



# Galway City Area - Community Information Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Waters of **LIFE**

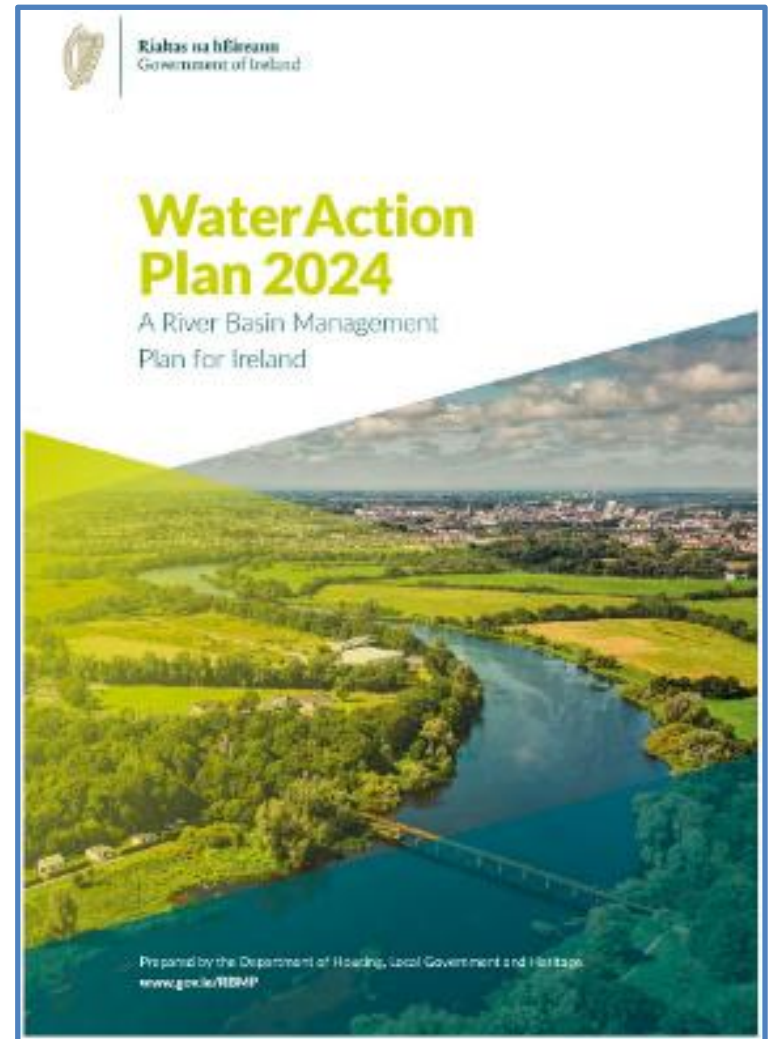
# Meeting structure

- Presentation
  - 15 - 20 minutes
- Questions and Answers
  - 10 - 20 minutes
- Stand Engagement
  - 30 - 60 minutes
- We have a **sign-up** sheet at the LAWPRO table if you want to be kept up to date with our work e.g. newsletter

# Water Action Plan 2024

## Launched September 2024

- Government commitment to protecting & restoring Ireland's natural waters by complying with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
- Accelerate the identification and implementation of the **right measures in the right places** to both restore and protect all water bodies



