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Dublin City Council

Water Framework Directive Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021

Presentation to Dublin City Council

Gerard O'Connell, Fellow CEng, MIEI,
Water Framework Directive Office, DCC.

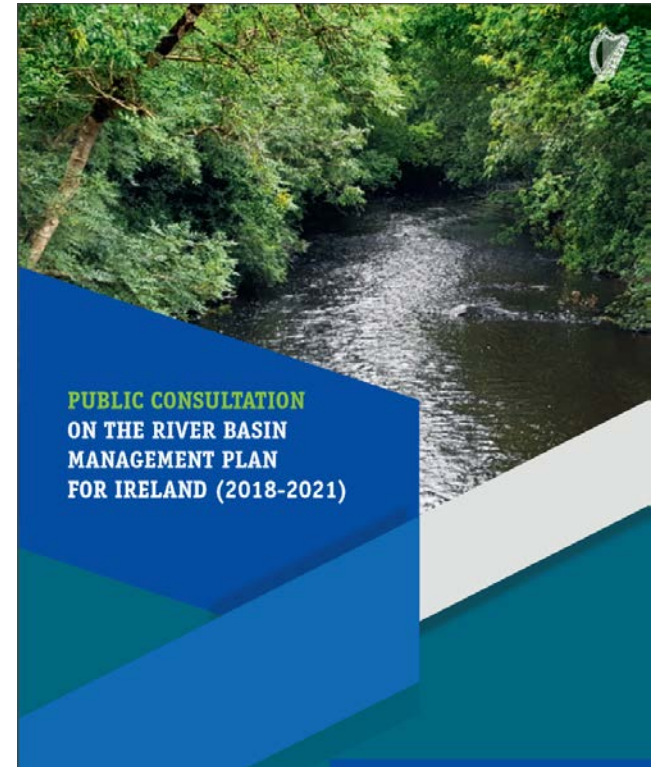
Monday 8th May 2017



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Draft River Basin Management Plan
2018-2021, SEA and AA, launched by
Minister Coveney
on 28th February 2017

“ RIVER BASIN PLANNING REQUIRES TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE – BUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT IF WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF WATER AND WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT AND RESTORE OUR WATER ENVIRONMENT. ”



Water is essential for life and for our natural environment. It is also critical to our wellbeing and our economy and provides essential services supporting people and communities, agriculture, industry, transport and tourism. However, water is a fragile resource that needs to be protected from the many pressures that are placed on it. It must be managed and used in a sustainable manner.



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Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000

Legal framework to *protect and restore* clean water and to ensure its long-term, sustainable use.

Three cycles

- 1st Cycle: 2010-2015 (minimal community engagement)
- 2nd Cycle: 2016-2021 (2 years behind)
- 3rd Cycle: 2022-2027

..... “to achieve good ecological status in all waters”.



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Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000

- Develop River Basin Management Plans –
 - Identify the pressures on water quality
 - Set out the programme of measures to address these significant pressures.

- Public consultation and engagement



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Key Learnings from 1st Cycle Plan

