



Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

Stage 3 Consultation Report

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1 INTRODUCTION

Irish Water has carried out a site selection process to find a location for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) to serve greater Dublin. The selected site and proposed facility will be included in the planning application for the upgrade to the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The RBSF will also be included in the planning application for the proposed Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project comprising the development of a regional WWTP in Clonshagh (Clonsaugh) in north Dublin. Both of these planning applications will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval in 2018.

The treatment of the wastewater generated in greater Dublin by homes, schools, businesses and industry produces wastewater sludge. Wastewater sludge is made up mainly of organic matter that has been removed from the wastewater during the treatment process. Further treatment of this sludge is required to enable its safe and efficient re-use or disposal. The further processing of the sludge results in 'biosolids'. Biosolids are a biologically stable product free of harmful pathogens (viruses, bacteria etc.) and containing high levels of plant nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus etc.). The treatment of sludge happens at the wastewater treatment plant. Biosolids are then transported to a biosolids storage facility prior to being outputted for use in agriculture and forestry.

Most of the biosolids produced in Ireland (98%) are currently reused on agricultural lands as a soil conditioner and as a replacement for chemical fertilisers. The use of biosolids on agriculture lands is strictly regulated under European and National law. One of the conditions of use is a strict prohibition on spreading biosolids on land over the winter period (October to January). This restriction means that biosolids reused in agriculture need to be stored for certain periods over each calendar year.

The need for a regional storage facility serving greater Dublin was identified by Irish Water in the National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan published in September 2016. Further information on this plan, the public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) undertaken can be found at www.water.ie/projects-plans/wastewater-sludge-management/.

Biosolids produced at the existing Ringsend WWTP will continue to be spread on lands in south Leinster where the current storage capacity is insufficient to meet future needs. Biosolids will be stored at the RBSF at times of the year when land spreading is not taking place. There is no proposal to re-locate the spread lands to the same location as the proposed RBSF.

The proposed RBSF would have the capacity to store biosolids arising from the existing Ringsend WWTP, from the planned GDD facility, and from other smaller WWTPs in the Dublin region as and when required. The new regional facility will lead to greater efficiencies and more effective management of the wastewater treatment network. The new storage facility will serve greater Dublin and its population for the next 25 years and will help to safeguard public health, protect the environment and facilitate development in this growing region.

This consultation report provides a summary the feedback received during the third stage of non-statutory public consultation on the RBSF project. It also provides information on the communications and engagement activity carried out by Irish Water as part of this consultation.

1.1 PROJECT ROADMAP

The Project Roadmap in **Figure 1-1** below, sets out the steps to facilitate engagement with the public and all relevant stakeholders during the project. This incorporates three rounds of non-statutory public consultation:

- Stage 1 Consultation on the study area and constraints;
- Stage 2 Consultation on a number of potentially suitable sites; and
- Stage 3 Consultation on the preferred site location and views on what should be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

These focused periods of public consultation are part of a broader process of stakeholder engagement in the development of the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. Irish Water seeks to engage stakeholders on each of its projects in an accessible, meaningful, transparent and accountable manner to ensure better outcomes for the parties involved. All stakeholder engagement activity carried out by Irish Water is in line with national and European legislation and international best practice. Feedback provided outside the focused periods of consultation was included in the subsequent consultation report to ensure that all feedback was captured, up to the publication of this final consultation report.

Following the completion of public consultation on the preferred site, that site will undergo further environmental studies and assessments which will inform the EIAR and NIS. A separate EIAR and NIS will be prepared for both the Ringsend WWTP and the GDD project and will be submitted with the planning applications for each project. This is to ensure that comprehensive solutions for both projects are presented to An Bord Pleanála for their independent adjudication. An Bord Pleanála will undertake statutory consultation on both applications for planning approval as part of their overall assessment of these projects.



Figure 1-1: Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Roadmap: Stage 3 Consultation

1.2 STAGE 1 REPORT – SITE SELECTION METHODOLOGY

On 2nd February 2017, Irish Water published the Stage 1 Report – Site Selection Methodology for consultation. The purpose of the Stage 1 Report for the RBSF project was to:

- Explain the need for the proposed RBSF;
- Outline the study area for the proposed project;
- Outline what such a facility would look like and how it would operate;
- Outline the planning and other legislation that would apply to the proposed development; and

- Outline the project development roadmap and the process by which Irish Water proposed to identify and develop a site for the facility.

Following publication of the Stage 1 Report Irish Water commenced a focused period of non-statutory public consultation that ran for four weeks until 2nd March 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, elected representatives and all interested individuals and organisations on the contents of the Stage 1 Report. All consultation activities undertaken and feedback received are detailed in the Stage 1 Consultation Report (<https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/national-projects/biosolids/>).

1.3 STAGE 2 REPORT – IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SITES

On 11th May 2017, Irish Water published the Stage 2 Report – Identification of Potential Sites for consultation. The purpose of the Stage 2 Report for the RBSF project was to:

- Demonstrate the process undertaken to identify a shortlist of potential sites for the project;
- Identify the five shortlisted potential sites;
- Provide a report on the consultation activity carried out at Stage 1 and how the feedback provided was considered by the project team;
- Outline the next steps of the project and how the team would identify a preferred site.

Following publication of the Stage 2 Report, a focused period of non-statutory public consultation ran for five weeks until 15th June 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, elected representatives and all interested individuals and organisations on the contents of the Stage 2 Report. All consultation activities undertaken and feedback received are detailed in the Stage 2 Consultation Report (<https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/national-projects/biosolids/>).

1.4 STAGE 3 REPORT – IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED SITE & SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) AND NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT (NIS)

On 29th August 2017, Irish Water published the Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site for consultation along with the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The purpose of the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report was to:

- Demonstrate the process undertaken to identify the preferred site from the shortlist of potential sites;
- Identify the preferred site for the RBSF;
- Outline the methodology for the assessment of environmental impacts;
- Provide a report on the consultation activity carried out at Stage 2 and how the feedback provided was considered by the project team;
- Outline the next steps of the project.

Following publication of the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report, a focused period of non-statutory public consultation ran for six weeks until 10th October 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, elected representatives and all

interested individuals and organisations on the contents of both reports. All consultation activities undertaken and the feedback received are detailed in this report.

1.5 STAGE 3 CONSULTATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the consultation sought to gather feedback on the most significant aspects of the Stage 3 Report and the EIAR and NIS Scoping Report. The terms of reference sought to probe those aspects where decisions will be made by the project team.

The terms of reference of the consultation asked stakeholders the following:

- Is there any additional information on the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane that we should be aware of?
- What do you think of the indicative layout of the preferred site, as outlined in the Stage 3 Report?
- The proposed methodology for the assessment of environmental impacts is set out in the scoping report of the EIAR and NIS. Are there any other factors that you think should be considered in assessing the environmental impact of the project?
- How would you like Irish Water to communicate with you as the project progresses?

