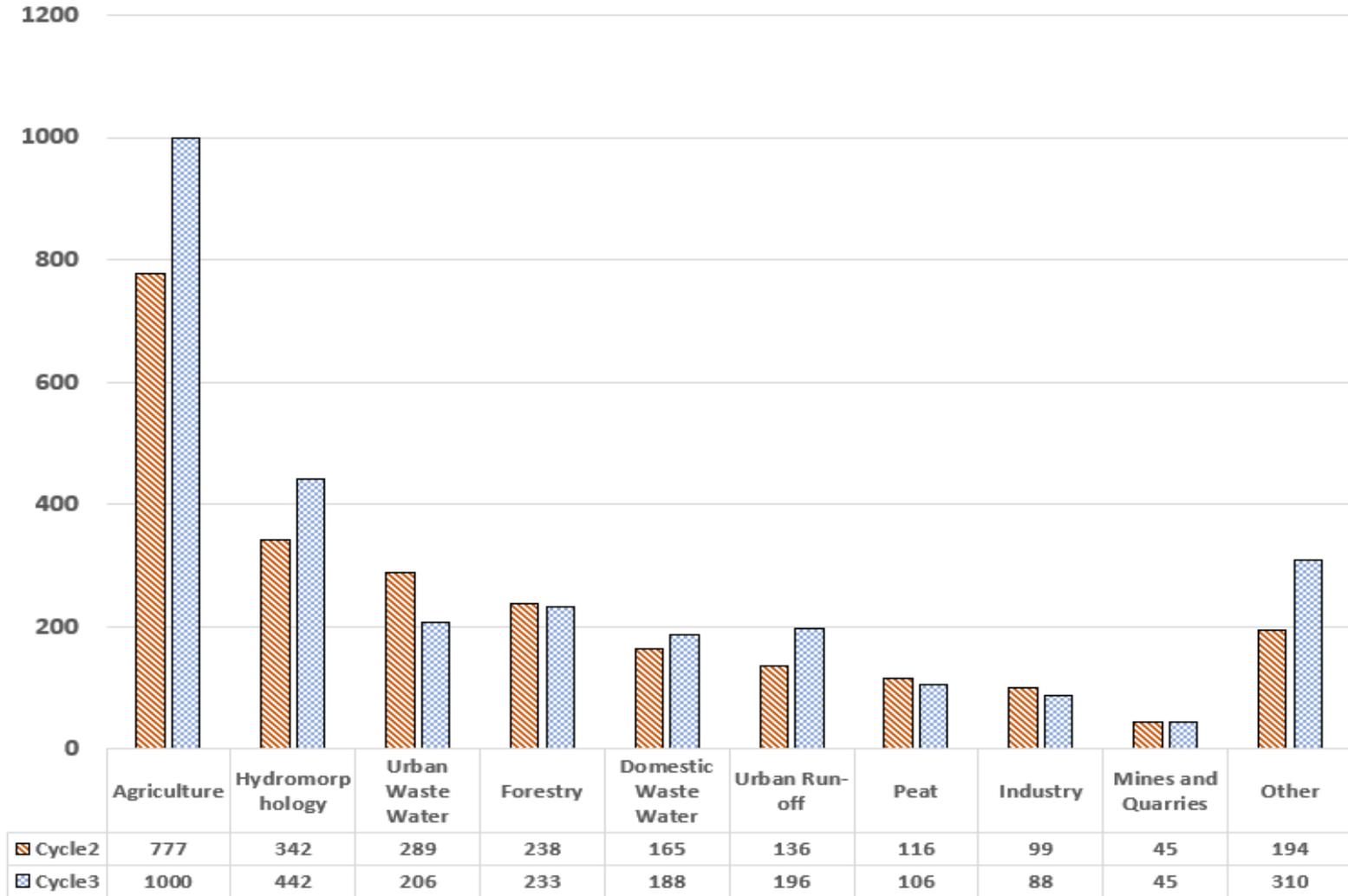
Period	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
SW 2007 – 2009	0%	67%	0%	33%	0%
SW 2010 – 2012	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
SW 2010 – 2015	0%	67%	0%	33%	0%
SW 2013 – 2018	0%	67%	33%	0%	0%
National 2013 – 2018	8%	44%	28%	18%	1%