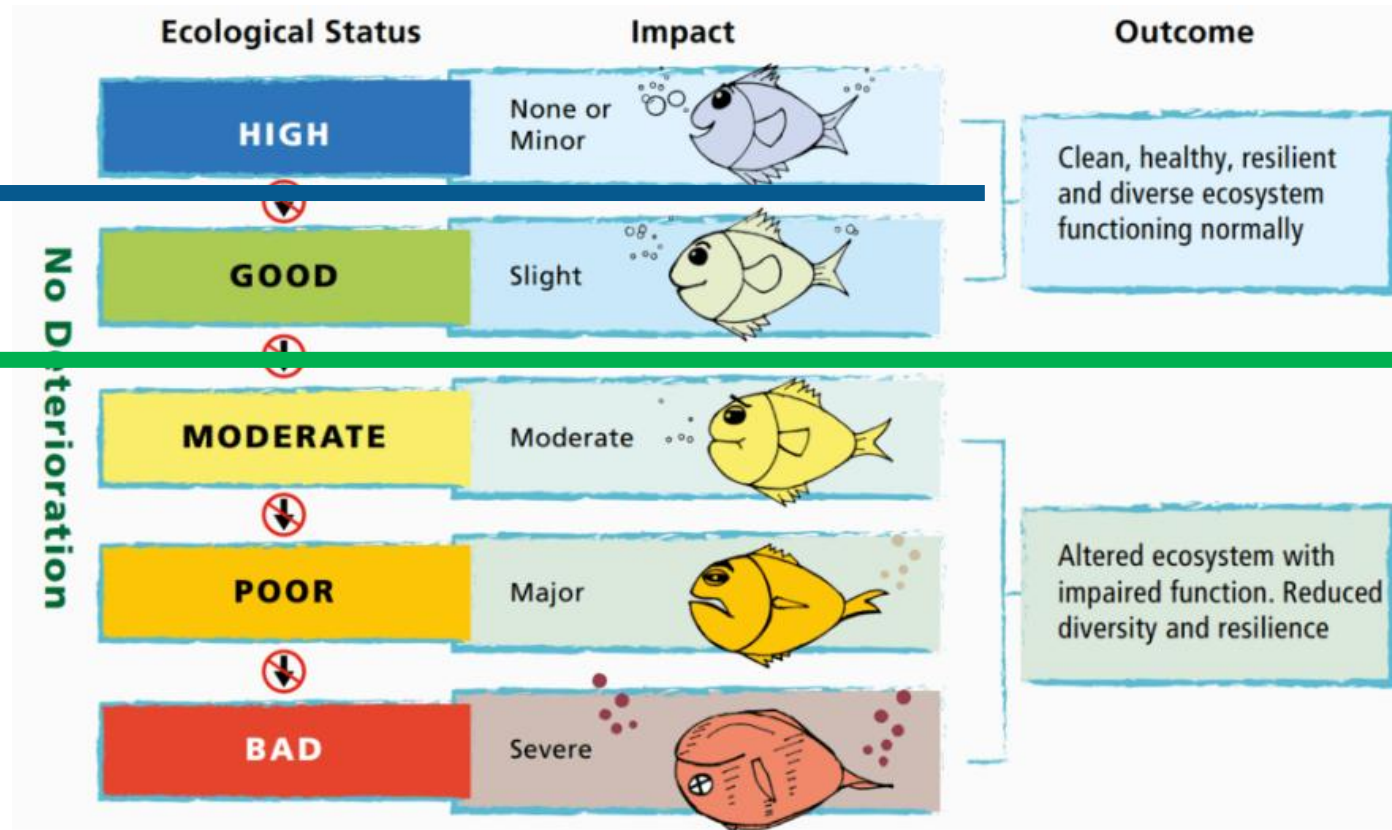
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2027

