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Irish Water



PROJECT:

## Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

PHASE:

## Scoping of Environmental Impact Statement & Natura Impact Statement

DOCUMENT:

## Report on Public Consultation



May 2018

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## Section 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Project Background

In January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision of public water services, which included the transfer of responsibility for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from Dublin City Council.

Wastewater from Dublin has been treated at Ringsend since 1906. The current plant was commissioned in 2003 and is the largest wastewater treatment plant in Ireland. Ringsend WWTP services the four Dublin local authority areas (Dublin City, South Dublin, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown) as well as parts of County Meath.

Today, the WWTP is operating over its design capacity and needs to be expanded in order to meet current demand and to allow for future growth in population and industry. In addition, more stringent treatment standards have come into force since the current WWTP was designed and constructed. In 2001, the Liffey Estuary was designated a ‘nutrient sensitive’ waterbody under the EU’s Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC). This requires the wastewater treatment plant to remove nutrients (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorous) from its effluent before it can be discharged into the receiving environment. Consequently, in addition to being expanded, the WWTP’s treatment processes need to be upgraded in order to meet these higher standards.

Maximising the treatment capacity of the Ringsend WWTP together with the proposed development of a new regional wastewater treatment plant in North Dublin at Clonsilla (the Greater Dublin Drainage project) will help meet the current and future infrastructural requirements of the Greater Dublin Area. As the Greater Dublin Area’s population continues to grow and social and commercial needs continue to expand, the upgrade works at Ringsend, along with the development of Greater Dublin Drainage Project, will ensure that wastewater generated in the region is appropriately treated in order to safeguard human health and to protect the environment. The Ringsend WWTP is shown in Figure 1.1 with the site boundary outlined in yellow.



**Figure 1.1 - Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant**

## 1.2 Current Phase and Planning

In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade the existing plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The project that was approved in 2012 included an extension in secondary treatment capacity as well as the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend WWTP out into Dublin Bay. Since that time, Irish Water has been reviewing the project and an alternative solution is now being proposed.

Irish Water has identified an advanced nutrient reduction treatment technology that was not available as an option to Dublin City Council when it sought planning consent in 2012. This technology is known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS). This technology can treat wastewater to the much higher standards now required in line with the EU's Urban Wastewater Directive and would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, within the Liffey Estuary beside the ESB Poolbeg Power Station. If this technology was implemented at Ringsend, the 9km long sea outfall tunnel proposed in 2012 could be omitted as it would no longer be required. However, this approach requires a further planning approval from An Bord Pleanála before it can be implemented.

The revised project being proposed by Irish Water is very similar to that approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012. In particular, it should be noted that:

- No increase in capacity over that approved in 2012 is being proposed; and
- The revised project will meet the same stringent odour control standards as set out by An Bord Pleanála in 2012.

The revised project will maximise the treatment capacity of the Ringsend WWTP, increasing it from 1.64m population equivalent (PE) to 2.4m PE. This will give the plant a 'firm' capacity of 2.1m PE, i.e. the capacity available when one of the plant's largest process units is out of service for routine maintenance or repair. The project will use most of the remaining unused space within the current site to provide additional treatment facilities and equipment. The proposed Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project includes:

- Increasing the flow through the plant by approximately 20% thereby increasing the amount of wastewater that is treated and reducing the level of storm overflows which occur during heavy rainfall events;
- Provision of a new 400,000 PE extension in biological (AGS) treatment capacity, on a site reserved for that purpose within the existing boundary;
- Installation of the AGS technology in the existing treatment tanks on site, increasing their capacity to 2.0m PE;
- Expansion of the plant's sludge treatment facilities to match the overall increase in wastewater treatment capacity;
- Provision of a new phosphorous recovery process; and
- Provision of additional odour control facilities and other site works.

From an operational and visual perspective, the revised project is not expected to result in any significant change on the site of the plant from the project approved in 2012. The main change will occur outside the site due to the proposed omission of the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.

### 1.3 Consultation Period and Purpose

In May 2017, the EPA issued new guidelines on the Environmental Impact Assessment process and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), to comply with the EU EIA Directive (2014/52/EU). At the time of consultation, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was the accepted term for what is referred to, since May 2017, as an EIAR. Throughout this report Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be read as referencing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

This report details the feedback and activities associated with the public consultation which was carried out as part of the scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement and Natura Impact Statement (EIS & NIS) for the proposed Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project. This non-statutory consultation commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and ended on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The purpose of this consultation was two-fold:

1. To provide the public with information on the revised project now being considered by Irish Water and to provide the public with an opportunity to raise queries and discuss the proposed project with Irish Water's Project Team; and
2. To engage with and seek the assistance of the public and prescribed bodies in scoping the environmental issues to be considered and assessed in the EIS & NIS to be prepared and submitted with the project's application for development consent.

The primary objective of 'scoping' is to identify the environmental issues of concern which might arise during the construction and 'lifetime' of a project and which need to be addressed in an EIS/NIS. The scoping and preparation of an EIS or NIS are ongoing processes that ideally take place in parallel with the project design. Early consultation can greatly help in the identification of significant issues so that these issues can be considered at the earliest possible opportunity. This then provides the best opportunity for considering design alternatives (where available) and for implementing measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment (including a Natura 2000 site).