Source: catchments.ie

Main Pressures on Water Quality National Data

Source: EPA



Pressures on Water Quality in Galway

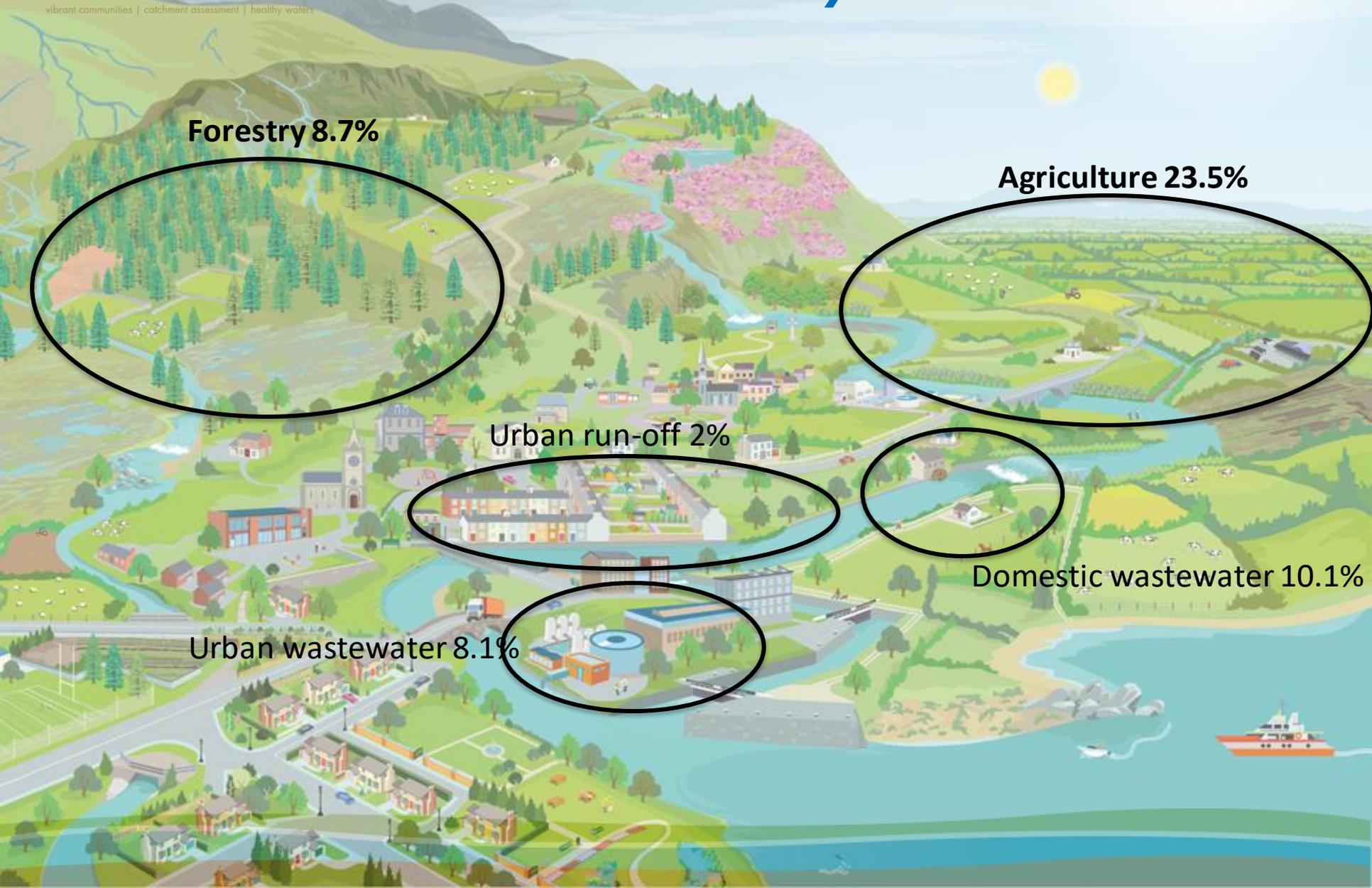
Forestry 8.7%

Agriculture 23.5%

Urban run-off 2%

Domestic wastewater 10.1%

Urban wastewater 8.1%

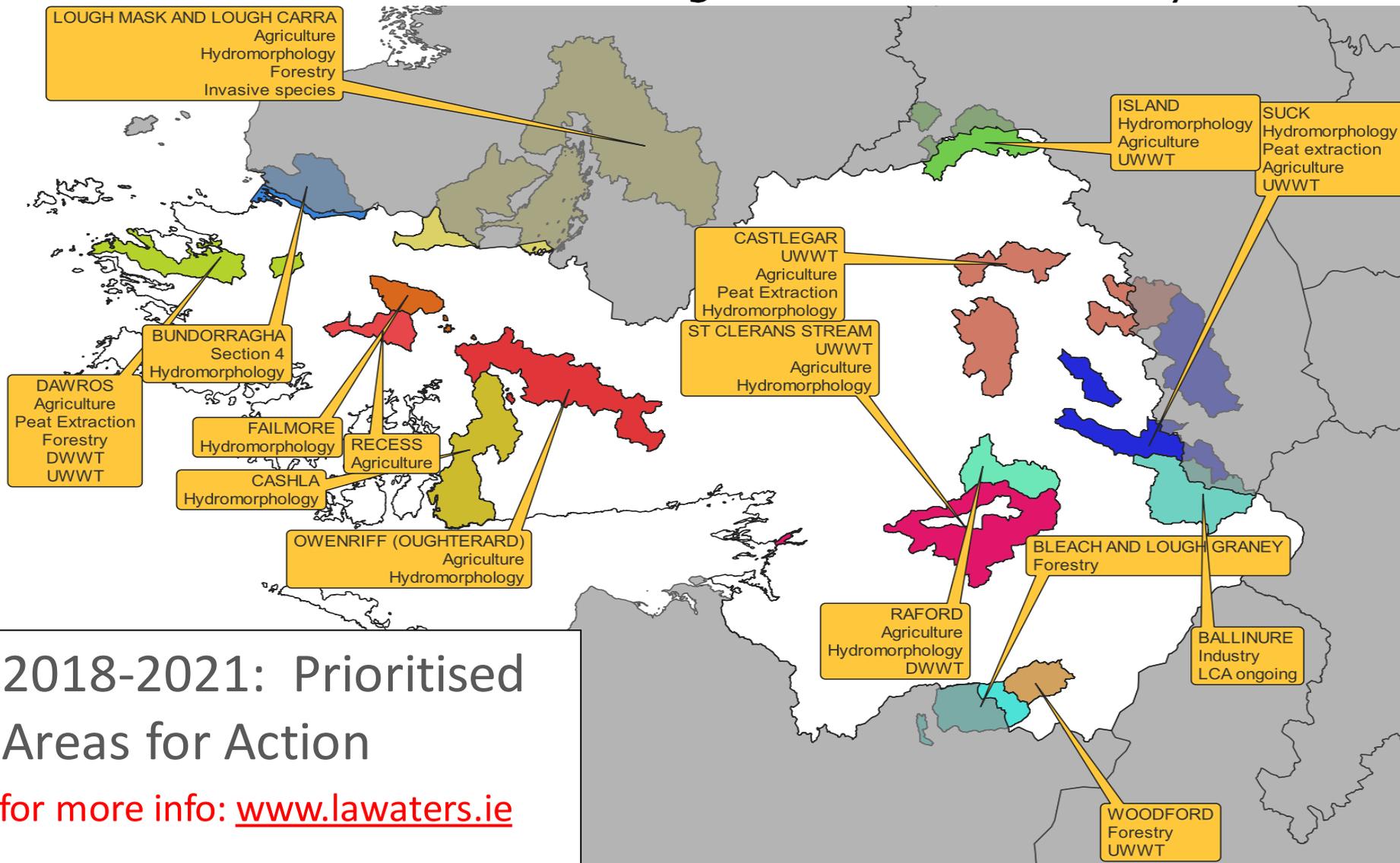


Hydromorphology as a pressure on 25.5% of "At Risk" surface waters in Galway



