

Water Supply Project Eastern & Midlands Region

Project Consultation Brochure

January 2025



Project Background

Uisce Éireann's purpose is to rise to the challenge of delivering transformative water services that enable communities to thrive.

The Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region ('The Proposed Project') is a generational project and is the first major 'new source' infrastructure in the region in the last 60 years.

It will deliver a safe, secure, sustainable source of water supply necessary to support our growing population and economy, including the demand for housing. It is a project that will enable us to adapt to the effects of climate change by diversifying our water supply sources.

It will provide improved levels of service for the Eastern and Midlands Region, including the provision of a resilient water supply for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), infrastructure with capacity for offtakes to serve communities in Tipperary, Offaly and Westmeath along the route, and the capability to promote balanced regional development across the Region. It will also enable the redirection of water supplies currently serving Dublin to the counties of Louth, Meath, Wicklow, Carlow and Kildare.



Need for a sustainable water supply for the Eastern and Midlands Region



Water Supply Deficit

The Greater Dublin Area is already experiencing a deficit in the reliability of drinking water supply. In recent years this has resulted in widespread outages due to seasonal weather events. In the broader Eastern and Midlands Region, total demand is projected to increase by approximately 10%, driven by a 25% rise in the regional population. If no action is taken, the water deficit in this region will grow significantly. By 2044, it is estimated that 34% more water will be needed than is currently available.

The lack of a new water source will have severe consequences for the region. In some areas, this could mean restrictions on housing or commercial water supply connections for new customers by the end of the decade. Additionally, existing customers will face more frequent water supply outages and restrictions over time.



Sustainable Abstraction

Currently a single source, the River Liffey, supplies 85% of the water requirements for 1.7 million people in the Greater Dublin Area, comprising Dublin and parts of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. In addition, 67% of the water resource zones in the Eastern and Midlands Region are unable to provide adequate reliability to our customers. Overdependence on one source is a critical weakness in the water supply and action must be taken to ensure the Eastern and Midlands Region's water supply can meet current and future demand.

Furthermore, a new abstraction licensing regime to comply with the Water Framework Directive, may also reduce the amount of water which we can abstract from these existing water sources, in the future.



Lack of Resilience

The Water Supply Project is designed to address the vulnerabilities in the current water supply system. By introducing a new water source from Parteen Basin on the River Shannon, the project aims to diversify the water supply, thereby enhancing resilience against climate change and other potential disruptions.

Leakage reduction is a significant component of Uisce Éireann's strategy to improve water supply efficiency with a national target to reduce leakage to 25% by 2030. In the Greater Dublin Area, the goal is even more ambitious, aiming to bring leakage down to below 20% by 2030. Fixing the leaks is only part of the solution however, as it will not address the situation of a growing water supply deficit and lack of supply resilience.





Climate change will increase pressure on existing water supplies by reducing availability and increasing the likelihood of droughts. Therefore, a new water supply is essential to reduce the vulnerability of these supplies to climate change.

The Proposed Project will create a water spine across the country. It will develop a new, climate-resilient, long-term water source to meet the demands of a growing population and economy, including the need for housing and help us to adapt our water supplies to the effects of climate change.



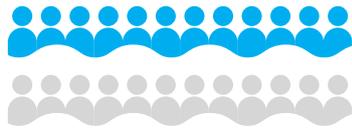
The population of the Eastern and Midlands Region is expected to grow by 26% by 2044 increasing demand for water services. The Water Supply Project will deliver a secure, climate resilient supply of water with the capacity to serve up to 50% of the State's population. It will facilitate increased demand for housing, enable sustainable economic growth and support competitiveness across the Region.

What are the Benefits of the Proposed Project?

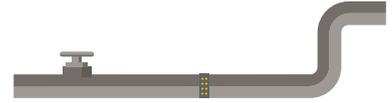


IMPROVED LEVELS OF SERVICE

to homes and businesses in the Region



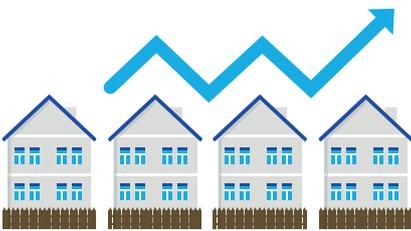
Capacity to create a **SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT** water supply for up to **50% OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATE**



Infrastructure with capacity for offtakes to supply communities and industry in

TIPPERARY, OFFALY AND WESTMEATH

along the route



MEET THE WATER SUPPLY DEMANDS

of population, housing and economic growth



Greater resilience against the impact of CLIMATE CHANGE

through climate adaptation and the provision of a new, sustainable source of water supply.



