

## Regional Water Resources Plan

## **North West**

Irish Water's 25 Year Plan for Our Water Assets







Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040



Data disclaimer: This document uses best available data at time of writing. Some sources may have been updated in the interim period. As data relating to population forecasts and trends are based on information gathered before the Covid-19 pandemic, monitoring and feedback will be used to capture any updates. The National Water Resources Plan will also align to relevant updates in applicable policy.

Baseline data included in the RWRP-NW has been incorporated from numerous sources including but not limited to; National Planning Framework, Central Statistics Office, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Local Authority data sets, Regional Assembly data sets and Irish Water data sets. Data sources will be detailed in the relevant sections of the draft RWRP-SE. 2019 was selected as the base year to align with the planning period (2019-2025) of the NWRP.

## **Table of Contents**

1	Planning Context	1
	1.1 Introduction	2
	1.2 Who We Are	3
	1.3 Water Supply in the North West Region	3
	1.4 Development of the National Water Resources Plan	4
	1.5 RWRP-NW	7
	1.6 Scoping and Screening for North West Region	8
	1.7 Study Areas	8
	1.8 Overview of RWRP-NW	9
	1.9 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment	10
	1.10 Summary of Policy	11
	1.11 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation on the draft RWRP	11
	1.12 Baseline Data	12
	1.13 Summary	12
	1.14 References	12
2	North West Region	13
	2.1 Introduction	14
	2.1.1 Regional Overview	14
	2.1.2 Study Areas in the RWRP-NW	15
	2.2 Growth and Development	18
	2.2.1 Current Population	18
	2.2.2 Growth and Economic Development Policies	19
	2.2.3 Population Forecasts in the RWRP-NW	21
	2.2.4 Tourism and Recreation	24
	2.2.5 Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic	26
	2.3 Natural Resources	26
	2.3.1 Geology	26
	2.3.2 Groundwater Aquifers	27
	2.3.3 Surface Water Systems	31
	2.3.4 Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction	34
	2.3.5 WFD Ecological Status of Waterbodies	35
	2.3.6 WFD 'Risk Status' of Water Bodies and Associated Pressures	39
	2.3.7 Abstraction Pressures	42
	2.3.8 Designated Sites in the RWRP North West Region	47
	2.3.9 Opportunities for Protection, Restoration and Enhancement	49
	2.4 Water Supply	51
	2.4.1 Rainfall	51
	2.4.2 Drought	53
	2.4.3 Flood Risk	56
	2.4.4 Water Supply Systems	59
	2.4.5 Climate Change	60
	2.5 Summary	66
	2.6 References	69

3	Regional Needs	70
	3.1 Introduction	71
	3.2 Water Quantity	74
	3.2.1 Introduction	74
	3.2.2 Current Water Supply	80
	3.2.3 Hydrological Yield	84
	3.2.4 Current and Future WAFU	85
	3.2.5 Current Demand	89
	3.2.6 Demand Forecast	92
	3.2.7 Supply and Demand Balance	99
	3.2.8 Summary	109
	3.3 Water Quality	110
	3.3.1 Water Quality Compliance	112
	3.3.2 Barrier Assessment – DWSP Approach	113
	3.3.3 Barrier Assessment – Summary	114
	3.4 Water Supply Reliability	117
	3.5 Water Supply Sustainability	117
	3.6 Summary	121
	3.7 References	122
4	Current Status of Infrastructure	124
	4.1 Introduction	125
	4.2 National Investment Programmes	125
	4.3 Progress in the North West Region	126
	4.3.1 National Investment Programmes within the North West Region	126
	4.3.2 Identification of Critical Infrastructure Projects within the North West Region	า 127
	4.3.3 Completed Critical Infrastructure Projects	128
	4.3.4 In-Flight Critical Infrastructure Projects	133
	4.4 Summary	134
	4.5 Conclusions	134
	4.6 References	134
5	Solutions – Our Approach	136
	5.1 Introduction	137
	5.2 Lose Less: Leakage Reduction	138
	5.2.1 Three Step Leakage Reduction	139
	5.2.2 Leakage Targets and Demand Forecasting	141
	5.2.3 Challenges in Meeting Leakage Reduction Targets	143
	5.2.4 Leakage Reduction in the North West	143
	5.3 Use Less: Water Conservation	144
	5.3.1 Water Conservation Activities	145
	5.3.2 Domestic Metering Network	146
	5.3.3 Grey Water Recycling and Rainwater Harvesting	146
	5.3.4 Water Savings	147
	5.4 Supply Smarter	151
	5.5 Summary	152
	5.6 References	152
		.02