Building on progress 2018-2021

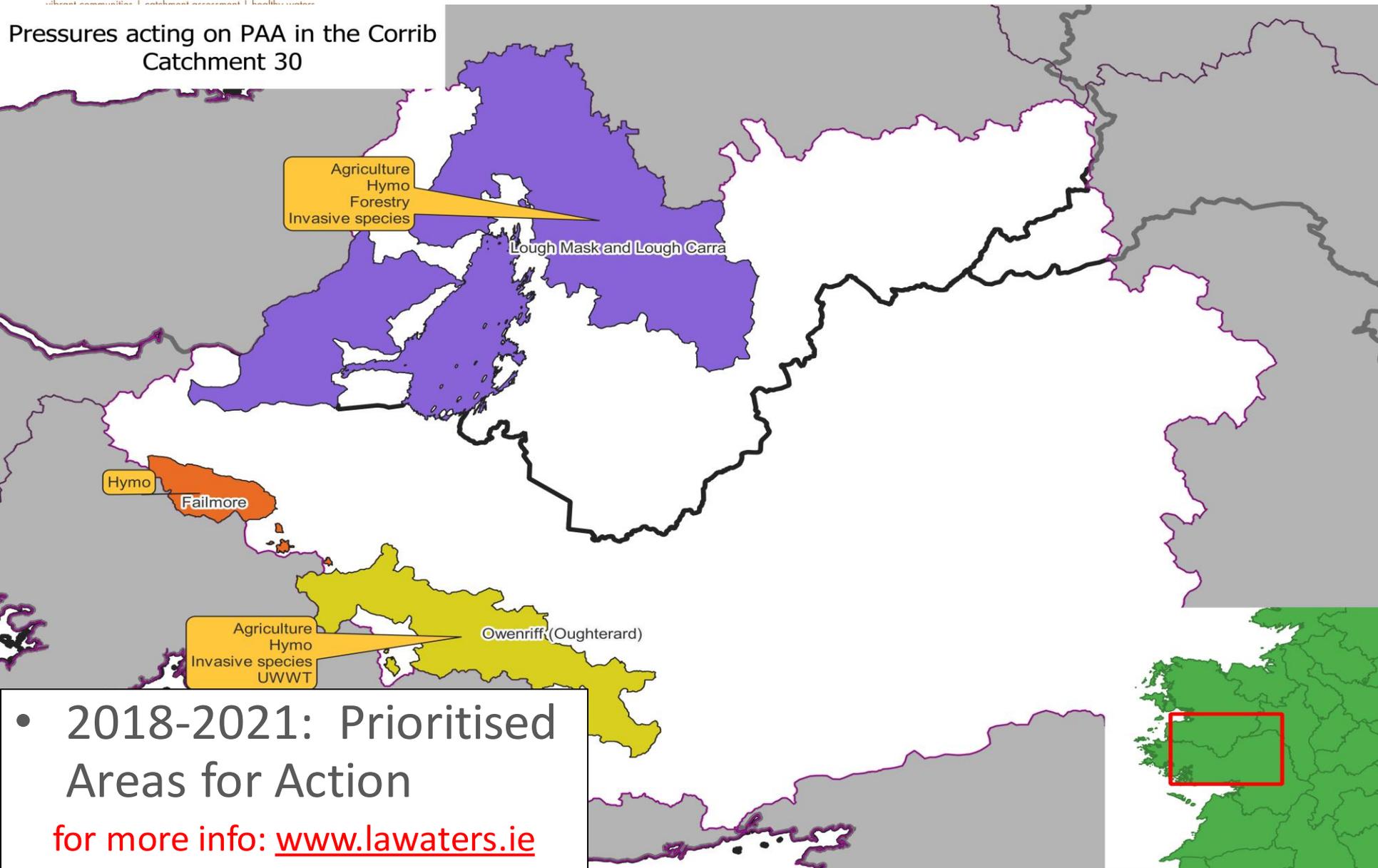
Pressures identified during LCA in PAA in Galway



- 2018-2021: Prioritised Areas for Action

for more info: www.lawaters.ie

Pressures acting on PAA in the Corrib Catchment 30



- 2018-2021: Prioritised Areas for Action

for more info: www.lawaters.ie

Prioritised Areas for Action/ boots in the water