MEET THE DEMAND FOR WATER

within the GDA Water Resource Zone to 2050 and beyond;



INCREASED RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

in the water supply through diversification of sources to Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow and Carlow and a new water supply with capacity to serve communities along the route in Tipperary, Offaly and Westmeath in the future.

The Proposed Project

The potential solutions to the water supply needed in the Eastern and Midlands Region including the Greater Dublin Area have been under review for over 25 years. Hundreds of options have been considered to date.

The preferred solution is a new source of water supply from the River Shannon with the capacity to address the water supply demand deficits and improve supply resilience and levels of service in the region.

The abstraction will be from Parteen Basin, upstream of Parteen Weir and will come from water currently used by ESB to generate power at Ardnacrusha. The maximum volume of water taken by the Proposed Project will be 300 million litres a day which will be less than 2% of the average flow in the River Shannon at Parteen Basin.

It is proposed raw water will be abstracted at an intake site on the eastern shore of Parteen Basin, Co Tipperary and transferred 2km by pipeline to a water treatment plant near Birdhill. It is proposed that treated water will then be piped 170km through a 1.6m diameter steel pipeline through counties Tipperary, Offaly and Kildare to a termination point reservoir at Peamount in Co. Dublin, connecting into the Greater Dublin Area water supply network.

50%

The Proposed Project infrastructure has the capacity to meet the water supply needs of up to 50% of the State's population.

2%

The volume of water taken by the Proposed Project will equate to a maximum 2% of the long term annual flow of the River Shannon at Parteen Basin, the longest river in the country.

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Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station on the eastern shore of Parteen Basin, Co. Tipperary,
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Water Treatment Plant located in the townland of Incha Beg in Co. Tipperary, 2.6km north-east of the village of Birdhill.
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Break Pressure Tank near Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary,
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Booster Pumping Station east of Birr, Co. Offaly,
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Flow Control Valve near Hazelhatch, Co. Kildare,
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Termination Point Reservoir at Peamount, Co. Dublin.

The Proposed Pipeline Route



Pipeline Construction

The 172km route of the pipeline will run largely through open countryside and construction will generally be by open cut trench. A construction working width will be temporarily required for the period of construction of the pipeline. The fenced off working width will generally be 50m in width and will be wider at features such as road, rail and river crossings, access and egress points from the public road network and Pipe Storage Depots.

A 20m wide permanent wayleave will be required to facilitate access to and maintenance of the pipeline post construction.

There will be nine construction compounds to support this work and five of these will be at the locations of the proposed Infrastructure Sites. The construction of the permanent infrastructure at the infrastructure sites will take up to five years with the longest programme being the at the Water Treatment Plant. The construction will be different at each site but will generally include construction access, site clearance and preparation, earthworks and construction of the on-site buildings. At the end of the construction there will be demobilisation and reinstatement including on-site planting.

Operation of the Proposed Project

A combination of pumping and gravity will be used to move the water through the pipeline. Raw water will be pumped 2km from the Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station to the Water Treatment Plant. Treated water will be pumped for the first 37km of the pipeline from the Water Treatment Plant to the Break Pressure Tank. The Break Pressure Tank is designed to be located at the high point along the pipeline and so from there the water will usually flow by gravity along the remaining 133km to the Termination Point Reservoir. This has been done to reduce the energy needed to move water through the pipeline and will therefore, reduce energy used during operation.

At times when the volume of water needed is higher, the water will be pumped through the pipeline from the Booster Pumping Station to the Termination Point Reservoir. The Booster Pumping Station provides the capability for this additional pumping, when it is required.

The volume of water that needs to be abstracted on a particular day will be dictated by water usage in the Eastern and Midlands Region and the predicted short term demand. By 2050 up to 300 Million litres a day can be abstracted and this will provide the capacity to supply up to 36 water resource zones in the Eastern and Midlands Region.



What is happening now?