# What do we mean by water quality?

## EU Water Framework Directive

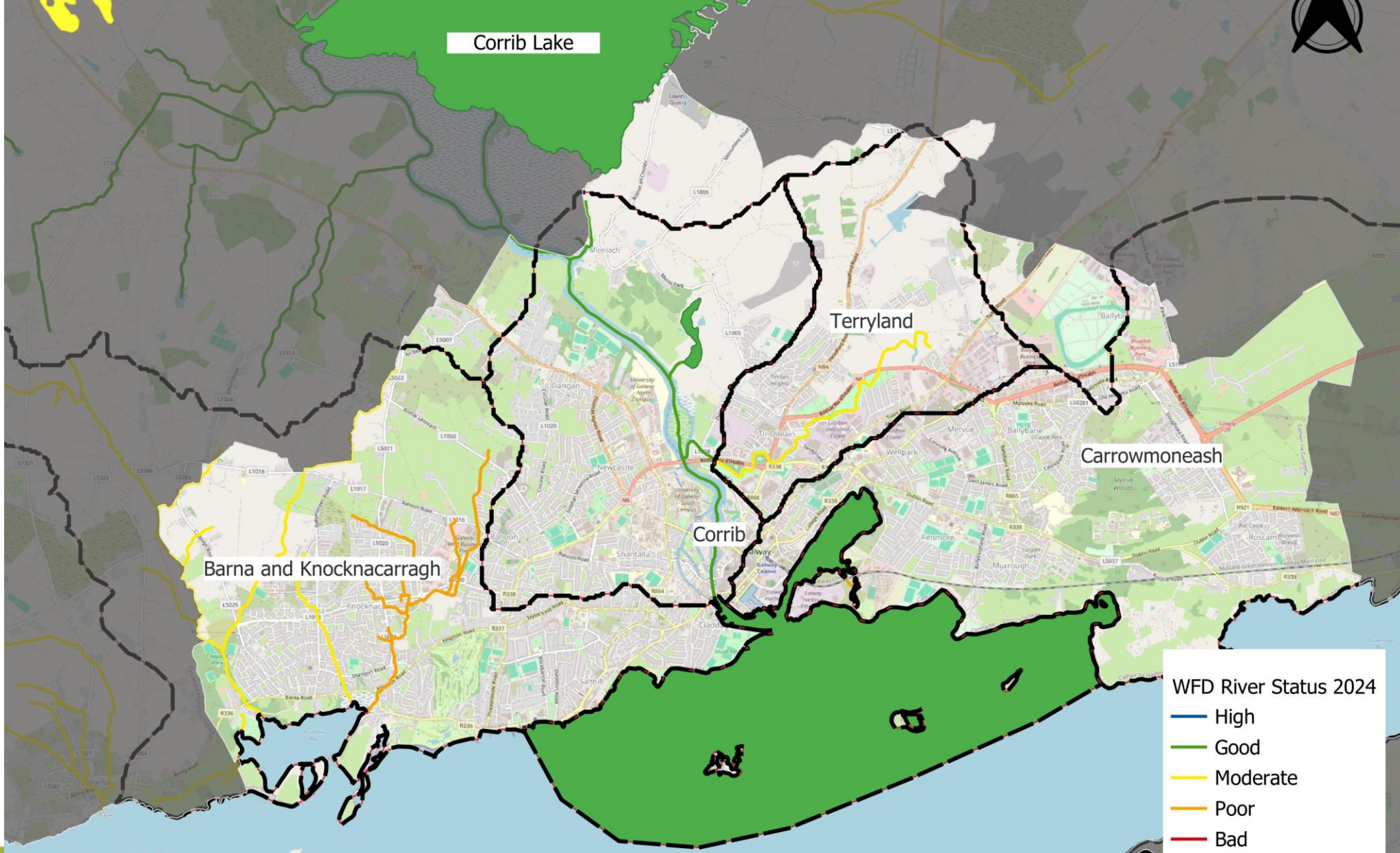
No Decline –  
Blue Dots

At least Good



All surface waters must achieve at least Good Ecological Status by 2027

# Water Quality in Galway City Area



Corrib Lake

Terryland