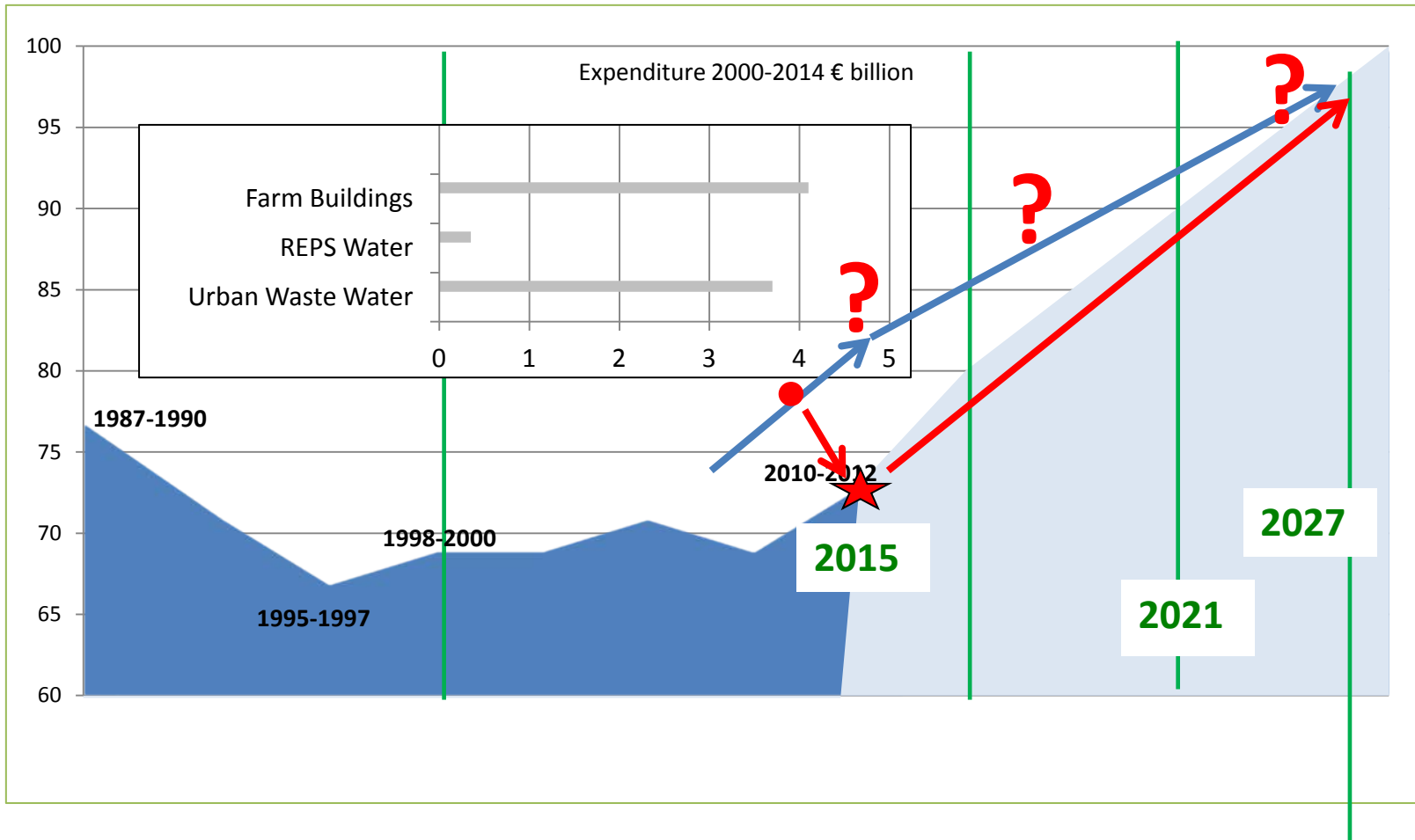
- Need for better evidence base (EPA characterisation work)
- First cycle too ambitious
- ... “fragmented institutional structures”
- ... “no single body having ultimate responsibility”
 - Single RBD with national plan the responsibility of Minister
 - New governance & implementation structures right
 - Local Authorities central to this
- Need for improved communication & public engagement
 - Consultation central to development of draft Plan
 - Specific resource developed through setting up the Local Authority Water and Community Office (LAWCO).



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River Water Quality, past, now, future?

