

Greater Dublin Drainage Project



In this update – December 2024

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What is the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) Project?

The proposed GDD Project involves the development of a new regional wastewater treatment facility at Clonsaugh and associated drainage infrastructure to serve the growing population of the north Dublin area. It is a key part of Uisce Éireann's investment in new wastewater infrastructure in greater Dublin and will protect public health, safeguard our environment and facilitate growth to 2050 and beyond.

Why is it needed?

Projected growth in population and increased commercial activity means the volume of wastewater generated in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) will increase by more than 50% during the next 30 years. Having adequate wastewater treatment capacity is vital to protect public health, safeguard our environment and facilitate social and economic growth. We must collect and treat this wastewater so that the treated water can be safely returned to the environment.

The proposed project is the most environmentally, technically and economically beneficial solution to meet Dublin's long-term wastewater treatment needs. GDD is one of the featured projects in the National Development Plan 2021-2030 under NSO 9 -Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources. It is identified as a critical project in the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031, a

strategic policy objective of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.

The delivery of GDD will protect public health, safeguard our environment and facilitate sustainable growth up to 2050 and beyond. A shortage of wastewater treatment capacity can have serious impacts, including delaying the delivery of housing, slowing commercial growth and limiting development in the GDA. It also has the potential to cause public health and environmental impacts. Insufficient wastewater treatment capacity may also reduce the region's capacity for economic and population growth.

What stage is it at now?

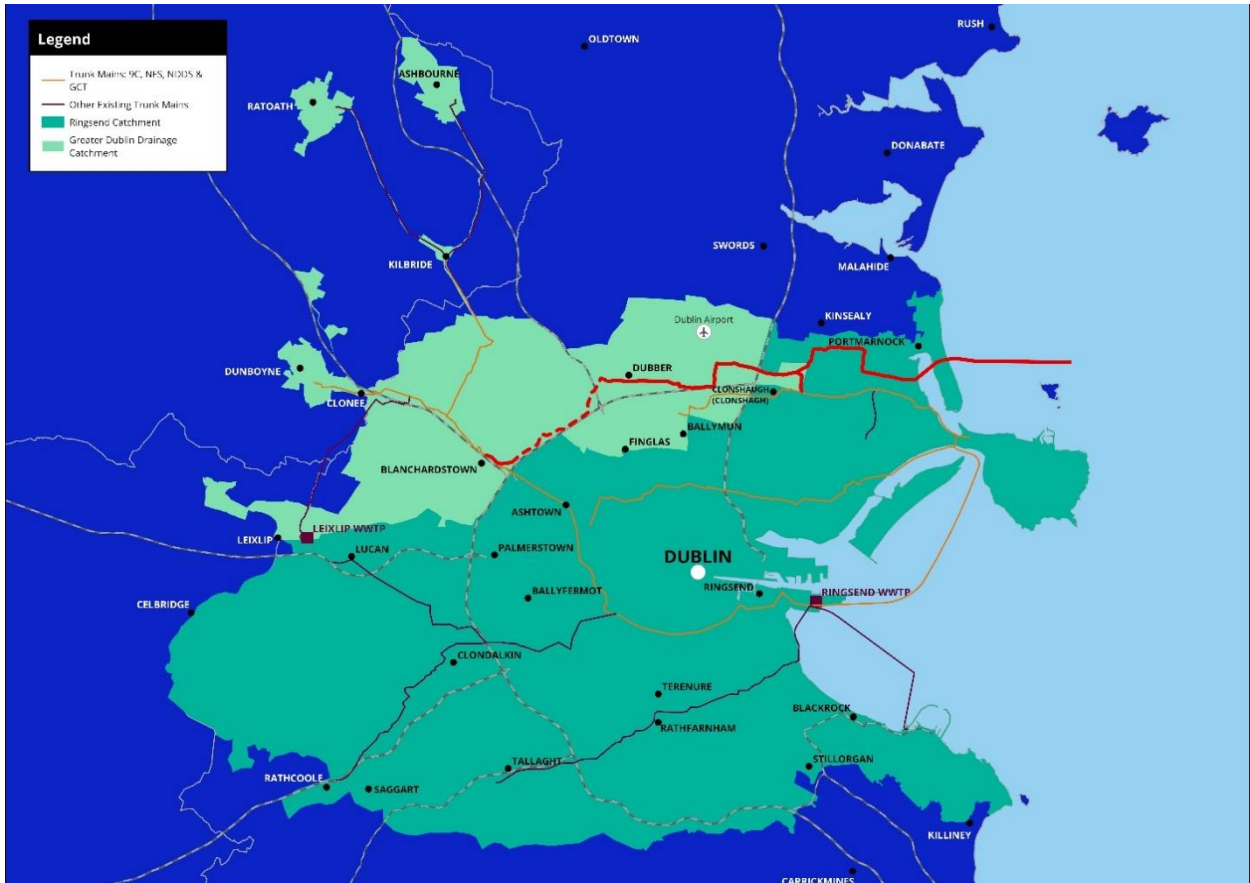
An Bord Pleanála (the Board) granted planning permission for the GDD Project in November 2019. This planning permission was quashed following judicial review proceedings and the Court ordered that the planning application be sent back to the Board for a fresh decision to be made.