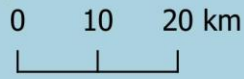
Carrowmoneash

Corrib

Barna and Knocknacarragh

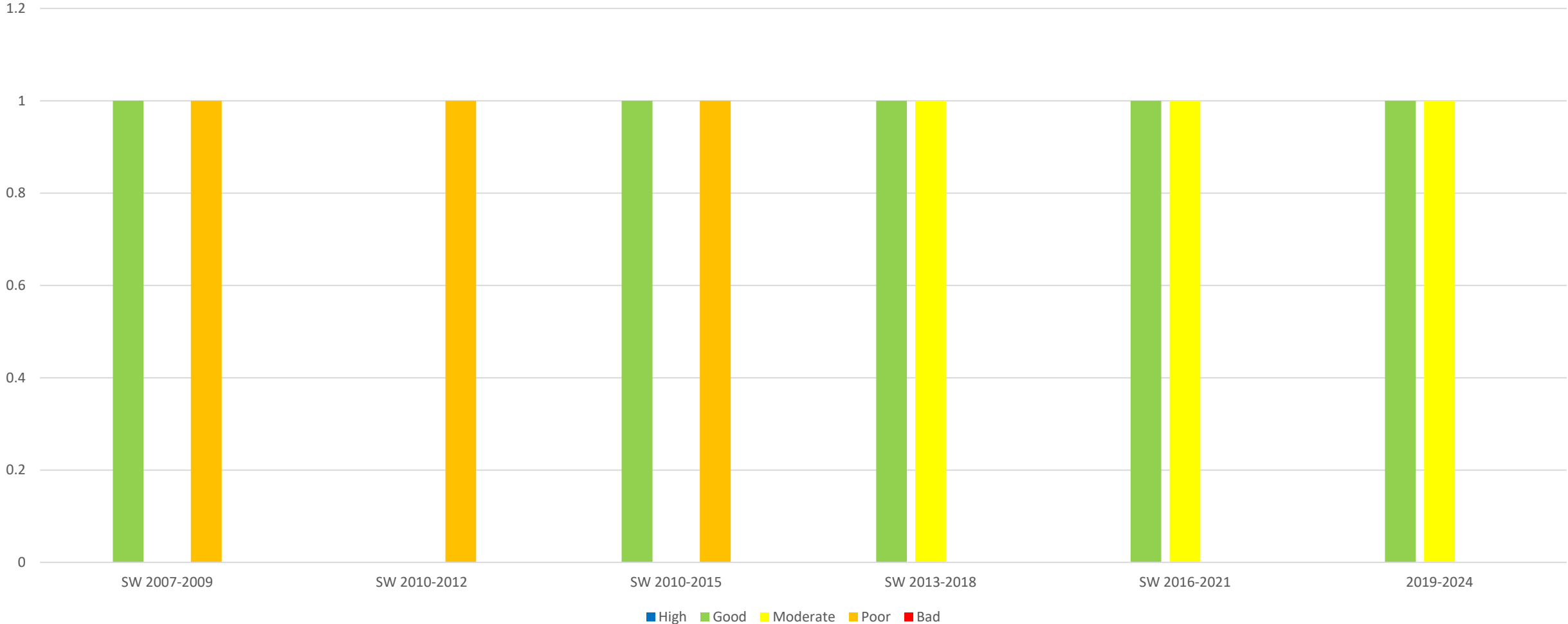
**WFD River Status 2024**

- High
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Bad



# Water quality in Galway City

WFD Status of Monitored Rivers in Galway City Area