% river channel length at satisfactory status

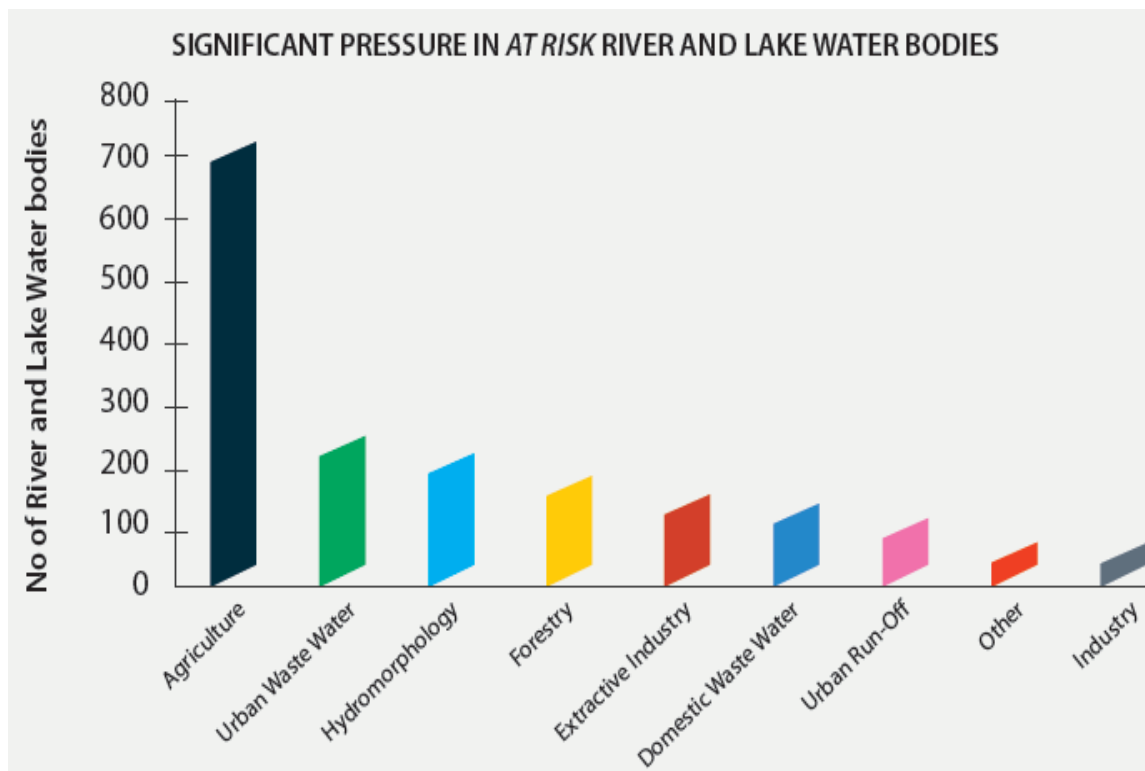




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EPA Characterisation

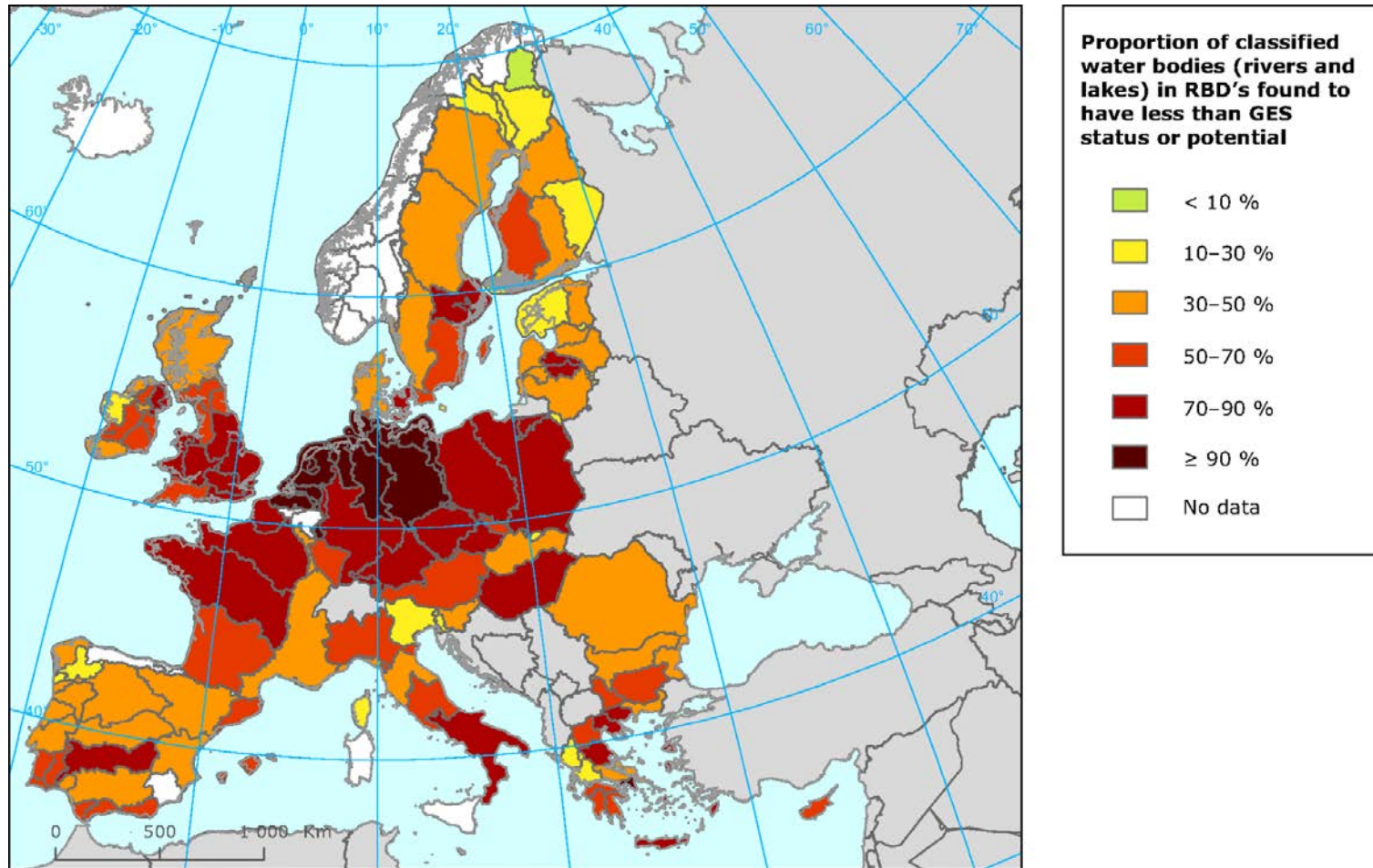
- Detailed assessment of 46 catchments with 4,882 water bodies
- 45% of rivers and 54% of lakes at less than good status