2 STAGE 3 CONSULTATION PUBLICITY & ACTIVITY

A range of communications tools were employed to publicise the focused period of public consultation on the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report for the EIAR and NIS, in order to generate awareness of the project and to facilitate participation in the project development process.

Key components of the focused consultation process included:

- Publication of the Stage 3 Report – online and in hard copy at Irish Water’s head office and at planning counters and county libraries throughout the project study area;
- Advertising in national and local press;
- Engagement through media and social media;
- A dedicated project webpage hosted on the Irish Water website;
- A newsletter providing an update on the project and the consultation being carried out was distributed to homes and businesses near the preferred site and published online;
- A public open day to facilitate participation from stakeholders in the area surrounding the preferred site;
- Direct engagement with interested stakeholders and groups; public representatives; relevant bodies; and local authorities within the study area;
- A dedicated project information service (i.e. phone, email and post).

This section of the report provides further detail on each of the above consultation activities.

2.1 PUBLICATION OF THE STAGE 3 REPORT & SCOPING REPORT

The Stage 3 Report and the EIAR and NIS Scoping Report were published on 29th August 2017 at the start of the focused consultation period. The reports were published on the project webpage within the Irish Water website and made available to download. Correspondence with all stakeholders during the consultation highlighted the availability of the reports online and in hard copy at the following locations:

- Irish Water Headquarters, Colvill House, Talbot Street, Dublin 1;
- Planning Departments of the seven local authorities within the project study area (see **Table 2-1**). Each of the seven local authorities in the study area were contacted and requested to publicly display the reports;
- County Libraries within the project study area (see **Table 2-1**). Each county library in the seven local authorities in the project study area was contacted and copies of the Stage 3 Report and the EIAR and NIS Scoping Report were provided for public display.

Table 2-1 below lists the libraries and planning counters issued with copies of the Stage 3 Report and EIAR and NIS Scoping Report for display.

Local Authority	Library	Planning Desk
Dublin City Council	Central Library, Dublin 1	Civic Offices, Dublin 8
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	DLR Lexicon, Dun Laoghaire	County Hall, Dun Laoghaire
Fingal County Council	Swords Library, Co. Dublin	County Hall, Swords
Kildare County Council	Kildare Library & Arts Service	Devoy Park, Naas

Local Authority	Library	Planning Desk
	Headquarters, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge	
Meath County Council	Meath County Library, Navan	Beuvinda House, Navan
South Dublin County Council	County Library, Tallaght	County Hall, Tallaght
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow County Library Headquarters, Bray	County Buildings, Wicklow Town

Table 2-1: Libraries & Planning Counters issued with the Stage 3 Report & Scoping Report

The availability of these documents at Irish Water headquarters and at each local authority's main planning counter and library was promoted through the project web page, the newsletter and in direct correspondence with stakeholders.

2.2 ADVERTISING

A public consultation advertisement was placed in national publications – the Irish Independent (29th August 2018) and the Irish Farmers Journal (31st August 2018) – at the launch of the Stage 3 Consultation. A copy of the advertisement is included in **Appendix A1**.

The advertisement was also placed in a number of local newspapers across the project study area, which are listed in **Table 2-2** below:

Media Organisations Publishing the RBSF Advertisement in August 2017
Irish Farmers Journal
Irish Independent
Bray People
Dublin People (Northside and Southside)
Echo Newspapers
Fingal Independent
Kildare Nationalist
Leinster Leader
Liffey Champion
Meath Chronicle
Newsgroup
North County Leader
The Gazette
Wicklow People
Wicklow Times

Table 2-2: Media Organisations Publishing the RBSF Advertisement in August 2017

The advertisement announced the Stage 3 Consultation of the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility project and explained that Irish Water was consulting on a preferred site for the project. Stakeholders were advised of the publication of the Stage 3 Report and Scoping Report, the consultation period dates and how contact could be made with the project team. Contact details for the dedicated project phone line, the project email address, postal address and project webpage were also provided in the advertisement.

2.3 MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

News releases were issued to national media organisations and local media organisations throughout the project study area in counties Dublin, Kildare and Meath on 28th August 2017. Information was provided on the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility and the Stage 3 Consultation. A copy of the news release issued to media organisations at the launch of the consultation is included in **Appendix A2**.

The media organisations that were issued with news releases are listed in **Table 2-3** below.

Media Organisations Contacted
Irish Farmers Journal
Irish Independent
The Irish Times
East Coast FM
KFM
LMFM
Sunshine 106.8
Bray People
Drogheda Leader
Dublin People (Northside and Southside)
Echo Newspapers
Fingal Independent
Kildare Extra
Kildare Nationalist
Kildare Post
Kildare.TV
Leinster Leader
Liffey Champion
Local News (North, South and West)
Meath Chronicle
NewsFour
North County Leader
The Gazette Newspapers
Wexford People
Wicklow People
Wicklow Times

Table 2-3: Media Organisations Contacted

Briefings on the project and the public consultation were offered to representatives of the media and a project spokesperson was available to speak with members of the media to discuss the project and to answer any questions.

The launch of the Stage 3 Consultation was promoted on social media through the [@irishwater](#) twitter handle on August 29th.

2.4 PROJECT WEBSITE

The dedicated webpage for the project was updated on the Irish Water website at the following address: www.water.ie/biosolids

Updated project information was published on the dedicated webpage the morning of 29th August 2017. The website provided: information on the background to the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility; the need for the project; the benefits of the project; the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report to download and information on where they were available to view in hardcopy; the consultation terms of reference; the dates of the public consultation period; and answers to Frequently Asked Questions.


Information on the RBSF project was also made available on the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade webpage (www.water.ie/projects-plans/ringsend) and the Greater Dublin Drainage dedicated project website (www.greaterdublindrainage.com). **Figure 2-1** below shows a screenshot of the RBSF project webpage.


What is happening now?

In August 2017, Irish Water published the Stage 3 – Identification of Preferred Site identifying Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11 as the preferred site for a new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility.

The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including zoning (heavy industry), planning policy, landscape and visual impact, noise, ecology, hydrology, distance from biosolids source, and capital and operating costs.

The Stage 3 Report details the process that was followed in order to identify the preferred site.





Indicative site layout

The preferred site will now undergo all necessary environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. To inform these assessments, a [scoping report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report \(EIAR\) and Natura Impact Statement \(NIS\)](#) has been published and Irish Water is seeking feedback on the proposed assessment methodology.

A six week non-statutory consultation is now being held on the identified preferred site and the factors to be considered in the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (formerly an EIS).