Local Catchment Assessment (LAWPRO)



Implementing bodies



ASSAP



The importance of good water quality

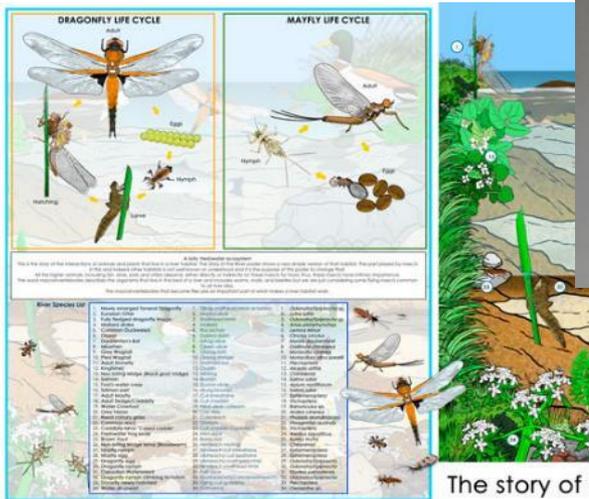


- Health and wellbeing : physical and mental.
- Jobs in the local economy.
- Safe future for you, your family, your community.
- Biodiversity and a healthy environment.
- Sense of place and pride in your local area