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How is Europe Doing?

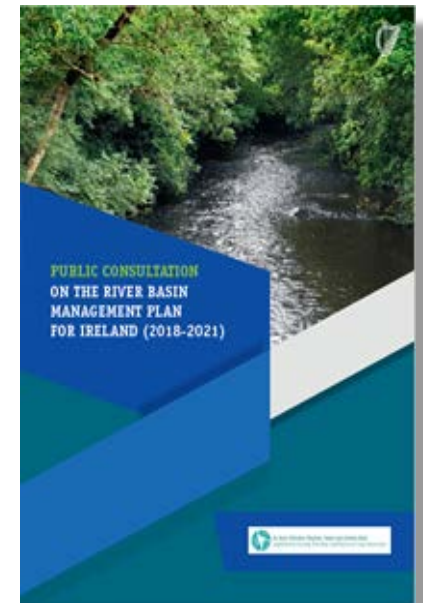




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Draft River Basin Management Plan

- Draft Plan launched by the Minister on 28th February 2017
- 6 months public consultation process to 31st August 2017.
- Final RBMP by December 2017





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Objectives & Priorities

- “...Good ecological status for all waters”
- Priorities identified in the Plan:
 - Compliance with existing EU legislation (e.g. UWWTD)
 - Prevent deterioration
 - Meet water objectives for “protected areas”
 - Bathing areas, drinking waters, shellfish, SACs etc
 - Protect high status waters
 - Supporting measures implemented in approximately 600 to 700 prioritised water bodies
 - 30 Pilot Study Areas.



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Programme of Measures (Chapter 7 of Plan)

- Agriculture
- Septic tanks
- Urban waste water
- Forestry
- Extractive industry incl. peat harvesting
- Invasive alien species
- Physical modification
- Water abstractions
- Industry
- Waste
- Historically polluted sites
- Water treatment
- Others



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Implementation Strategy

- Implementation of basic measures
- Supporting measures targeted at priority water bodies
- Regional structure in coordinating resources across agencies and other stakeholders
- Evidence based approach
- Community engagement and awareness
(Local Authority Waters and Communities Office - (LAWCO))
(National Water Forum)

“.....the right measures in the right place”



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Role of LA Water Community Office