6	Option Development	153
	6.1 Introduction	154
	6.1.1 Option Scale	154
	6.1.2 Option Development Process	159
	6.1.3 Unconstrained Options	159
	6.2 Option Screening	162
	6.2.1 Coarse Screening	162
	6.2.2 Fine Screening	164
	6.2.3 Rejection Summary	166
	6.3 Feasible Options	167
	6.3.1 Feasible Option Types	167
	6.3.2 Option Costing	170
	6.4 Project Level Summary	170
	6.4.1 Data Review	171
	6.4.2 Project Development	171
	6.4.3 Project Level Assessments	172
	6.4.4 Next Steps	173
	6.5 Summary	173
	6.6 References	174
7	Preferred Approach – Study Area	175
	7.1 Introduction	176
	7.2 Approach Development Process	177
	7.2.1 Approach Categories	179
	7.2.2 Approach Ranking and Appraisal	179
	7.2.3 Stage 1 – WRZ Level Approach	181
	7.2.4 Stage 2 – Study Area Combinations	189
	7.2.5 Stage 3 – Study Area Level Preferred Approach	191
	7.3 WRZ Level Approach and SA Preferred Approach	197
	7.3.1 SA Preferred Approach Description	197
	7.3.2 Assessment against the Six Approach Categories	202
	7.3.3 Cost Comparison	210
	7.4 SA Preferred Approach	211
	7.4.1 Water Supply Sources	211
	7.4.2 Changes to Existing Infrastructure	213
	7.4.3 Addressing Leakage	222
	7.4.4 Addressing Water Quality	223
	7.4.5 Environmental Sustainability	223
	7.5 SA Preferrred Approach Summaries	233
	7.5.1 Study Area A – Donegal	234
	7.5.2 Study Area B – Cavan and Monaghan	236
	7.5.3 Study Area C – Mayo and Sligo	238
	7.5.4 Study Area D – Galway and Mayo	240
	7.5.5 Study Area E – Louth	242
	7.5.6 Study Area F – Roscommon and Leitrim	244
	7.5.7 Study Area G – Clare	246
	7.6 Interim Solutions	248
	7.7 Sensitivity Analysis	250
	7.8 Review of Preferred Approach arising from Consultation	253
	7.9 Summary	255
	7.10 References	256

8	Preferred Approach - Regional	257
	8.1 Introduction	258
	8.2 Limitations to the Development of a Regional Interconnected Supply for the North West Region	258
	8.2.1 Topography and Designated Sites	259
	8.2.2 Sustainable Abstractions	261
	8.2.3 Small and Isolated Settlements	261
	8.3 The Regional Preferred Approach	261
	8.3.1 Benefits of Interconnecting Supplies	262
	8.3.2 Cross Study Area Transfers	265
	8.3.3 Cumulative Effects at Regional Level	266
	8.3.4 Transboundary Effects	267
	8.3.5 Option Types and Component Summary	267
	8.4 Summary	271
	8.5 References	271
9	Ongoing Monitoring, Mitigation and Evolution	272
	9.1 Introduction	273
	9.2 Monitoring and Mitigation	273
	9.2.1 Identifying Internal and External Factors that may Impact the NWRP	276
	9.2.2 Needs Identification	278
	9.2.3 Feedback	278
	9.3 Future Actions	279
	9.4 References	279
10	Conclusions	280
	10.1 Introduction	281
	10.2 Baseline of the Public Water Supplies in the North West Region	281
	10.3 Plan Development	283
	10.4 Plan Outcome	284
	10.5 Benefits of the Preferred Approach for the North West Region	285
	10.5.1 Reducing Quantity Risk	285
	10.5.2 Reducing Risk to Water Quality	290
	10.5.3 Reliability and Sustainability	291
	10.5.4 Transformation	292
	10.5.5 Alignment with Policy	293
	10.5.6 Alignment with Investment Planning	293
	10.6 Alternatives to the Plan	294
	10.7 Interim Options	294 204
	10.8 Conclusions	294 295
	10.9 Next steps	290
	Glossary of Acronyms and Terms	<b>296</b>

## **Technical Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Study Area A Technical Report
- Appendix 2 Study Area B Technical Report
- Appendix 3 Study Area C Technical Report
- Appendix 4 Study Area D Technical Report Appendix 5 – Study Area E Technical Report
- Appendix 6 Study Area F Technical Report
- Appendix 7 Study Area G Technical Report