Public Participation

A six week public consultation process runs until 10 October 2017 following identification of the preferred site and publication of the scoping report for

Figure 2-1 Screenshot from the RBSF Project Webpage

2.5 PROJECT NEWSLETTER

A project newsletter was published at the launch of the consultation and made available on the Irish Water website at www.water.ie/biosolids. A link to the newsletter was provided in email updates issued to stakeholders at the time of the launch.

The newsletter provided the following information for stakeholders:

- Project overview and roadmap;
- Need for the project;
- Overview of the site selection methodology;
- Overview of the proposed storage facility;
- Information on the preferred site;
- Terms of reference for the Stage 3 Consultation;
- Information on where to view the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report;
- Contact information;
- Details about the project open day; and
- The project's next steps.

Copies of the newsletter were available for stakeholders at the open day in September and copies were also provided to the planning counters and county libraries (as listed in **Table 2-1** above) along with the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report. Approximately 400 copies of the newsletter were delivered to homes and businesses in close proximity to the preferred site to ensure that those closest to the site were aware of the public consultation process.

A copy of the newsletter published in August 2017 for the third period of focused consultation is included in **Appendix A3**.

2.6 PROJECT OPEN DAY

The Stage 3 Report identified the project's preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane, in Fingal, County Dublin. An open day was held close to the preferred site to provide information to the local community and interested stakeholders and gather feedback on the proposals.

The open day was held at:

- **The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, Tuesday 12th September, 1pm-8pm**

A number of potential venues in close proximity to the site were identified in advance of choosing the final venue, which was deemed to be the most appropriate for the preferred site. Open day displays were prepared to outline the key information contained in the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report. Dedicated briefings for elected representatives in the area were offered in advance of the open day commencing.

2.7 DIRECT ENGAGEMENT

A number of stakeholders and organisations were contacted by the project team at the launch of the consultation period. These included interested stakeholders and groups; public representatives; relevant bodies; and local authorities relevant to the study area. All recipients were provided with information on the background to the Regional Biosolids Storage Project, the need and benefits of the project, information relating to the EIA and NIS Scoping Report, the details of the Stage 3 consultation period, a link to the project website, and the details of the project's information service for further information or queries. A sample copy of correspondence issued to interested stakeholders at the launch of the consultation period is included in **Appendix A4**. Residents and

businesses directly adjacent to each of the sites received a copy of the newsletter directly to their property regarding the project and the consultation period.

In addition to the above, an e-zine update on the GDD project was issued by Irish Water the day the RBSF Stage 3 consultation was launched. The e-zine included information on the RBSF consultation period. An update on the RBSF project and consultation period was also issued to stakeholders of the Ringsend WWTP.

Public representatives relevant to the project's study area were also contacted at the launch of the consultation period. Public representatives were invited to engage in the consultation process and to encourage their constituents to participate. **Table 2-4** below lists the public representatives who were contacted. Irish Water also made information on the RBSF Stage 3 consultation available at its quarterly Councillor Clinic for Fingal County Council which was held in September 2017.

Public Representatives in the RBSF Project Study Area
An Taoiseach and Minister for Defence
Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal at the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
MEPs in Dublin and the project study area
TDs/Senators in the Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow Constituencies
Opposition Spokespersons on the Environment and Housing/Planning
Elected members of Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, South Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow County Councils
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly

Table 2-4: Public Representatives in the RBSF Project Study Area

A number of relevant bodies and organisations were contacted at the start of this period of focused consultation and were invited to make submissions as part of the consultation process. **Appendix A5** lists the organisations contacted. Organisations and individuals who had engaged during previous consultations were also contacted.

In addition, stakeholders who had previously registered interest in the National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan, the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade or the Greater Dublin Drainage projects were contacted with information on the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility inviting and encouraging them to participate in the process.

2.8 INFORMATION SERVICE & MAKING A SUBMISSION

The dedicated information service established at the launch of the project continued throughout the third focused consultation period to facilitate stakeholders obtaining information on the project and making a submission to the consultation. The information service allows stakeholders to contact the project team directly by phone, email and post. The information service was promoted on the project website, in advertisements, in the newsletter, news releases and in all correspondence issued.

Stakeholders were invited to contact members of the project team through the lo-call phone line on 1890 44 55 67. The phone line was operated from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these times, a messaging service was available and calls were returned at the earliest opportunity.

The project postal address was in place and stakeholders who wished to make submissions in hard copy could do so to the following address:

Biosolids Consultation,
Irish Water,
Colvill House,
24-26 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1, Ireland.

The dedicated project email address biosolids@water.ie was in place and stakeholders were invited to submit their feedback on the consultation or seek further information from the project team at this email address.

3 STAGE 3 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

All feedback provided to the project team is presented below under a number of headings. In total, 85 stakeholders and organisations attended project open days and/or made submissions as part of this focused period of public consultation. Feedback received prior to the commencement of this third consultation period but since the close of the second consultation period has also been included. A summary of respondents, broken down by contact method, is provided in **Table 3-1** below to demonstrate participation levels. Please note that the figure provided for open day attendance is an approximate number as not all attendees opted to sign-in.

Methods of Participation	Participation Levels
Open Day Attendees	58
Electronic (email) Submissions	22
Postal Submissions	1
Phone Calls	4
Total Participation	85

Table 3-1: RBSF Stage 3 Consultation: Participation Levels

A number of organisations issued responses or acknowledgements as part of the Stage 3 consultation and these have been listed in **Table 3-2** below. A number of responding organisations have not been listed as either the submissions received were from stakeholders responding in a personal capacity or were from private companies who did not indicate a preference in having the name of their business published.

Organisations Responding to the Stage 3 Consultation
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Foras na Gaeilge
Gormanston Community Association
Meakstown Community Council
St. Margaret's / The Ward Residents Group

Table 3-2: Organisations Responding to the Stage 3 Consultation

The following section of the report summarises issues raised and feedback provided during the consultation period. The feedback is from stakeholders' submissions with repeated themes summarised and singular items of feedback directly reported. Feedback provided by individuals is unattributed, while feedback from organisations has generally been ascribed.

Feedback received was reviewed by the project team on an ongoing basis throughout the consultation period. All feedback has now been reviewed and where relevant, will be taken into account in the preparation of the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and planning applications to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Actions or responses to queries raised in submissions are not provided in this report as relevant feedback will be addressed by the project team in the above documentation. Requests for information were responded to directly as part of the consultation.

The views contained in this section do not reflect the views of Irish Water but represent the views of the stakeholders who made submissions as part of the public consultation. Accordingly, Irish Water does not attest to the accuracy of the information provided below.

3.1 BIOSOLIDS: STORAGE & LAND SPREADING

A number of stakeholders asked questions in respect of the lands, where the biosolids that are to be stored at the RBSF, would be spread. These questions included whether or not these lands could change over time.

It was noted in feedback provided that there are EU funding programmes available that may be applicable to Irish Water and the Biobased Industries Public Private Partnership programme was specifically referenced.