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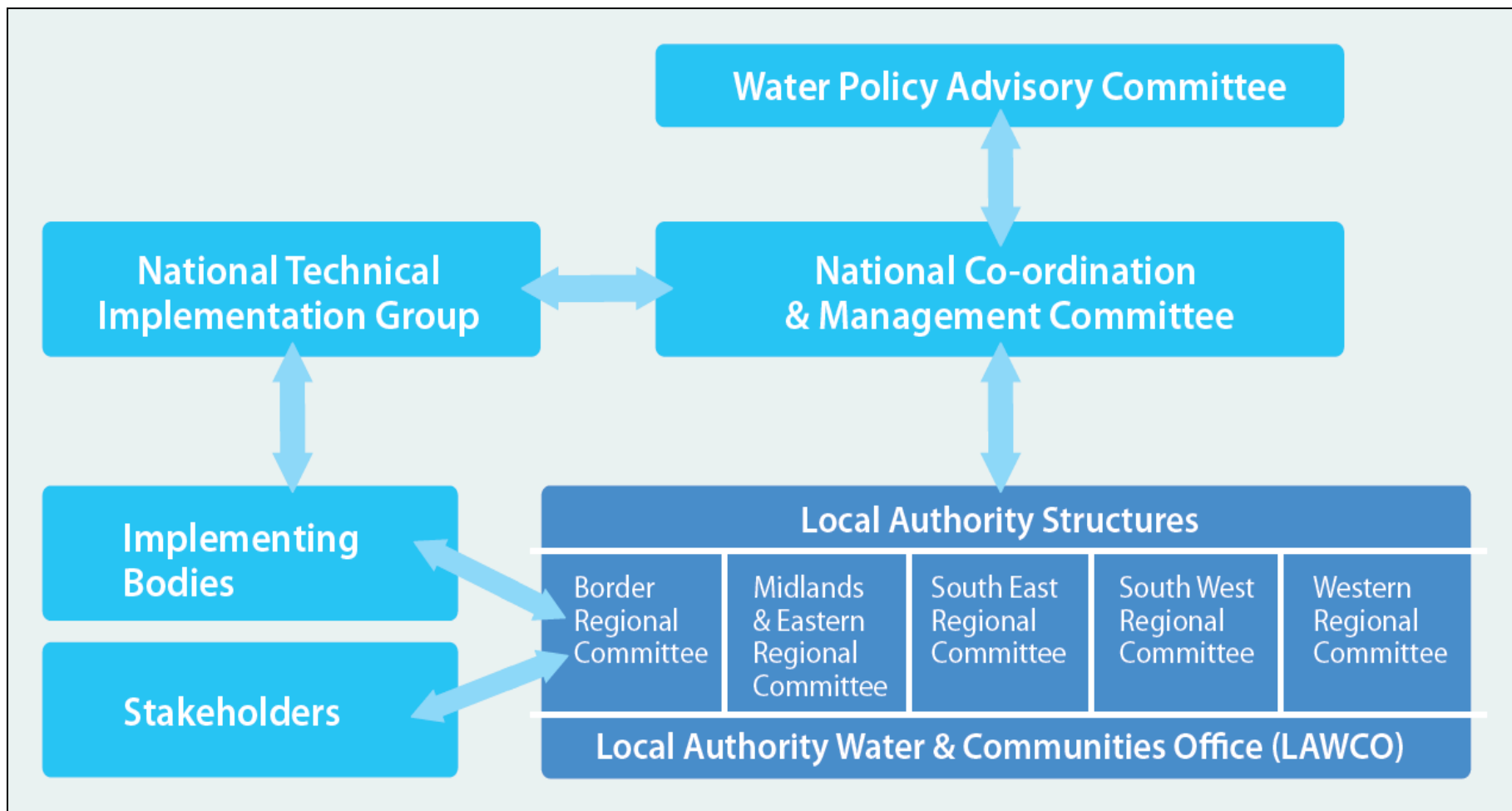
National Water Forum

- Facilitate stakeholder engagement on all water issues.
- Inform public views on the links between
 - Clean water supplies
 - Good water quality
 - Public Health
 - The Value of water as a resource



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Proposed Implementation Structure





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Role of Local Authorities

- Coordinated delivery of measures at regional and local level
- Tracking progress and effectiveness of measures
- Annual reporting of progress
- Ensuring public and stakeholder engagement in implementation
- Integrated approach across functional areas
- Supporting national policy development and implementation



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Communication & Engagement

- Previous consultations highlighted need for:
 - (i) Better engagement in water policy at national level
 - (ii) Facilitation of public and stakeholder engagement at local level
- Response to above in draft RBMP
 - (i) **National Water Forum** will feed into WPAC and other structures
 - (ii) Local Authority Waters and Community Office (LAWCO) to drive public participation and consultation
 - (iii) EPA/DHPCLG/LA networking & knowledge sharing
 - (iv) catchments.ie website



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Community Engagement (LAWCO)

- Public meetings to be held in local areas (c. 100)
- To be completed by end of August 2017
- Include a focus on local issues





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Dublin City Council:

Friday 31st March – Sunday 2nd April @ Hive Herbert Park. SE Area

DCC Environmental SPC – Wed 28th June.