Community Work in the Corrib

- ✓ Involving the public at local community level
- ✓ Supporting community water initiatives

[Ref: River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021]



The story of the river

Community Work in the Corrib



- Create a sense of community around the lake.
- Reconnect people with the lake.
- Raise awareness of the richness of the area natural heritage.
- Exchange local knowledge and foster a sense of ownership within lakeshore communities.

- Education for Sustainability in Secondary Schools
- Teacher training targeting transition year students national wide.
- Practical learning.

Corrib Country Trails

Community Work in the Corrib

✓ Build capacity & awareness

[Ref: River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021]



Headford Anglers Tree Planting Project

- Sought training in 2018
- Started a Citizen Science Project 2020
- Sourced equipment from CWDF 2020
- Physical-Chemical Monitoring 2019/2020
- Communication with bodies
- Identified focus areas in catchment

- ✓ Strengthen links between public bodies, funders and communities

[Ref: River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021]



Headford Anglers Tree Planting Project

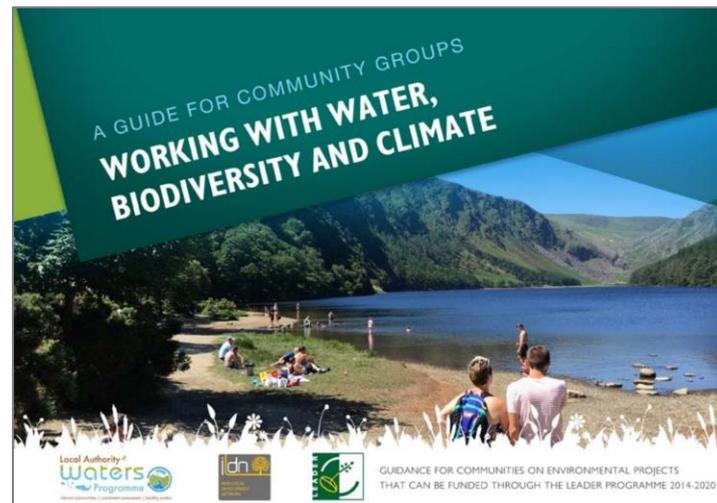
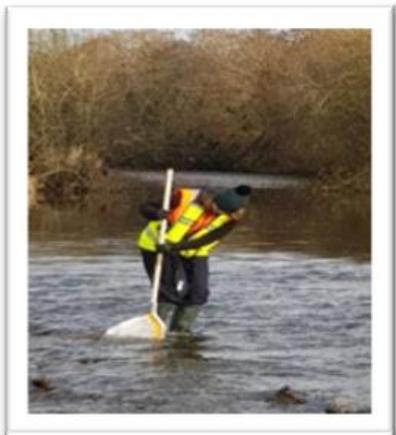
- Engaged landowners with the help of IFI
- Met with LAWPRO.
- 2021 applied to CWDF for Trees.
- 2022 planted trees.
- Working with LAWPRO to identify other areas in catchment



- ✓ Strengthen links between public bodies, funders and communities

[Ref: River Basin Management Plan 2018–2021]

Progress in the 2nd Cycle (since 2018)



Nationwide - 650 Community groups engaged with LAWPRO

Collaboration between public bodies



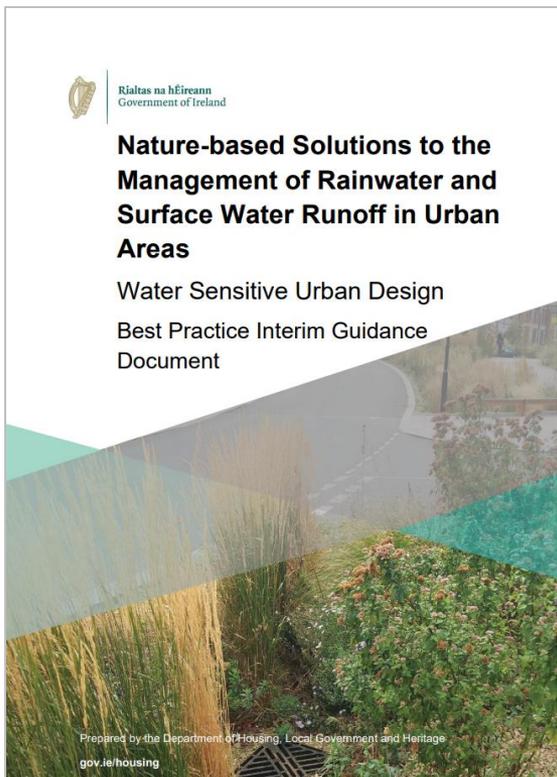
What's the plan?