Queries were received from a number of stakeholders as to the treatment of biosolids before it arrives for storage at the proposed facility. The role of lime as a stabiliser in the biosolids was queried and whether it had an effect on the odour of the material. Further queries were raised in relation to the proper management of the stored biosolids and how the material will be handled at the storage facility.

Feedback received queried the level of testing that will be carried out on the material to be stored and what the parameters of these tests currently are. There were also queries about how any future regulations with respect to the management and storage of biosolids would be addressed.

One stakeholder, referencing their experience of another biosolids storage facility, noted the importance of proper management of the RBSF to ensure that any impacts on the neighbouring community are minimised including ensuring that the doors of the facility remain closed when not in use.

Stakeholders queried the effect that the storage of biosolids has on pathogens and bacteria present in biosolids. There was also concern raised about microplastics found in biosolids and the effect these could have on the environment once biosolids have been applied to lands.

One submission received stated that biosolids were not a safe material as a variety of waste can be contained within it, including waste from industry, laboratories, hospitals, funeral parlours and anything flushed down sinks and drains. The submission noted three categories of dangerous constituents: hormones and synthetic hormones; prion contamination; and toxin contamination. This submission also referenced a 2012 Scottish study that found a high incidence of abnormalities in animals exposed to lands where biosolids have been spread. These abnormalities were being attributed to the presence of man-made hormones arising from medication in the treated waste. The submission noted that the use of biosolids on agricultural lands is safe provided the guidelines are followed. Concern was expressed as to who would be responsible for spreading the biosolids from the RBSF and whether they would ensure the guidelines were being adhered to.

It was queried whether local farmers would be able to purchase biosolids for use on their lands. Some felt that the spread lands identified for use should remain in line with what Irish Water is currently advising. Others were concerned about what would happen to biosolids if there was not enough land to spread the material on.

3.2 ALTERNATIVES

A submission was received from a landowner in County Meath who was recommending the use of his storage facility for the storage of biosolids. The submission cited the proximity of possible spread lands as a positive reason to utilise this facility.

One submission cited several reasons (which have been included in the relevant sections of this report) why Irish Water had erred in selecting the Newtown/Kilshane site and felt that a more complete assessment needed to be carried out before a final decision could be made.

One submission queried whether the selected site at Newtown/Kilshane was final or whether a different site could be selected as a result of further feedback being gathered.

Feedback provided suggested that an alternative technology for consideration by Irish Water could be the use of an anaerobic treatment system for high strength low solids waste water which could be applied at wastewater treatment plants.

The Gormanston Community Association noted their submission from the previous consultation to store biosolids where they are produced before transferring them for incineration at either the Poolbeg, Dublin 4 or Carranstown, Co. Meath waste to energy facilities. The Association reiterated their desire for Irish Water to consider incineration as an alternative to land spreading of biosolids in the interest of protecting the environment. Other submissions also referenced the consideration of incineration of biosolids instead of land spreading.

The landfill site in Baleally was referenced as being a preferential site to the one at Newtown/Kilshane on the grounds that the site had access to the national road network, was less populated and was larger.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

3.3.1 Air Quality & Odour

Concerns were raised by stakeholders with regard to odours that may arise from biosolids stored at the facility. While it was noted that there would be odour control measures in place to prevent the release of odour from the facility, one stakeholder group questioned the level of contingency that was being built-into plans in the event of the system breaking down.

The level of odour arising from the facility and the impact of this on the neighbouring community were concerns raised by several stakeholders. Concerns with respect to proximity to the site and the impact of prevailing winds were noted in feedback received. Some stakeholders requested that a written guarantee be provided by Irish Water that no odour will be experienced at their homes once the plant is operational. This is to provide comfort to local residents who feel that they may have no recourse to Irish Water once the facility is operational.

One stakeholder group quoted a 2012 Australian publication¹ that discussed the odours associated with biosolids. The publication noted that biosolids, depending on their make-up contained either a sewage odour or an earth-like odour.

Concern was raised over the existing air quality and dust arising from the presence of the Huntstown Quarry and that insufficient consideration has been given to this in section 8.2.1 of the Stage 3 Report. The submission also asserted that any nearby receptors used to monitor air quality and dust would show a significant cumulative effect from the RBSF and the Huntstown Quarry, beyond what may be anticipated by Irish Water.

One stakeholder, referencing their experience of another biosolids storage facility, noted the odour impacts arising from the other facility. The stakeholder was keen to understand how the RBSF is different from the existing biosolids storage facility and how modern design and practice can alleviate these issues.

Several stakeholders expressed a desire to visit an existing biosolids storage facility to assess any odour impacts for themselves and details of existing facilities in Ireland and abroad were queried.

Odour arising from trucks transporting biosolids was raised as a concern for those living along the haul routes. It was queried whether odour could increase if biosolids were exposed to rainwater en route to the facility.

It was requested in feedback that regular odour testing be carried out at the site of the RBSF.

Meakstown Community Council stated a specific odour concern in respect of the allotments to the north of the M50, which falls within the remit of the Meakstown group.

3.3.2 Noise & Vibration

Noise pollution from traffic to and from the facility was cited as a concern by a number of stakeholders. It was felt that increased traffic to and from the facility on the M50 may lead to other road users using local roads and this knock-on effect would further impact noise levels in surrounding local communities.

It was requested that any noise monitoring to be carried out would take account of existing noise levels in the area surrounding the preferred site. It was also requested that monitoring be carried out at Newtown Cottages.

3.3.3 Landscape & Visual

The size and scale of the facility was referenced by a number of stakeholders in their submissions. Other submissions expressed a desire for increased planting and landscaping to ensure that the visual impact of the new development would be minimised. Questions were also asked relating to the colour and appearance of the storage buildings.

¹ Report available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/publications/biosolids-snapshot>

A number of submissions indicated a preference that the structures be located towards the rear of the site (away from the R135) in order to minimise the visual impact of the facility from the public road.

3.3.4 Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology

One stakeholder raised a concern relating to possible land contamination arising from the presence of the RBSF in the area.

3.3.5 Water / Hydrology

The impact that flooding and surface water at the preferred site would have on the local environment was indicated as a concern. Feedback outlined the need to safely capture and treat any run-off water from the site, including waste water from wheel washing activity.

One submission noted an existing flooding problem in the vicinity of the Dogs Trust facility on the R135.

The Gormanston Community Association referenced an Environmental Protection Agency report² on water quality which notes a deterioration in the quality of river and water catchments over the last three decades. It was noted that only 21 sites were classified as the highest quality between 2013-2015 compared to 575 sites between 1987-1990. The submission contends that this deterioration is a result of excessive use of fertilisers, slurry and the spreading of waste water sludge on farmlands which has led to nutrient overload and metallic compounds and chemical toxicity in soils. The submission noted Irish Water's role in providing high quality drinking water to the Irish population and believes that land spreading of biosolids is contrary to this aim. The Association also noted their concern in respect of the supervision of land spreading and that supervision is not the remit of Irish Water.

