

Civic Offices, Limerick Road  
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary



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# A STAKEHOLDER VISION FOR WATER

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# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION



- Framing the challenge - trust, co-creation, compromise, common ground and collaboration when tackling wicked problems
- The National Water Forum - who we are and what we do
- Summary of Forum's recommendations for 3<sup>rd</sup> rbmp
- Concluding remarks

# WICKED PROBLEMS



*‘Wicked problems are complex and extremely hard to solve because of incomplete, contradictory and changing requirements. They usually:*

- (1) involve multiple stakeholders whose values are different, sometimes even opposite,*
- (2) lack definite formulation of the causes, and*
- (3) have solutions that are not right or wrong but can be better or worse’. (<https://terra-institute.eu/en/why-sustainable-issues-are-wicked-problems>*

# WICKED PROBLEMS



*‘There is no recipe or set of protocols you can use to solve a wicked problem. A wicked problem has economic, social, and environmental dimensions that interact with one another in ways that are ever-changing and unpredictable. As a result, many wicked problems are never completely solved. Instead, the best one can hope for is a process of continual improvement in addressing the issue’ (Steve Schmida in Partner with a Purpose)*



# WICKED PROBLEMS



- ❑ Climate change, ecosystem management and catchment management are long recognised as complex and wicked problems
- ❑ In fact, all of the UN SDG's are wicked problems involving social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions and multiple stakeholders



# ***FRAMING THE CHALLENGE***



WICKED PROBLEM WITH  
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

INTERTWINED WITH  
CLIMATE AND NATURE  
CHALLENGES

## **CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT**

NO EASY ANSWERS AND  
NO ONE ENTITY HAS A  
MONOPOLY ON WISDOM  
OR KNOWLEDGE

MANY STAKEHOLDERS  
INVOLVED WITH  
DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVES

# ***A PATHWAY TO SUCCESSFUL, AGREED OUTCOMES***

**AGREED  
OUTCOMES**

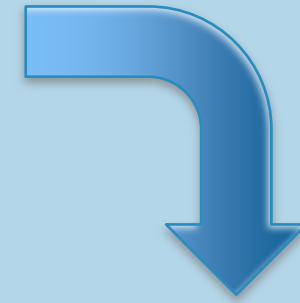


**IMPLEMENTATION**  
(the biggest challenge)



**COMMON GROUND**  
(the sweet spot)

**CO-CREATION**  
(stakeholders and public)



**COMPROMISE**  
(we all need to give a  
bit to get a bit)



# THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST, ENGAGEMENT AND HUMILITY IN GETTING THINGS DONE





# AN FÓRAM UISCE – WHO WE ARE

- The national statutory body representative of all stakeholders with an interest in the quality of Ireland's water bodies.
- 25 members nominated from over 50 organisations.



# OUR ROLE



The Forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to debate and analyse a range of issues with regard to water quality, rural water policy, issues of concern to customers of Irish Water, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland.



26  
members



Advising on  
water issues



Unifying  
platform



Strengthening  
stakeholder input

## ***STATUTORY ADVISORY ROLES***



- Minister and Department of DHLGH
- Water Policy Advisory Committee
- Uisce Eireann
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities

# FORUM MEMBERS, SECTORS AND ORGANISATIONS



Agriculture	<u>Denis Drennan - Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) ; Derry Dillon - MACRA ; Dominic Cronin - Irish Co-operative Society (ICOS) ; Paul O'Brien - Irish Farmers Association (IFA)</u>
Angling	<u>Martin McEnroe – Anglers</u>
Business	<u>Neil Walker - Irish Business &amp; Employers Confederation (IBEC)</u>
Chairperson	<u>Dr Matt Crowe</u>
Community and Voluntary	<u>Gerald Quain - Irish Rural Link ; Issy Petrie - St. Vincent de Paul</u>
Education	<u>Dr Suzanne Linnane - Dundalk Institute of Technology</u>
Environment	<u>Bernadette Connolly - Cork Environmental Forum ; Ollan Herr - Zero Waste Alliance ; Sinead O'Brien - Sustainable Water Network (SWAN) ; Dr Elaine McGoff - An Taisce ; Charles Stanley-Smith - The Environment Pillar</u>
Forestry	<u>Brendan Fitzsimons - Tree Council of Ireland</u>
General Consumers	<u>Connie Rochford ; Keith Hyland</u>
NFGWS	<u>Barry Deane - CEO National Federation of Group Water Schemes ; Jean Rosney</u>
Recreation	<u>Dr Tim Butter - Irish Underwater Council</u>
Rivers Trusts	<u>Siobhan Ward - Moy Rivers Trust</u>
Social Housing	<u>David Wright</u>
Tourism	<u>Tim Fenn - Irish Hotels Federation (IHF)</u>