The main themes in the plan

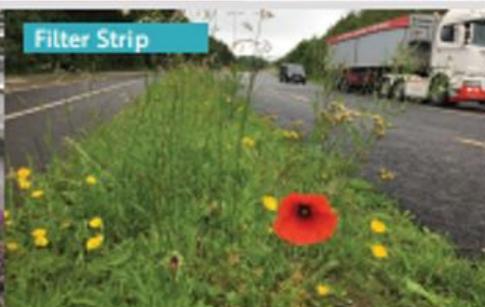
- Increased national ambition to halt the decline in water quality and reverse the damage.
- Integrated Catchment Planning – a specific plan put in place for each of the 46 river catchments in the country.
- Greater coordination and collaboration between State agencies, local authorities, and LAWPRO.
- Delivering multiple benefits for water, biodiversity, climate, and local communities.



Nature-based Solutions to the management of rainwater

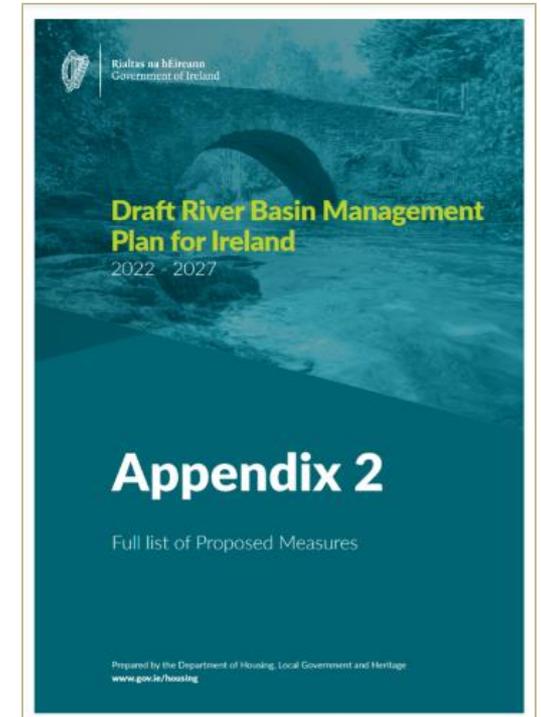


- New approach to surface water management
- Starting with Nature – multiple benefits (water quality, biodiversity, climate)
- Making space for water and slowing the flow
 Green and blue infrastructure raingardens, swales, wetlands, green roofs,
- Integrate into planning and development of urban spaces
- Interim guidance document on best practice
- Communities can get involved – e.g., Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, Sports Clubs