One stakeholder noted that their nearby lands drained into the Ward River and was keen to ensure that any work undertaken for the RBSF would not interfere with the drainage of their lands.

3.3.6 Ecology & Biodiversity

The impact of the facility on the surrounding environment was noted as a concern for some stakeholders. Feedback received referenced concern that local wildlife and habitats could be at risk from the development of the storage facility and that all steps necessary to protect the environment should be taken.

A concern was raised over carbon dioxide emissions associated with the continual transport of biosolids to and from the facility.

3.3.7 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

One stakeholder queried the impact that the project would have on the castle that is located close to the preferred site.

² Report available at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/waterqualityinireland2010-2015.html>

3.4 ECONOMIC & ENGINEERING

3.4.1 Traffic & Road Safety

A number of submissions questioned the routes that would be used to haul material to and from the RBSF. These related to both the routes to and from the source of the biosolids and to and from the spread lands.

Meakstown Community Council noted their concerns regarding operational traffic to and from the facility in their submission. They expressed a concern that traffic would increase in and surrounding the area of Meakstown with particular concern at the times of the year when the facility would be loading material for land spreading. Melville Road and St. Margaret's Road in Meakstown were highlighted as key feeder roads to and from the M50 and the community council noted that these areas already experience high traffic volumes with insufficient infrastructure in place to cater for these high volumes. Traffic coupled with the high and growing population in the area (approx. 7,000 residents) were causes for concern for the community.

Guarantees were sought from Irish Water by some stakeholders in respect of future traffic to and from the facility using the proposed traffic routes when the plant is operational. Meakstown Community Council cited their concern that operational traffic would use local roads through Meakstown to access the facility. A further concern was raised that trucks going to and from the facility on the M50 would increase the traffic on the motorway. This increase on the motorway may lead to other traffic diverting onto local roads resulting in the local community being impacted by the facility indirectly. A request was made that roads in the Meakstown area including St. Margaret's Road, Melville Road and the Jamestown Roundabout be included in future traffic surveys and that all results would be reported and published.

Feedback in one submission disagreed with an element of the analysis in the Stage 3 Report which asserts that traffic at Priority Junction 1 (as referenced in the Stage 3 Report) is currently operating within capacity and can absorb the increase in traffic levels arising from the development of the RBSF. It was felt that this assertion meant the selection of the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane was premature. It was felt that any redesign of this junction should accommodate the easy movement of traffic where it joins the R135. It was felt that this is necessary to ensure that access to private property in this area is not impaired. This was highlighted as a particular concern in the context of access by emergency vehicles. A road safety concern was raised in respect of any new road layout required for the development of the RBSF. Caution should be taken to ensure that road safety is improved by the new layout and not reduced. One stakeholder felt that it would be necessary, in the interests of road safety, to widen the R135 between the RBSF site and the Dogs Trust facility.

It was noted in one submission that there is a need for footpaths and street lighting to be provided on the R135 in the vicinity of the Dogs Trust facility and outside the preferred site. This would serve a dual purpose of increasing road safety and addressing anti-social issues that could arise in the area.

One stakeholder residing close to the Newtown/Kilshane site noted their requirement to maintain 24 hour access to their property so that emergency vehicles can have access.

A number of stakeholders queried the number of truck movements at the facility each day and raised concern over the impact of this on local roads. Concern was raised in particular with the R135

and the impact of increased traffic on this road. A safety concern was noted in respect of the N2/R135 junction.

Concerns were raised regarding the odour arising from trucks travelling on local roads to the site. The need for trucks to be covered, sealed and regularly cleaned was referenced. It was also requested that adequate wheel washing would take place to avoid contaminating local roadways.

3.4.2 Distance from Biosolids Source & Spread Lands

The distance of the site to the proposed spread lands in south Leinster was identified as an issue with the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane.

3.5 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Feedback indicated that some stakeholders felt the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane was the most suitable site from the shortlist of sites identified and accepted that many issues needed to be considered in making a decision.

A number of stakeholders queried the impact the facility would have on the nearby Dublin Airport. The possibility that the building could affect flight-paths was identified as a possible issue by several stakeholders.

A number of submissions referenced a need for upgraded water and wastewater infrastructure in the local community surrounding the preferred site. It was requested that these needs could be met as part of the RBSF project. These included sewerage connections at Dunbro Lane, Kilshane Cross and Newtown Cottages.

One submission queried whether the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane was chosen, in part, because the existing noise from the nearby airport made it a more favourable location.

The impact the facility would have on property prices in the surrounding area was identified as a concern in some submissions.

A number of submissions queried the land purchasing arrangements between Irish Water and Fingal County Council for the acquisition of the site and a further query was made in relation to the future of the site should the RBSF project not proceed. A query was also raised in respect of the previous plans for the preferred site and why these planned developments did not go ahead. Another stakeholder questioned what other site(s) would be considered if the preferred site is refused by An Bord Pleanála.

3.5.1 Cumulative Impact

A nearby mast was referenced as an underlying health and safety concern by one stakeholder who noted that the RBSF would only add to people's concern for their health and wellbeing.

A number of stakeholders referenced the Greater Dublin Drainage project and the cumulative impact that this project, coupled with the RBSF, would have on the wider area.

The cumulative impact of the RBSF project, coupled with the existing impact arising from the nearby Dublin Airport, was referenced as a particular concern in a number of submissions. It was noted that the planned second runway at the airport would not improve matters for members of the community. Feedback also noted that there are a large number of houses (174) to the north east of the facility, between the existing and proposed runways.

3.6 SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

It was suggested in feedback that there should be a level of community gain associated with the project in recognition of any burden arising from the location of the plant on the neighbouring communities. It was also felt that this should be considered as part of the project scoping phase and a number of existing community gain initiatives/projects were cited in feedback. It was noted that Meakstown is one of the closest densely-populated areas to the plant and has little or no community infrastructure at present. Another submission recommended that local sports clubs be assisted by a community gain initiative and that a percentage of the project costs be given to supporting this. Feedback also suggested linking with other initiatives in the area such as the Dublin Airport Authority (daa) community fund.

The cumulative effect of a number of recent and planned developments in the areas surrounding the preferred site was referenced in feedback received. A desire for compensation in respect of this cumulative impact was referenced. The impact of these projects on the community and the surrounding environment were flagged as an issue by some stakeholders.

The impact of the facility and other industrial developments in the area were cited as causing deterioration in the fabric of the community. Concern was raised that as the area becomes more industrial, young people will move away and the area will decline causing a loss of the sense of community.