DCC SE Area Monday 12th June. DCC Central Area Tues 13th June.

DCC South Central Area Monday 17th June.

DCC North Central Area Committee Monday 19th June

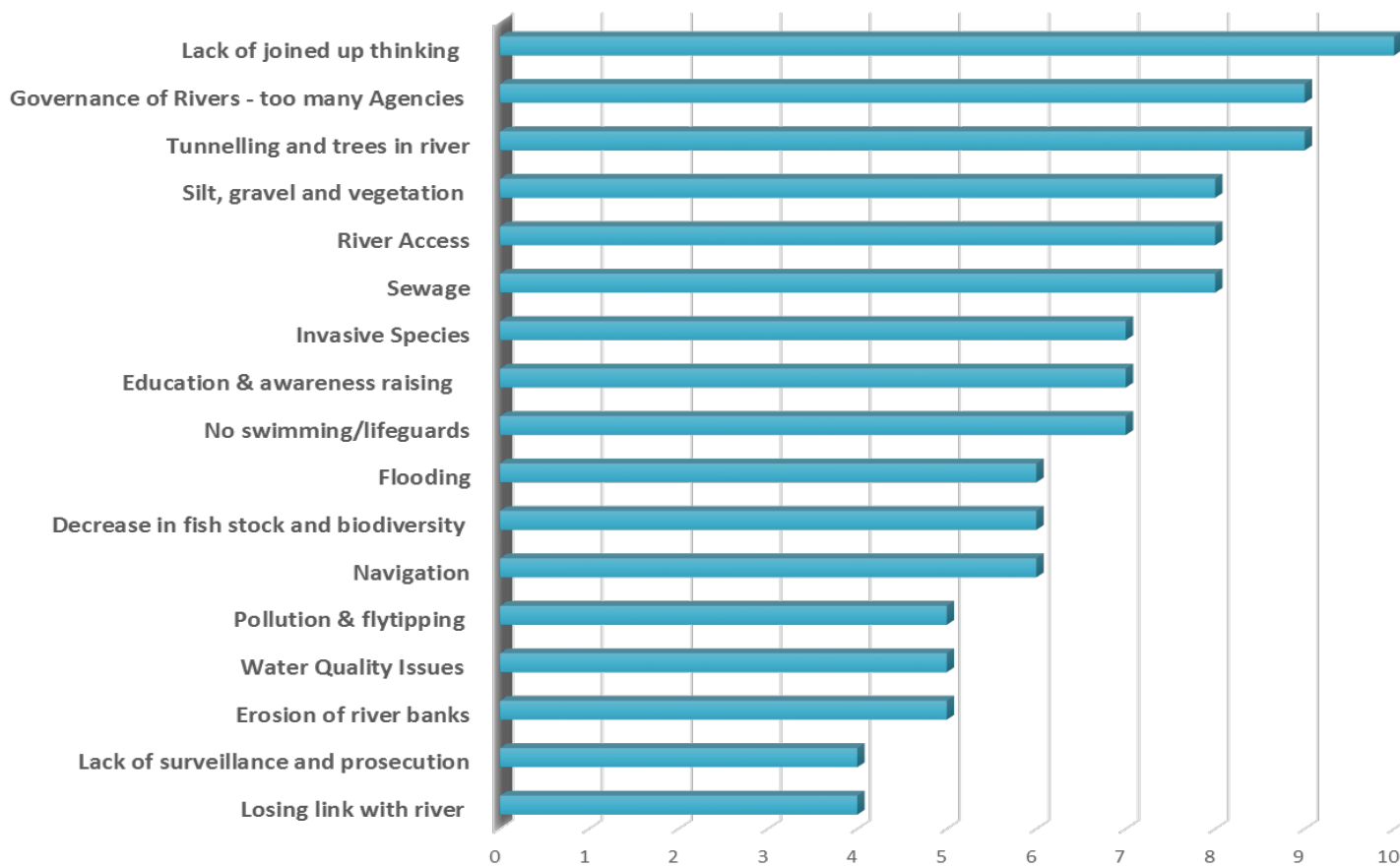
DCC North West Area Committee Tuesday 20th June.

Monday 26th June - Thursday 29th June LAWCO Public Presentations for five Dublin City Areas 7.30pm – 9pm in Hotels around the City.