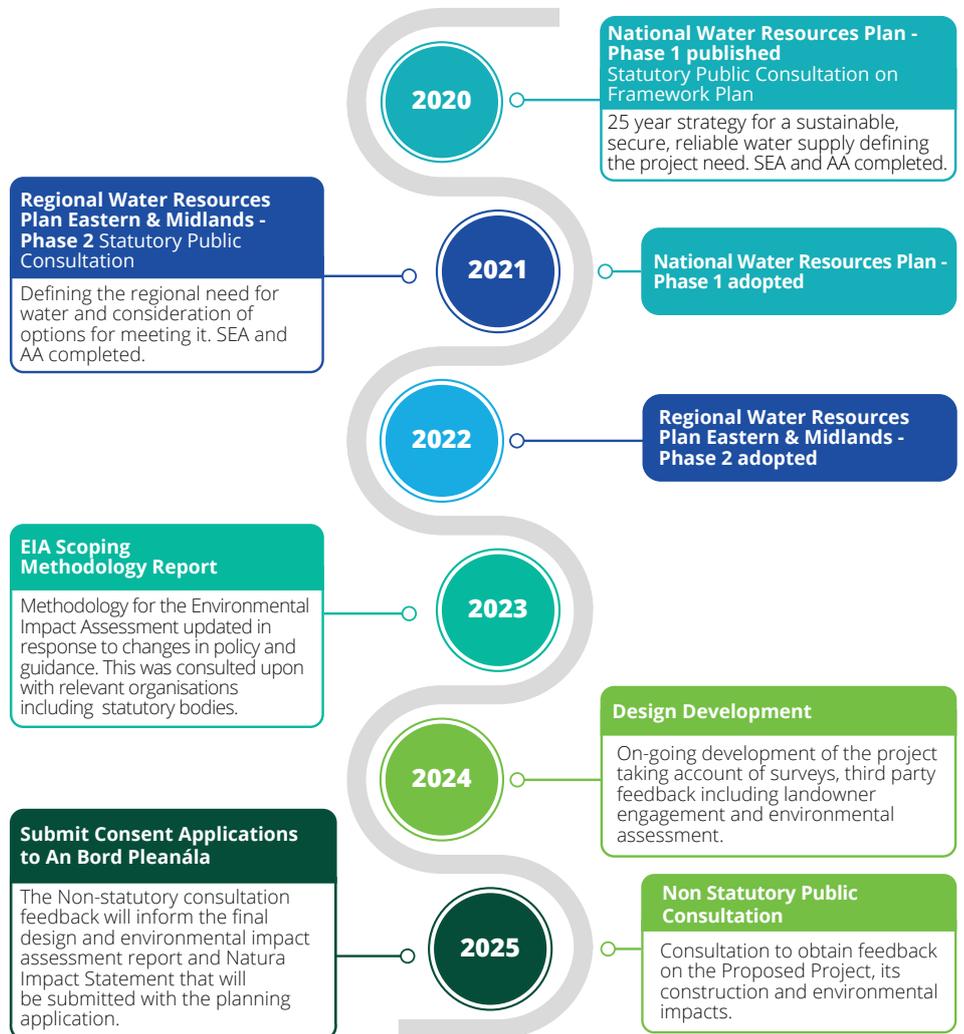
Uisce Éireann is asking stakeholders and all interested parties to provide feedback on the proposed Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region in advance of Uisce Éireann submitting a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year.