Following a request from the Board, and due to the passage of time that had elapsed since the original application was made, Uisce Éireann provided updated environmental assessments and information to the Board in October 2023 (the Addendum). This Addendum was the subject of public consultation where interested parties were invited to submit observations on its content. The GDD application is now being considered by the Board.

Wastewater Discharge Licence Application (WWDLA)

The GDD project will serve the **north-west section** of the **existing Ringsend wastewater catchment** and will **reduce the amount of wastewater that Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)** will need to treat. Therefore, it will allow Ringsend WWTP to cater for **planned growth elsewhere in the catchment**.

As part of the overall GDD Project consenting process, Uisce Éireann is required to apply to the EPA for a WWDL for the proposed catchment, the North Dublin Agglomeration, that will be served by the project. This is a key component needed to deliver the GDD Project. This WWDL will cover the discharge of treated effluent at the proposed discharge location, 1 km north-east of Ireland's Eye, along with assessment of the existing network, including stormwater and emergency overflows.



What is a Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL)?

All wastewater discharges from Uisce Éireann facilities require a WWDL from the EPA.

Given the scale of the GDD project and its significant catchment area, the application for a WWDL is supported by a full environmental impact assessment report (**EIAR**).

Preventative design, monitoring and incident response measures have also been embedded into the project design to mitigate against unintended discharges into the environment.

Where can further information be found on this application, and how can I participate?

All documentation in respect of the WWDL application will be made available on the EPA website and includes the:

- Application for a wastewater discharge licence, and
- Environmental impact assessment report (EIAR).
- All supporting documents

Interested parties may submit written observations or submissions in relation to the application for the WWDL licence or the accompanying EIAR to the EPA via its website, or at its headquarters at P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.

How does the WWDL process intertwine with the application for planning permission?

Once the EPA receives Uisce Éireann's WWDL application, it is required to consult with, and seek input from the Board. The EPA's assessment of the impact of a decision to grant an authorisation for a wastewater discharge on receiving waters is separate from and in addition to the planning process. As required per legislation, the EPA's decision on the WWDL will only be made following on from a grant of planning permission.

Next Steps

When planning permission for the GDD Project is secured, Uisce Éireann will progress with the contractor procurement process for the construction of the project. It is currently expected that the construction stage will take approximately three years.

Securing the WWDL is an important step in the delivery of the GDD Project, the next major strategic step in the development of our wastewater infrastructure for Dublin and the surrounding counties. Uisce Éireann will continue to provide updates as the GDD project progresses. For more details on the project please click [here](#).

Contact the GDD project:

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Tionscadal Éireann
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Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, dean teagmháil linn ar an uimhir thuasluaite.