3.7 OPERATION OF THE FACILITY

Feedback noted the significance of job creation arising from the RBSF and stressed the importance of linking with the local community in relation to any job opportunities that may arise.

One submission suggested the use of photovoltaic solar panels at the facility to meet the sites power needs. It was suggested that the flat roofs of the indicative design of the facility were suitable for the use of the panels and that the buildings could be orientated to maximise the usable roof area. It was also noted that solar thermal panels could be used to provide low level heat for the facility if this would aid in lowering humidity and maintaining a lowered water content in the biosolids stored there. It was also suggested that solar power generated at the site could be used to power hybrid or electric vehicles bringing material to the facility, as this will be an ongoing operation for the life of the site.

One stakeholder, referencing their experience of another biosolids storage facility noted the importance of ongoing engagement with the local community and other stakeholders of the RBSF once operational.

The hours of operation of the site were queried by several stakeholders particularly with regard to the hours of deliveries and pick-ups at the facility.

The importance of ensuring that any sub-contractors employed by Irish Water, during construction or operation, operate to a high standard was suggested in feedback received.

Fire safety and fire proofing were noted as concerns for the facility when operational.

A query was raised in respect of future plans at the site and whether further development would be carried out.

Feedback noted a concern that the facility would lead to increased vermin in the area.

3.8 COMMUNICATION & CONSULTATION

One group of stakeholders suggested that there was a need for engagement with the local community outside of normal business hours as many people work full time and can only engage in the evening or at weekends.

One stakeholder requested that information on the project be made available in the Irish language as well as in English.

One stakeholder queried the remaining opportunities that the public had to voice concerns over the project and make submissions and objections.

Additional time to make submissions was requested in feedback received.

It was noted by one stakeholder that the latest project information brochure did not contain sufficient information about the environmental standards to be applied to the facility.

4 NEXT STAGES OF THE PROJECT

The feedback received as part of this period of public consultation has been reviewed by the project team. The feedback and issues raised during all three phases of consultation will inform the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and the planning applications to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Irish Water would like to thank all those who submitted feedback as part of the focused period of public consultation on the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report. Engagement with the project team is encouraged at any stage of the project and the information service (phone, email and postal address) will remain in place until a planning application is submitted.

As per the project roadmap (**Figure 1-1**), once a planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála, a statutory consultation will be undertaken by An Bord Pleanála in line with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

APPENDIX A1
Stage 3 Advertisement

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin

Public Consultation & Information day

Irish Water has identified a preferred site for a biosolids storage facility to serve the greater Dublin region at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.

Biosolids are the end product after our wastewater has been safely treated. Biosolids may be applied as organic fertilisers in agriculture each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year they need to be stored. The new storage facility will help support the continued social and economic development of greater Dublin.

As part of a six week public consultation on the identified preferred site and associated environmental report, we are holding an **information day in Fingal, County Dublin.**

Following this round of consultation and the necessary environmental studies, a statutory consultation will be held by An Bord Pleanála as part of the projects planning application process.

If you would like to know more or have questions, please come along:

- **Tuesday 12 September, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm**

The consultation period closes on Tuesday, 10 October, 2017.

To find out more visit www.water.ie

Or contact the project team by:

Email: biosolids@water.ie or Phone: 1890 44 55 67

Safeguarding our water for our future



APPENDIX A2

Stage 3 News Release

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO UNTIL: 00.01hrs, Tuesday 29th August 2017

Preferred site identified for Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin

New storage facility will form part of wastewater treatment network and support growth and development

Irish Water has identified a preferred site for a biosolids storage facility to serve the greater Dublin region. The preferred site is at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.

The new facility will store biosolids produced at the upgraded Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and at the Greater Dublin Drainage project once operational.

Biosolids are produced during the wastewater treatment process. They contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably reused as a soil conditioner and fertiliser in agriculture and forestry. Under EU and national regulations, biosolids can only be applied to lands during the planting seasons in Spring and Autumn and are stored for the intervening periods.

Due to population and economic growth, the quantity of biosolids produced in the greater Dublin region is expected to exceed the available storage capacity. Irish Water is working to upgrade existing wastewater treatment plants and provide new facilities where necessary to meet the needs of our growing population.

Earlier this year, Irish Water sought views on a shortlist of five potential sites for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility located in Dublin, Fingal and Meath.

Following public consultation, the shortlisted sites proceeded to a technical assessment of a range of environmental, economic/engineering, planning, and social/community criteria in order to identify a preferred site. A qualitative assessment using 21 classifications compared the specific site characteristics of each site.

The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including zoning (heavy industry), planning policy, landscape and visual impact, noise, ecology, hydrology, distance from biosolids source, and capital and operating costs.

The preferred site will now undergo further environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be prepared for the project. Irish Water has published an EIAR/NIS scoping report and is now seeking feedback on the proposed assessment methodology. A six week consultation begins today and runs until **Tuesday 10th October 2017**.

Announcing the third stage of public consultation for this project, Donal O'Connor, Project Manager, Irish Water said, "The population of Dublin and the surrounding counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow is growing. So too is economic activity in this region. Having adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure in place is vital to support residential and commercial development and to protect the environment.

Irish Water is focused on a strategic solution for greater Dublin to effectively and efficiently manage our wastewater treatment requirements. We are investing in the wastewater infrastructure across the region to meet the growing demand. The new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility will be a key part of our future wastewater infrastructure within this region."

An open day, where the project team will be available to meet with the public and all interested stakeholders, will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 12th September, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm

Planning permission for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility will be sought as part of the applications for both the upgrade of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and the proposed new regional wastewater treatment facility for north Dublin (the Greater Dublin Drainage project). Irish Water intends to lodge planning applications for these projects to An Bord Pleanála within the next 12 months. A statutory consultation will be held by An Bord Pleanála to inform its determination on planning consent.

Further details on the identified site and the consultation process are available at: www.water.ie/projects-plans/biosolids or by emailing biosolids@water.ie.

ENDS

For further information please contact the Ervia Press Office at:

Email: Press@water.ie or Call: 087 145 8896

Editor's notes:

Biosolids are produced at our wastewater treatment plants. The treatment process results in a low odour, biologically stable product that is not harmful to human health. When managed appropriately, biosolids can be sustainably recovered to deliver benefits in agriculture and forestry in compliance with European and national regulation.