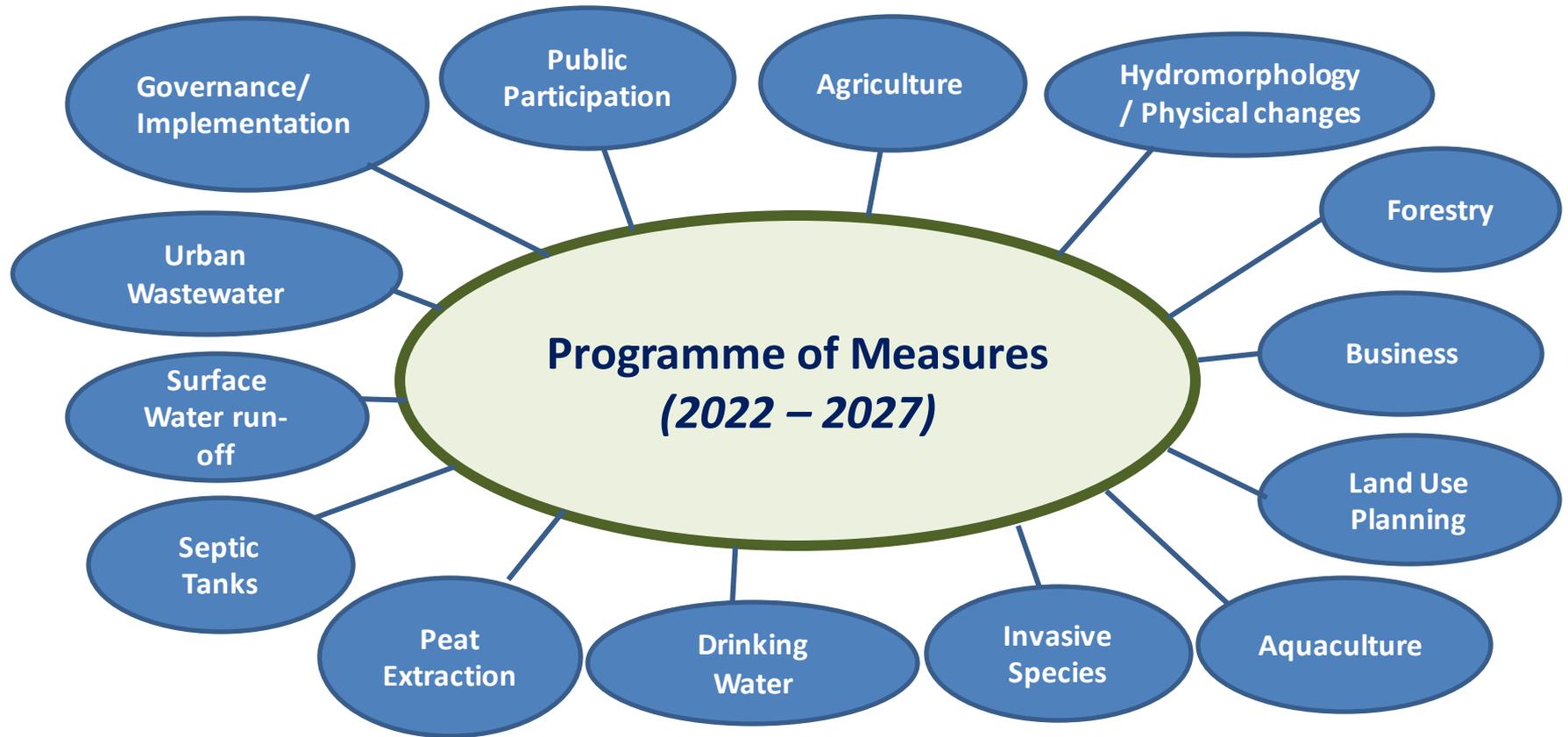


Key Measures proposed in the draft plan.

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027



**Appendix 2 contains 111 different measures.
Here are some key themes:**



The proposed measures tackle the impacts on water quality from human activities.

Forestry

Septic Tanks

Peat Extraction

Physical Modifications

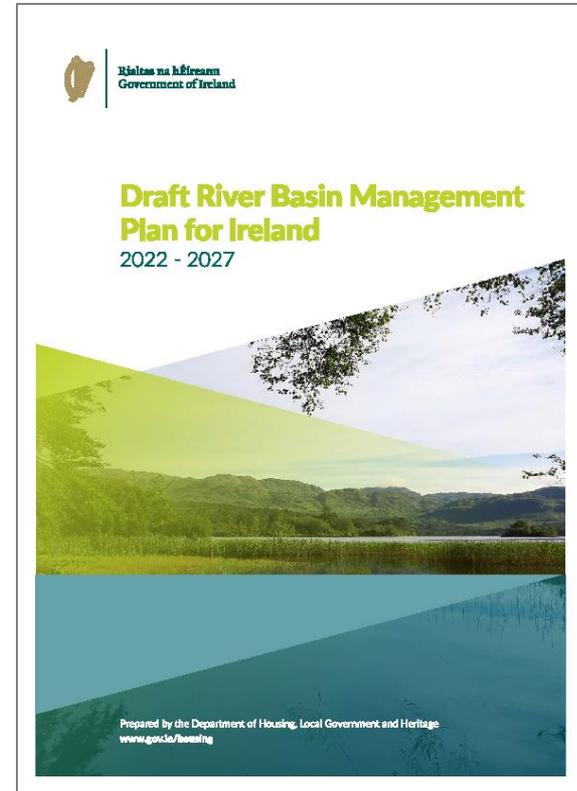
Urban Wastewater

Agriculture

Surface water Run-off

How will my submission affect the plan?