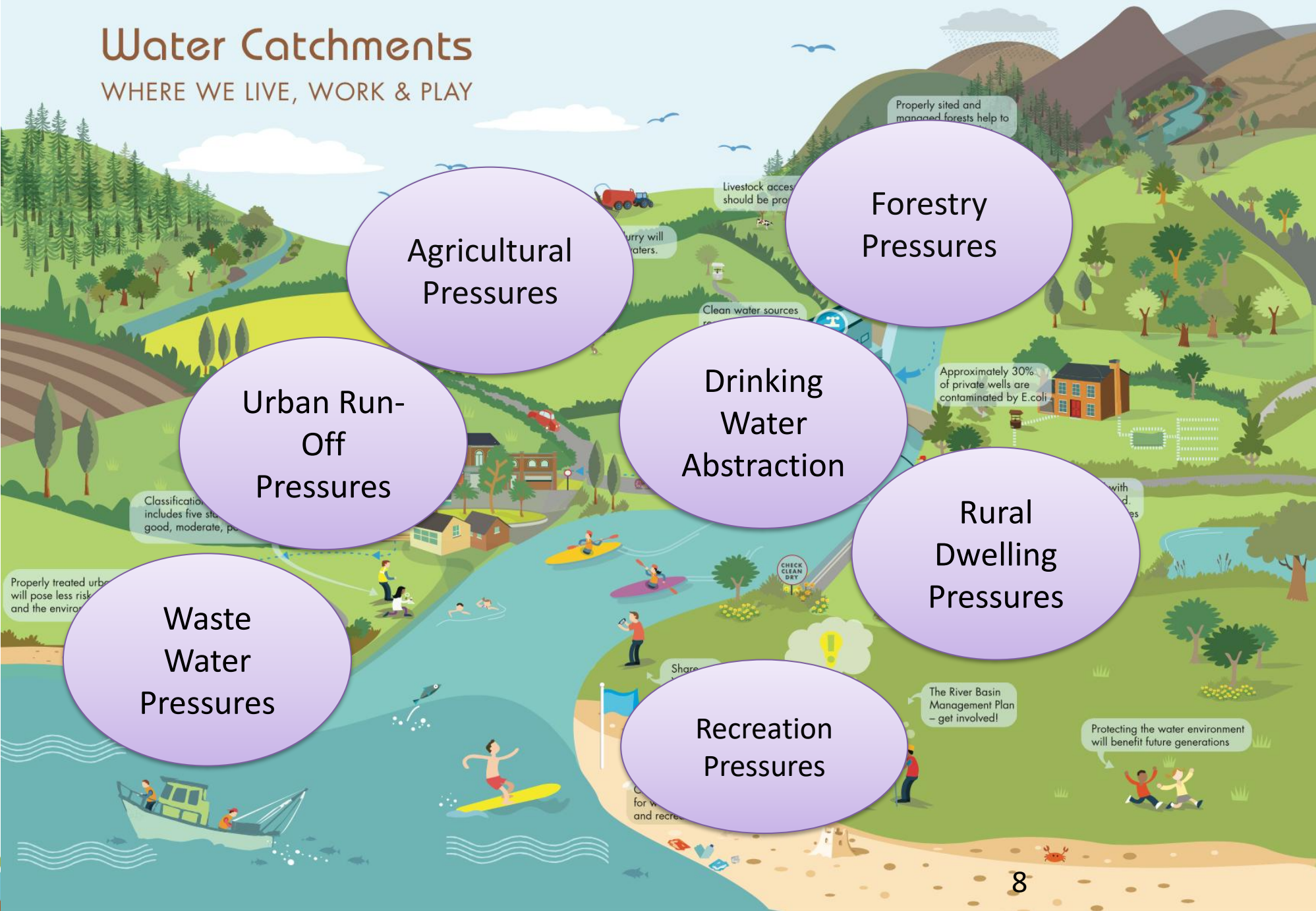


What impacts our water?



# Water Catchments

WHERE WE LIVE, WORK & PLAY



Agricultural Pressures

Forestry Pressures

Urban Run-Off Pressures

Drinking Water Abstraction

Rural Dwelling Pressures

Waste Water Pressures

Recreation Pressures

Properly sited and managed forests help to