The five shortlisted sites which underwent an expert comparative assessment to identify a preferred site for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility were:

- Bracetown/Gunnocks, Co. Meath
- Gunnocks, Co. Meath
- Greenogue, Co. Dublin
- Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11
- Kilshane, Dublin 11

The Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11 site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including:

- **Land Use Zoning** - The site at Newtown/Kilshane is zoned for heavy industry ('HI') in Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the plan refers to Waste Disposal and Recovery Facilities as being permitted in principle under this zoning.
- **Landscape and Visual** – Newtown/Kilshane is preferred as it provides an existing industrial and infrastructural setting for both the immediate locality of the site and also as a backdrop when viewed from an elevated section of the N2 to the east. Newtown/Kilshane also presents a good opportunity for incorporation of landscape measures for mitigation.
- **Odour** – A comparison of the site options was made by evaluation of receptors (homes, schools, hospitals etc.) and dominant wind directions. The Newtown/Kilshane site was considered to have a reduced risk of odour impacts compared to the other potential site

options. The new RBSF will be operated to the highest health and safety standards and the odour controls will ensure that the environmental amenity of the local area is maintained. When an odour control system has been installed no odour nuisance will occur at the site boundary or beyond.

- **Noise** – The proximity of receptors to the sites and relative sensitivity of the receiving noise environment for the potential sites was considered. The Newtown/Kilshane site is determined to be More Favourable due to the site having the least receptors and the existing noise levels of the receiving environment.
- **Ecology** - An initial comparative evaluation of the potential of habitats present for various fauna groups was undertaken. Treelines and hedgerows tend to have the highest biodiversity. Internal mature treelines were considered in the comparative assessment. There are no internal mature treelines at the Newtown/Kilshane site and, on this basis, the site is classified as More Favourable.
- **Hydrology** – There is no foreseeable flood risk at Newtown/Kilshane and suitable surface water discharge points are available.
- **Archaeology, Cultural & Architectural Heritage** – Test excavations and onsite archaeological monitoring has been carried out at the Newtown/Kilshane site and no archaeological artefacts or remains were found. Newtown/Kilshane represents the lowest potential for archaeology.
- **Distance from biosolids source** – The site at Newtown/Kilshane is located closest to the existing biosolids source. (18km from Ringsend WWTP and 9km from proposed GDD WWTP).

Capital and operating costs – The site at Newtown/Kilshane is partially constructed with roads, drainage, power, watermains and telecommunications infrastructure already in place. On the basis that much of the existing infrastructure can be incorporated in the proposed RBSF development, the Newtown/Kilshane site will be the least expensive site to develop. The site closest to the existing source of biosolids will also have the lowest operating costs due to reduced transportation costs.



Artists' impression of proposed regional biosolids storage facility at Newtown & Kilshane, Dublin 11



Location of preferred site and transport routes at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11

APPENDIX A3
Stage 3 Newsletter

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

Stage 3 Public Consultation



August 2017

What is happening?

Irish Water is currently seeking feedback on a preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11 for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) for greater Dublin including parts of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

The new biosolids storage facility will form a key part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network for greater Dublin and will facilitate its continued social and economic growth while protecting the environment.

Biosolids are a treated by-product of the wastewater treatment process. The production of biosolids results in a low odour product that is not harmful to human health. They contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably reused as an organic fertiliser

in agriculture, in compliance with EU and National regulations. Approximately 98% of biosolids produced in Ireland are reused on agricultural land. Biosolids are only applied to lands during the planting seasons each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year biosolids need to be stored. No further treatment of the material is required and no treatment will take place at the storage facility.

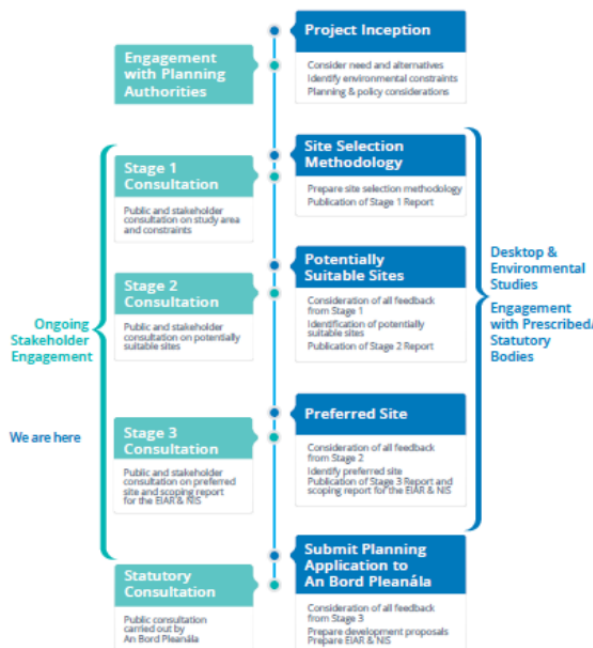
Irish Water published its National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) in 2016. The plan identified the need to develop a New Regional Storage Facility to serve greater Dublin and to support the upgrade of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the development of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Irish Water commenced a site selection process in February 2017 that included three stages of public consultation to identify a preferred site for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. Following the second public consultation in May 2017, we are now publishing the *Stage 3 Report - Identification of Preferred Site* and the scoping report for the associated environmental assessments.

The Stage 3 Report identifies the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11 for the new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. We are now looking for feedback on the site as well as your views on what should be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This period of public consultation will run until 10 October 2017.

The project development roadmap below sets out the work carried out to date and the stages that the project team will undertake to bring the project through the planning process.

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Project Development Roadmap



Site Selection Methodology

Following two previous consultations held earlier this year on the site selection methodology and the identification of potential sites, Irish Water has identified a preferred site for the new storage facility at Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11. The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site has been published which documents the assessment of each of the potential sites.

Following the identification of shortlisted sites at Stage 2, a detailed assessment phase was carried out in accordance with the proposed criteria. Feedback received during the Stage 2 Public Consultation phase was considered as part of the site assessment process. The criteria used were considered under the following four categories:

- Environmental
- Economic & Engineering
- Planning
- Social & Community

A qualitative assessment of 21 criteria under the four categories above was undertaken by technical specialists to compare specific site characteristics. This comparative assessment allocated More Favourable, Less Favourable or Neutral classifications to each site for each criteria. The comparative assessment concluded that the site at Newtown/Kilshane Dublin was More Favourable for the majority of the criteria including zoning (heavy industry) and planning policy, landscape and visual, noise, ecology, hydrology, traffic and road safety, distance from biosolids source, population and sensitive receptors, and capital and operating costs.





RBSF Indicative Site Layout

Biosolids Storage Facility

The preferred site is approximately 11.4 hectares in size and is located in an area that is zoned for heavy industry. The site has previously been partially developed as a waste management facility to process construction and demolition waste and to treat sludge and biological waste. The site features existing roads, site services and fencing that will be incorporated into the design of the RBSF. The additional traffic from the proposed facility is expected to have minimal impact on the local roads and provides good access to the motorway network. The opportunity for vehicles to turn left, rather than cross traffic, when entering and exiting the site is positive from a road safety perspective.

An indicative layout of the site is presented here and the detailed design and layout of the facility will be confirmed following this consultation period. The site will be landscaped and will comprise two storage buildings, similar to modern industrial warehouses, and an administration building.