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Most commonly cited issues raised at River Suir Public Meetings 2016 (n=16)





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How can people input to plan?

High level: Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government website (RBMP@housing.gov.ie): now to end of August 2017.

Local level: Public consultations meetings: end of April to end of August 2017.

Local Authority submissions

Online SurveyMonkey

Consultations through PPN and sectoral organisations

National meeting to be organised by DHPCLG, May 15th.



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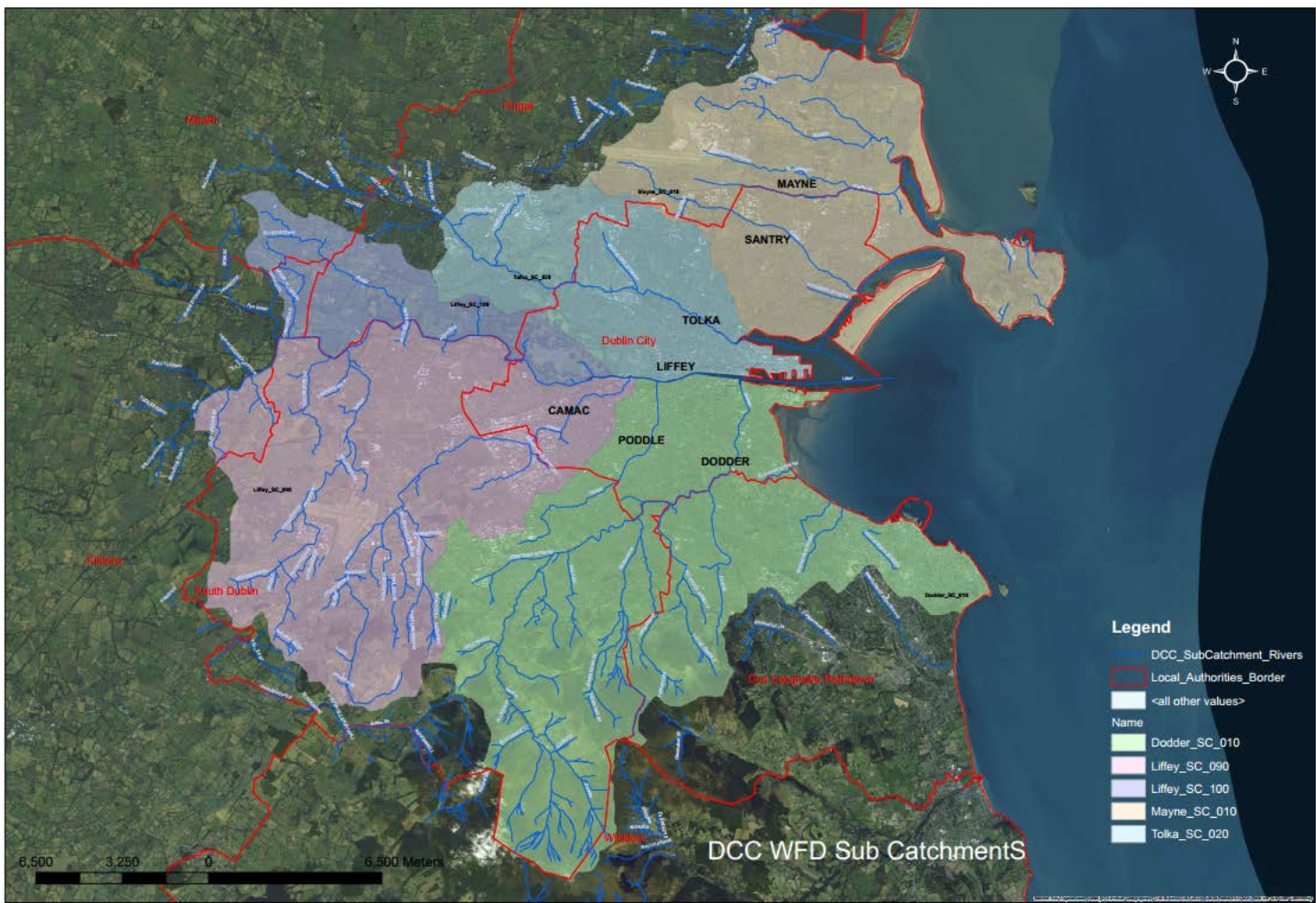
What does this mean for DCC

- Seven rivers, Liffey, Tolka, Dodder, Santry, Camac, Poddle and Mayne.
- Estuaries and Coastal Areas.
- Ground water bodies.
- Continue with current measures as well as two proposed urban pilot studies on Dodder & Santry.