- Views recorded here will be sent to the DHLGH and relevant local authorities.
- Submission will be reviewed by Dept.
- Responses will inform the finalisation of the third River Basin Management Plan for Ireland.



Outcomes from consultations on RBMP

Executive Summary – 2nd Cycle River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

Public Submissions made a difference!

Summary of new policy measures influenced by public consultation feedback

Theme	Policy Measure
State Responses to Improve Water Management	Development of new coordinating, governance and delivery structures
	Establishment of enhanced forums for public engagement
	€73 million per year invested by Irish Water on interventions to reduce leakage, including pressure-management, leakage-control measures, water-mains renewals and continued customer-side savings
Pressures on Water Bodies & Water Quality	Irish Water to spend €1.7 billion on 255 urban waste-water projects
	43 local authority staff to carry out investigative assessments on water bodies
	Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme – 30 new Sustainability Advisors providing advice and support to farmers in the 190 Areas for Action and across the dairy sector
	New collaborative approach to drinking water source protection
	Expansion of grant scheme to assist with costs of septic tank remediation in high-status water areas and areas of protection
	Forestry-related regulations, policies and requirements have been realigned with national water policy

Executive Summary - 2nd Cycle River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

**Public
Submissions
made a
difference!**

Physical Condition of Surface Waters

Inland Fisheries Ireland to assess barriers
to fish movement in Water Bodies

Publication of legislation to develop a
register of abstractions and control system

Development of water and planning guidance
for Planning Authorities

Improvement of hydromorphological
assessment methods

Value of Water Bodies

LAWCO engagement at community level,
including "*Blue Dot Catchments Programme*"

Development of new Community
Water Development Fund

Establishment of The Water Forum /
An Fóram Uisce

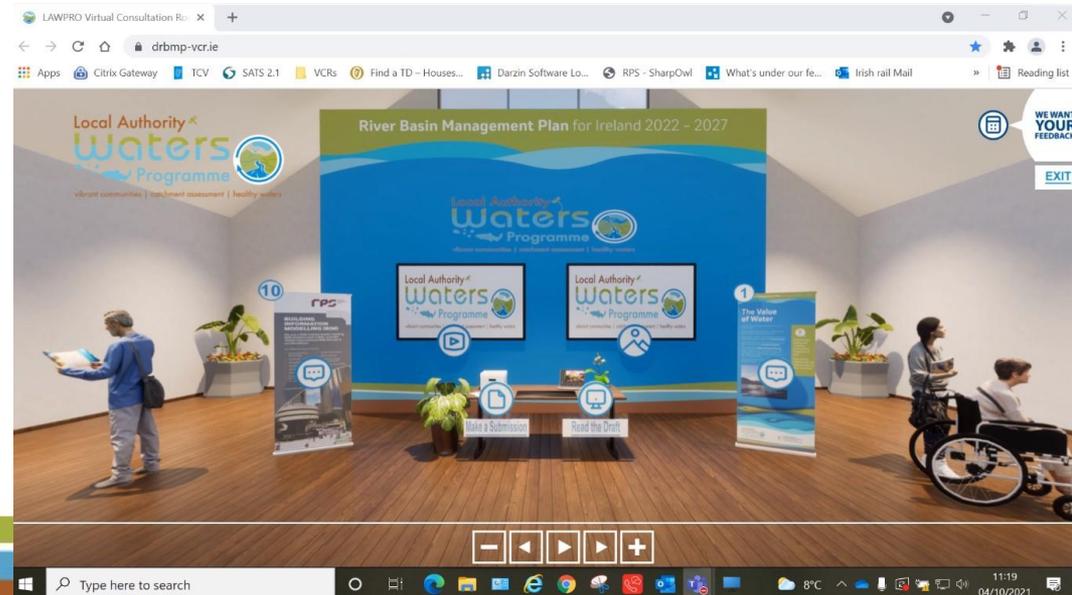
New collaborative initiatives for the
protection of drinking water sources

Make a submission on the Draft Plan

1. Make a submission here this evening
 - QR code link <https://tinyurl.com/rbmp2027>
2. Visit the Virtual Consultation Room at www.lawaters.ie
3. You can also send comments by email to info@lawaters.ie
4. Post to



Local Authority Waters Programme
Ballingarrane,
Clonmel. Co. Tipperary
E91 X370



Thank you for your attention



- We will note the details of any issues raised.
- LAWPRO will collate them and send a report to the Department of Housing Local Government, and Heritage to inform the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027