Livestock access should be pro

urry will  
waters.

Clean water sources

Approximately 30% of private wells are contaminated by E.coli

Classification includes five sta  
good, moderate, pe

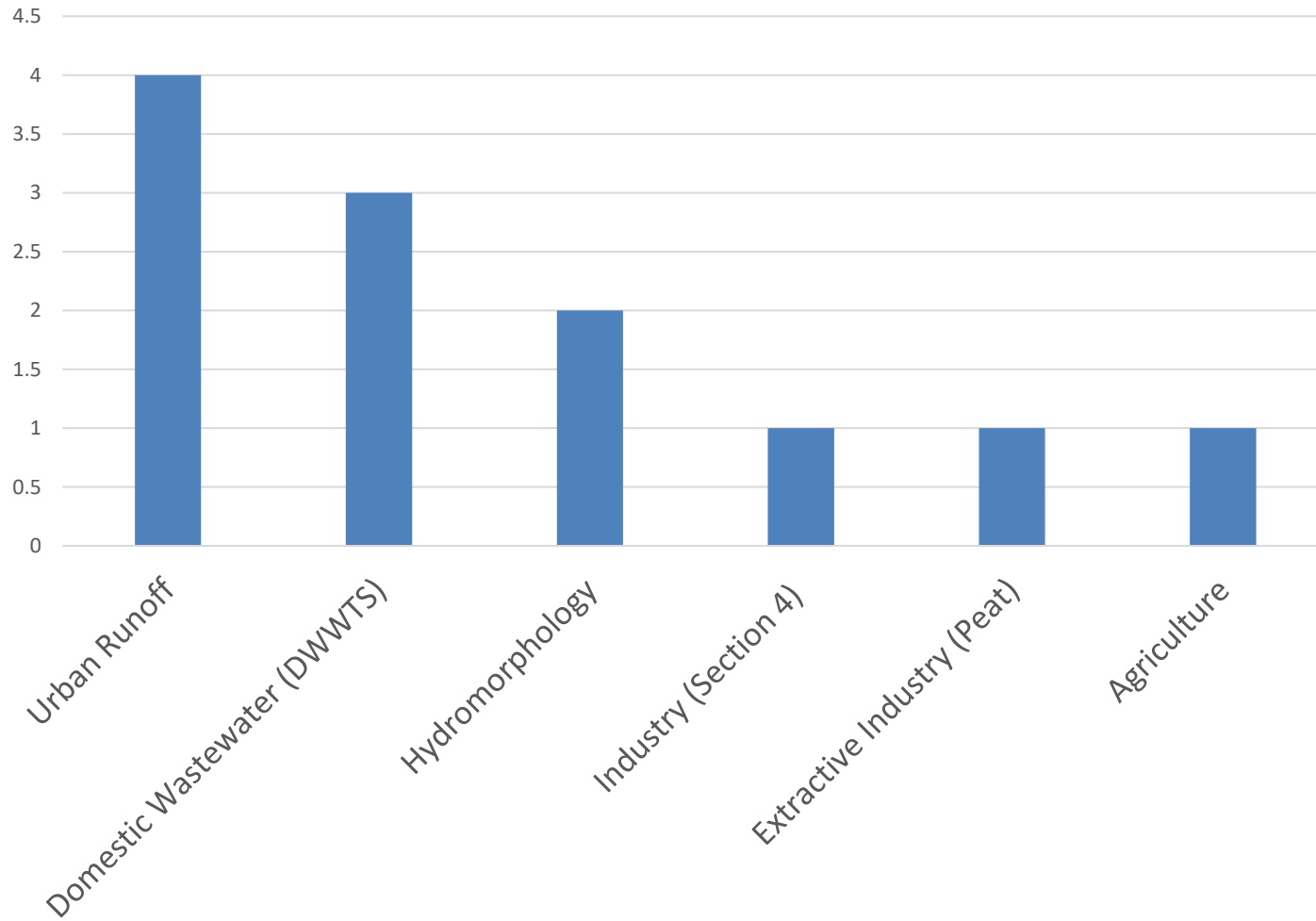
Properly treated urba  
will pose less risk  
and the environ