Water Supply Project Eastern & Midlands Region

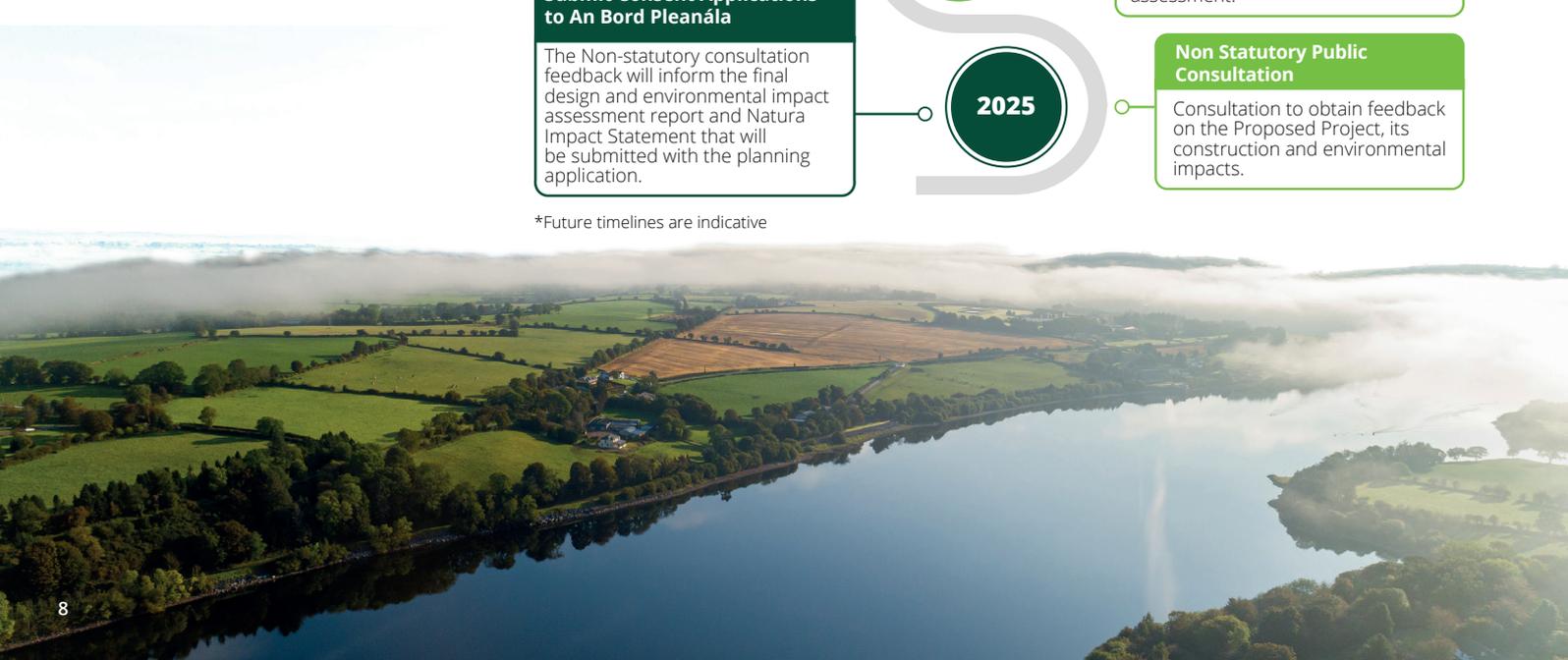
Consultation on previous iterations of the project

- The Project Need Report consultation March 2015
- The Options Working Paper consultation June 2015
- The Preliminary Options Appraisal Report consultation November 2015
- The Final Options Appraisal Report and the EIS Scoping Report consultation November 2016

Project Consultation Roadmap



*Future timelines are indicative



How can I get involved?

The purpose of the consultation is to provide an opportunity to give feedback on the proposed Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region. The public consultation will run for a minimum of eight weeks.

To make a submission please send it to us by email, feedback form or post by 4 March 2025. Stakeholders can use the following questions to guide their feedback. However, this is just an aide, and all relevant submissions received in response to the consultation will be considered.

We will also host two public information webinars on the proposed Water Supply Project during the consultation period. You can register for these events by visiting

www.water.ie/watersupplyproject

or contact the project team for details.

Consultation Questions

1. What are your thoughts on the potential benefits of the Proposed Project?

2. Do you have any feedback on the key infrastructure components of the Proposed Project, such as the water intake and pumping station, pipelines, water treatment plant, storage reservoir, booster pumping station and break pressure tank?

3. What are your views on the proposed construction approach, including the use of identified roads for construction traffic, and the locations of temporary storage and working areas?

4. Can you provide any comments on the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and the measures proposed to mitigate these impacts?

5. Are there any additional comments you would like to share regarding the Proposed Project?

The feedback received in response to this consultation will be used to inform the design and accompanying environmental reports in advance of submitting a planning application to An Bord Pleanála.



Drop-In Public Information Events		
LOCATION	VENUE	DATE
Ballina	Lakeside Hotel	Wednesday 15th Jan
Nenagh	Abbeycourt Hotel	Thursday 16th Jan
Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel	Wednesday 22nd Jan
Birr	The County Arms	Thursday 23rd Jan
Johnstownbridge	Hamlet Court Hotel	Tuesday 28th Jan
Maynooth	Glenroyal Hotel	Wednesday 29th Jan
Webinar 1	Online	Friday 7th Feb
Webinar 2	Online	Tuesday 18th Feb

Get in touch

✉ watersupply@water.ie

☎ ROI: 01 2027770

If you would prefer to write to us, please send any correspondence to:

📍 Water Supply Project, PO Box 13748, Dublin 16

Consultation closes on 4 March 2025