Donal Purcell, Senior Executive Officer

Triona McGrath, Research and Policy Lead

Gretta McCarron, Communications and Education Lead

Aisling Corkery, Research and Policy Executive

Martina Ryan, Administration





We Are Stronger Together Than  
Apart – **When the Forum agrees  
on something others need to  
listen**



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# ***NWF SUBMISSIONS – SOME COMMON THEMES***



- Transparency** (in data, decision making, trade offs)
- Governance** (effective governance, transparency in engagement, improved engagement, collaboration, resourcing)
- Policy Coherence** (not just for water, but also for biodiversity and climate).
- Effective Engagement** (both stakeholder engagement - i.e. better ways for the Forum to engage with the different tiers of governance and with other departments, and public engagement - i.e. involving the public in decision making and actions around water).

# ***RBMP SUBMISSION - OVERVIEW***



- 103 Recommendations in total agreed by all Members
- Outcomes-based approach
- Governance
- Public participation
- Sectoral Pressures (Agriculture, Hydromorphology, Urban Waste Water, Forestry etc)






## ***ENGAGEMENT TO DATE***



- Presentation to Ministers' O'Brien and Noonan – April 2022
- Presentation to JOC on Housing, Local Government and Heritage – April 2022
- Advice to WPAC – August 2022
- Presentation to WPAC – September 2022
- Advice to WPAC – November 2022
- Advice to Minister's O'Brien and Noonan – December 2022
- On-going engagement with Officials in DHLGH

# ***AN OUTCOMES-BASED APPROACH***

- ALL 4,842 water bodies need targeted measures to either protect or restore to good ecological status.
  - Key performance indicators and milestones must be included for every water body to assess progress during 3rd cycle
  - Timelines for achieving WFD status must be estimated
  - Justification for water bodies not meeting WFD status by 2027 must be outlined
  - Details should be included in the 46 catchment plans
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# GOVERNANCE

- Full-time RBMP secretariat to manage implementation
- Transparency in decision-making, reviews and evaluation
- Structured engagement between the three tiers of governance
- Opportunities for the Forum to engage with the three tiers to allow stakeholder input into the implementation
- An interdepartmental financing strategy to support the implementation of measures (water, climate and biodiversity)

# ***PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***



- A national approach for public participation to develop stakeholder visions and action plans for the 46 catchments
- A framework for local authorities and agencies to work together to support public participation for water, biodiversity and climate change
- Resources need to be put in place to develop and deliver the actions prioritised through public participation
- Pilot public participation approaches to inform the national approach

- AGRICULTURE - Independent Reviews of CAP and NAP to assess their ability to meet WFD objectives
  - HYDROMORPHOLOGY - Development of a national framework and guidance for river restoration
  - FORESTRY - Targeted measures to address the 233 waterbodies at risk from Forestry, along with interim timelines to indicate progress
  - URBAN WASTEWATER - Actions to address the 208 waterbodies at risk from urban waste water
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# CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Next 6 years critical but implementation and learning by doing key
- Building trust through engagement and humility will help get us there
- Transparent outcomes-based approach incorporating ALL water bodies is a crucial element – protect and improve principle
- Resources for Implementation – building on last 6 years but gaps remain
- Policy Coherence really important across water, climate and nature
- Water Forum will continue to engage with Ministers, WPAC, UE, CRU, DHPLG officials and others to advocate for its recommendations and actively contribute to implementation