CHECK CLEAN DRY

The River Basin Management Plan - get involved!

Protecting the water environment will benefit future generations

## Significant pressures in At Risk waters in Galway City Area



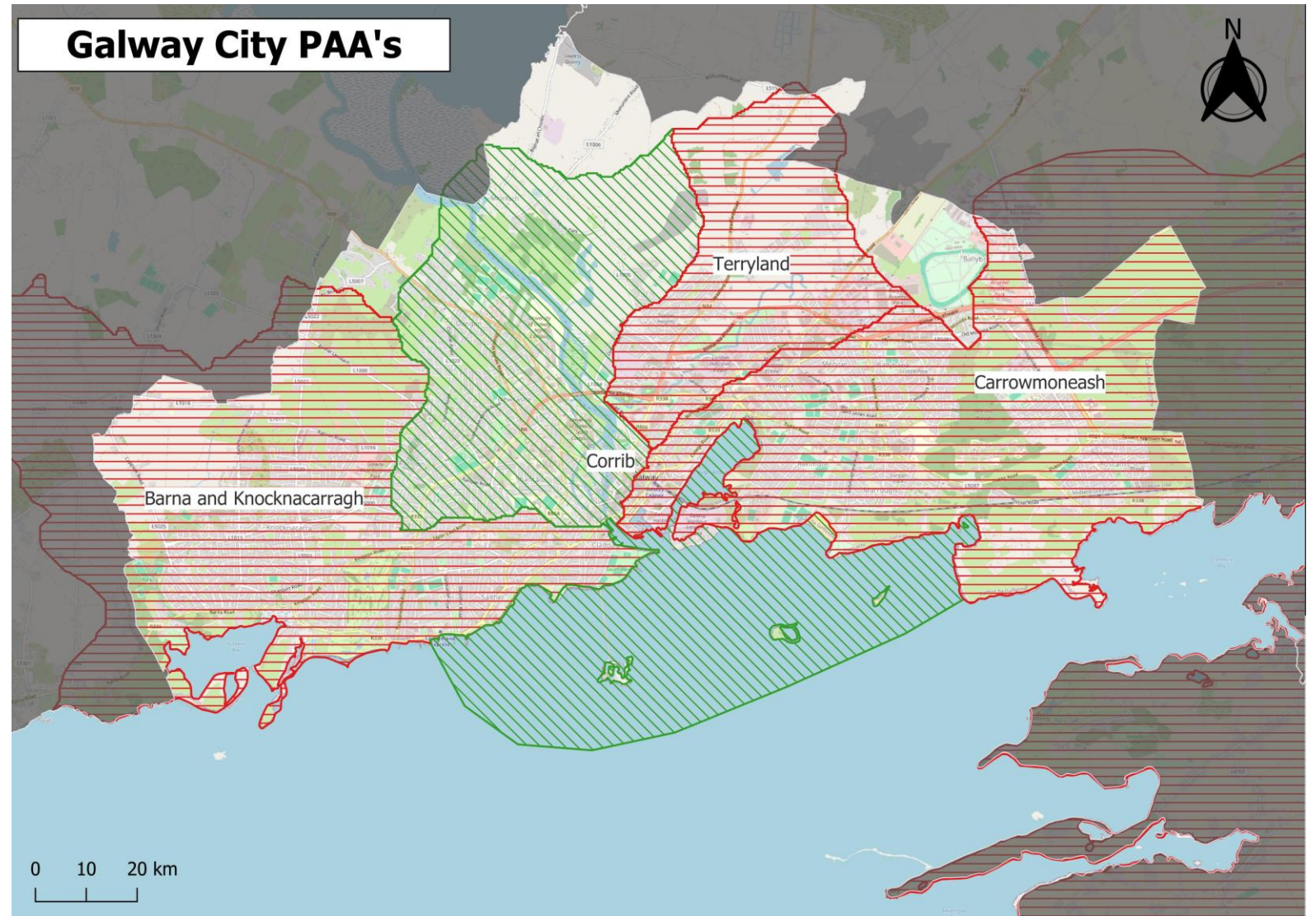
Waterbody	Significant Pressure
Terryland	Urban Runoff, Hymo
Barna	Urban Runoff, Peat, DWWTS, S4
Knocknacarragh	Urban Runoff, Hymo
Carrowmoneash	Urban Runoff, DWWTS
Rockhill	DWWTS, Agriculture