Biosolids will be fully treated at a wastewater treatment plant before being delivered to the storage facility in covered trucks. Biosolids are a safe and stable low odour material and the storage buildings will be fitted with odour control units. To mitigate noise and odour, all loading and unloading will take place internally within the enclosed buildings.

Why is this project needed?

The population of Dublin and the surrounding counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow are growing. So too is economic activity in this region. With that comes increased need for wastewater treatment facilities so that the treated water can be safely returned to our rivers, lakes and seas. Wastewater is now also being treated to a higher standard which results in larger volumes of biosolids.

In the coming years, the quantities of biosolids produced at the region's wastewater treatment facilities will exceed the existing available capacity. A new storage facility must therefore be developed. Increasing wastewater treatment capacity and associated facilities in greater Dublin is vital to meet the demands of a growing population and to support Dublin's future economic growth and development.

Next Steps: Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

The preferred site will now undergo further environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. To inform these assessments, a scoping report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been published and Irish Water is now seeking feedback on the proposed assessment methodology.

Following the completion of the necessary environmental studies and assessments, planning permission for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility will be sought as part of the applications for both the upgrade of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and the proposed new regional

wastewater treatment facility for north Dublin (the Greater Dublin Drainage project). Irish Water intends to lodge planning applications for these projects to An Bord Pleanála within the next 12 months. An Bord Pleanála will hold a full statutory consultation before making a final decision.

Public Consultation

We are currently seeking feedback on the preferred site identified and the scoping report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site and the scoping report have been published and a six week consultation is being held from 29 August 2017 to 10 October 2017.

Irish Water is seeking feedback on the following:

- Is there any additional information on the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane that we should be aware of?
- What do you think of the indicative layout of the preferred site, as outlined in the Stage 3 Report?
- The proposed methodology for the assessment of environmental impacts is set out in the scoping report of the EIAR and NIS. Are there any other factors that you think should be considered in assessing the environmental impact of the project?

- How would you like Irish Water to communicate with you as the project progresses?

The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site and the scoping report for the EIAR and NIS can be viewed on the project website at www.water.ie/projects-plans/biosolids/. Hard copies are available for viewing at Irish Water's offices at Colvill House, Dublin 1 and at planning counters and county libraries in Fingal, South Dublin, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

Open Day

To facilitate participation in the consultation, Irish Water is holding a public information event where the project team will be available to meet with the public and all interested stakeholders as follows:

- **Tuesday 12 September 2017,
The White House Hotel, Newpark,
Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm**

The information event will provide an opportunity to have your say on the project and to get further information about the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility.

Have Your Say

Submissions or observations on the project are invited by 5pm on Tuesday 10 October 2017:

By phone: 1890 44 55 67

By email: biosolids@water.ie

By post: Biosolids Consultation,
Irish Water,
Colvill House,
24-26 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland.

APPENDIX A4
Stage 3 Correspondence



29th August 2017

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin

Good morning,

As you are aware, Irish Water has been undertaking a site selection process for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF).

The new biosolids storage facility will form a key part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network for greater Dublin and will facilitate its continued social and economic growth while protecting the environment.

Following two previous consultations held earlier this year on the site selection methodology and the identification of potential sites, Irish Water has identified a preferred site for the new storage facility at **Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11**.

The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including: zoning (heavy industry) and planning policy, landscape and visual, noise, odour, ecology, hydrology, archaeology, distance from biosolids source, and capital and operating costs. For further information on the preferred site or to view the Stage 3 Report and associated scoping report please visit www.water.ie/biosolids.

The preferred site will now undergo all necessary environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. A further six week non-statutory consultation is now being held on the identified preferred site and the factors to be considered in the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (formerly an EIS).

Planning permission for the biosolids storage facility will be sought as part of the planning applications for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project and Greater Dublin Drainage Project in the first half of 2018. Periods of statutory consultation will be held once these applications have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

We invite you to attend our planned public open day, taking place on:

- Tuesday 12 September, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm

We welcome your views on the preferred site and on the factors that should be considered in the EAIR:

- By phone: 1890 44 55 67
- By email: biosolids@water.ie
- By post: Biosolids Consultation, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Yours sincerely,



Donal O'Connor

Project Manager

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Project

Note: You have received this email because you previously registered an interest with Irish Water on one of our projects . If you no longer wish to receive updates on the Regional Biosolids Storage project, you can unsubscribe at any time by emailing biosolids@water.ie with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line. Otherwise we will continue to update you as the project progresses.

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APPENDIX A5

Stage 3 Groups and Organisations Contact List

Directly Contacted

Interested Groups & Organisations

Age Action Ireland

An Taisce

BirdWatch Ireland

Bord Bia

Bord na Mona

CCMA

Chambers Ireland

Citywest B2B

Coastwatch

Commission for Energy Regulation

Confederation of European Waste to Energy Plants

Construction Industry Federation

Consumer Association of Ireland

Cré (Composting Association of Ireland)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Department of the Taoiseach

Dublin Airport Authority

Dublin Port Company

Dunboyne AC

Dunboyne AFC

Dunboyne Business Association

Dunboyne Castle Residents Association

Dunboyne Community Centre

Dunboyne Friends of the Elderly

Dunboyne Men's Shed

Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly

Eastern-Midlands Waste Region

Engineers Ireland

Enterprise Ireland

Enva

Environmental Law Implementation Group

Environmental Licensing Programme

Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Science Association of Ireland

ESB

Fáilte Ireland

Federation of Irish Sport

Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Friends of the Earth

Directly Contacted

Friends of the Irish Environment

Gas Networks Ireland

Gormanston Community Association

Green Foundation Ireland

Health & Safety Authority

Higher Education Authority

HSE

Ibec

ICMSA

IDA

Indaver Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society

Irish Dairy Industry Association

Irish Doctors Environmental Association

Irish Environmental Network (IEN)

Irish Farmers Association

Irish Grain & Feed Association

Irish Grain Growers Association

Irish Seed Trade

Irish Waste Management Association

Irish Wildlife Trust

ISME

MABS

National Disability Authority

National Federation of Group Water Schemes

National Parks & Wildlife

National Transport Authority

National Youth Council of Ireland

Public Water Forum

Rathcoole Community Centre

Rathcoole Community Council

Restaurant Association of Ireland

Small Firms Association

St. Peters GAA

St. Vincent de Paul

Sustainable Ireland

SWAN

Teagasc

The Arts Council

The Competition & Consumer Protection Commission

The Environmental Pillar

The Heritage Council

The Oak Centre

Directly Contacted

The Wheel

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment

Waterways Ireland

Zero Waste Alliance

Local Authorities

Carlow County Council

Dublin City Council

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Fingal County Council

Kildare County Council

Meath County Council

South Dublin County Council

Wicklow County Council