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Seven Dublin City River Sub catchments.



DCC WFD Sub Catchments



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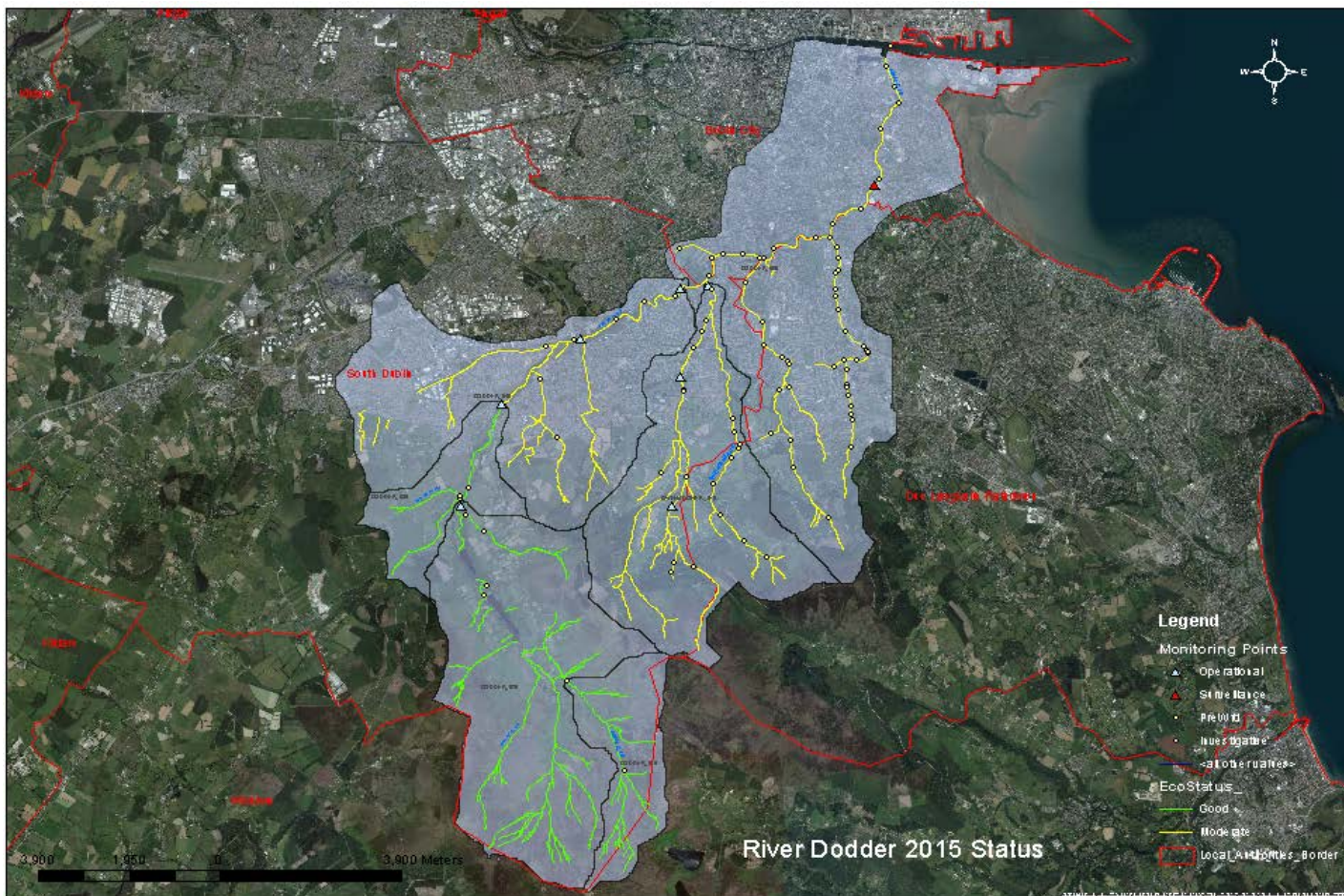
Proposed Pilot Study 1 – Santry River





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Proposed Pilot Study 2 – Dodder River





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Any Questions?