What are we doing



# MD and PAA map

- Priority Areas for Action
- Detailed assessment of water quality
- 4 areas intersect Galway City Area
- Galway City Council – green areas
- LAWPRO led – red areas



# Local Catchment Assessment Finding issues on the ground



Field chemistry and field observations



Biological sampling - invertebrates



River walks



Chemistry sampling



Biological sampling - vegetation

# Referrals

- When we find issues, we let people know
  - Agriculture, we refer to ASSAP
  - Forestry, we refer to Forest Service
  - Licensed discharges, we refer to Local Authority or Environmental Protection Agency etc.
- Measures can be used then to address the impact



# What is The ASSAP?

- Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme
- Focus is on improving water quality in Priority Areas for Action (PAA)
- Provides free & confidential farm advice and acceptance is voluntary
- Industry, government, farm orgs collaboration
- 44 Advisors - 20 Teagasc, 24 from Dairy Co-ops
- Work in collaboration with Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)
- LAWPRO – scientific investigation; LCA, desk study, chemical, biological, hydro morphology etc., assess streams
- Provide referrals to advisors to focus farm visits



CARBERY



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

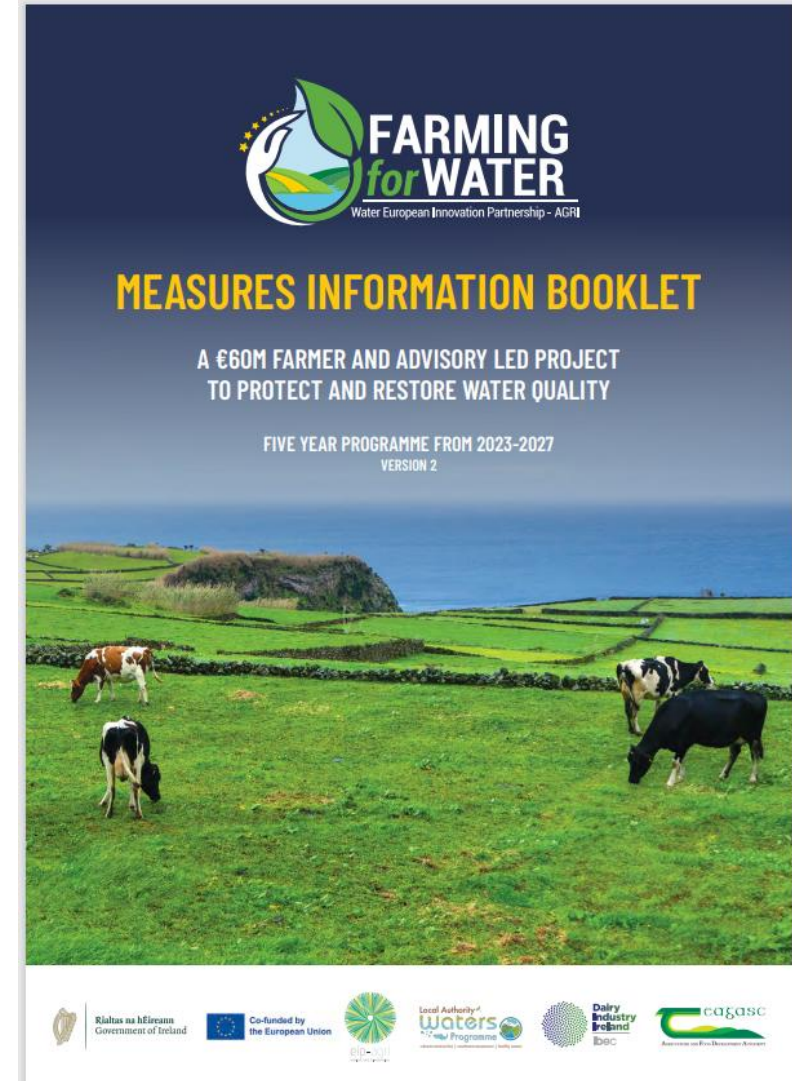


An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



**The Farming for Water project**, aims to tackle water quality issues while promoting sustainable agricultural practices and delivering environmental benefits.

- **Collaboration & Innovation:** The project brings together farmers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to co-develop practical, scalable solutions that go beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Funding & Support:** With €50 million from DAFM and the European Commission for farmer payments and €10 million in administrative support from DHLGH, the initiative is well-funded to support on-the-ground actions.
- **Leadership & Timeline:** Led by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland, the programme launched in March 2024 and will run until 2027, engaging a wide network of collaborators including other supporting stakeholders.





# Community Engagement

- Janet Laffey is the Community Water Officer for East Galway
- Our work with Communities
  - Funding Community Water Development Fund
  - Catchment Support Fund
  - Small Grants
  
  - Capacity Building
  - Project Delivery
  - Citizen Science Stream Index
  
  - Talk to Janet for more info



# Organisations working on a catchment scale

## Corrib Beo

Working on issues relevant to the Corrib catchment -water quality, culture and heritage.

## Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park

Promotion and sampling of the Terryland River



# Mainstreaming of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

- 2 No. Nbs Engineers appointed in LAWPRO working in this area since 2024:
  - Tom Brennan SEE [Tbrennan@lawwaters.ie](mailto:Tbrennan@lawwaters.ie)
  - Eamonn O’Connell SEE [eoconnell@lawwaters.ie](mailto:eoconnell@lawwaters.ie)
- Local Authority Engagement / Supports include
  - *Guidance Document for Planners Developers & Developer Agents*
- *Rainwater Management Plan – Guidance for Local Authorities 2024*
- Progression of National Strategy for NBS



**2-day Conference - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2025**

Collaboration is key to success!



Q and A



# Meet the room

- LAWPRO –Ailbhe, Janet, Luke, Ula,
- ASSAP/Farming for Water EIP - Sinéad Devaney
- Galway City Council – Paul Connolly & Ruairi Keane

[www.lawwaters.ie](http://www.lawwaters.ie)

[www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)



## Contact Details

- Community Water Officer
  - Janet Laffey – [jlaffey@lawaters.ie](mailto:jlaffey@lawaters.ie)
- Catchment Scientist
  - Ula Kacperek – [ukacperek@lawaters.ie](mailto:ukacperek@lawaters.ie)
- ASSAP advisor for the area
  - Sinead Devaney [Sinead.Devaney@teagasc.ie](mailto:Sinead.Devaney@teagasc.ie)