At the commencement of the consultation period, Irish Water published a Scoping Document whose purpose was to provide information on the project, to identify the proposed study area and its environmental characteristics and to outline the impacts of the project considered most likely by the Project Team. The purpose of the Scoping Document was not to present a final project nor all potential impacts arising as a result of the proposed Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project. Rather it presented sufficiently detailed proposals and project options to prompt discussion and feedback. The feedback received allowed the project options, environmental impacts and mitigation measures to be considered and developed as part of the overall integrated design process. For the purpose of brevity, this report does not repeat the content of the Scoping Document. Full details of the Scoping Document can be found at the following link: <http://www.water.ie/about-us/project-and-plans/projects/ringsend/environment-planning/>

### 1.4 Report Contents

The purpose of this report is to document stakeholder feedback which has informed the preparation of the EIAR (along with a technical and environmental assessment). This Consultation Report forms part of the planning application for the proposed Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.

The report is divided into four sections. Section one (this section) describes the project and the consultation process; Section two describes the engagement channels used by the Project Team to

promote the consultation; Section three describes the feedback and submissions received on the Scoping Document for the EIS & NIS of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project; and Section four describes the next steps.

## Section 2: Publicising the Consultation Period

A number of channels were used to provide information pertinent to the project, the scoping document and the period of public consultation. The objectives of the consultation were to provide information and keep people informed and to also obtain feedback and submissions on the scoping document. The following information and communication channels were provided:

- A project specific set of webpages as part of the Irish Water website;
- Details of the dedicated phone, email and postal address;
- A project brochure;
- Posters in libraries;
- Press Release;
- A series of open days, where members of the public could meet and discuss the project with the Project Team;
- A series of information banners and information boards for the open days;
- Adverts in local press and libraries publicising the dates and times of the open days; and
- An eZine newsletter, which issued three times over the course of the consultation period, providing updates and information to interested stakeholders.

### 2.1 Terms of Reference of the Consultation Period

Throughout the consultation period the Project Team welcomed feedback on the project through submissions on the Scoping Document. The following three questions were posed to prompt feedback from interested parties:

- Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the Scoping Document?
- Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?

### 2.2 Media Outreach

A press release was issued on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to announce the publication of the Scoping Document and the commencement of the non-statutory consultation period for the project. A copy of the press release is included in Appendix A. Media outreach was handled by the Irish Water press office.

Media articles published during the consultation period that discussed the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project are also included in Appendix A. These articles also served the purpose of advertising and disseminating information on the Project and the consultation period to the public.

### 2.3 Website

A dedicated section of the Irish Water website was developed for the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project at [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend). Linked to the main Irish Water website, it featured five Ringsend-specific pages, covering:

1. The Project;

2. Proposed Solution;
3. Environment & Planning;
4. Public Participation; and
5. Frequently Asked Questions.

The Public Participation page outlined the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, contact details for the Project Team along with the times, dates and locations of public information meetings. It also advised how members of the public could make a submission on the public consultation.

## 2.4 Contact Details

Interested parties could contact the Project Team directly through the following means:

- Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)
- Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or +353 (1) 453 7063. The phone lines and email were manned by the Project Team Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays, from 9am to 5pm.
- Post: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8
- Online: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

During the consultation period the project team received twenty-nine emails, nine phone calls and one letter through the contact details above.

## 2.5 Project Brochure

A 12-page A5 sized brochure was published in both English and Irish. This brochure was available electronically on the website. Copies of the English language version were placed in ten libraries in the Dublin bay area from Howth to Dun Laoghaire. Both language versions were available at all of the open days and copies were posted out to anyone who requested further information on the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project. A copy of the brochure in both English and Irish is included in Appendix B.

## 2.6 Open Days and Display Materials

Public open days were held at the following locations on the dates and times stated:

Date	Location	Times
Thursday, 21st April 2016	Sutton: Marine Hotel	10am to 2pm
Thursday, 21st April 2016	Clontarf: Clasač Centre	4pm to 7pm
Tuesday, 26th April 2016	Killiney: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel	10am to 2pm
Tuesday, 26th April 2016	Dun Laoghaire: Royal Marine Hotel	4pm to 8pm
Friday, 6th May 2016	Ringsend: Shelbourne Park Stadium	2pm to 8pm

Due to security concerns at the open day in Clontarf, the open day in Ringsend which was originally planned for Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April was rescheduled to Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

Senior members of the project team were in attendance at each of the open days to answer any questions posed by attendees. There was a total of 12 attendees across the five events.

A series of six pop-up banners were produced to provide information on the project and the non-statutory consultation period on the Scoping Document for the EIS and NIS. These banners were used at all of the open days held during the non-statutory consultation period. Copies of the banners are included in Appendix C.

## 2.7 Posters and Adverts

To advertise the location and times of each open day, adverts were placed in the local press and a poster was placed in ten libraries across the Dublin bay area, namely:

1. dlr LexIcon - Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
2. Blackrock Library - Main St, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
3. Ringsend Library - Fitzwilliam St, Dublin
4. Marino Library - Marino Mart, Dublin
5. Raheny Library - Howth Rd, Dublin
6. Baldoyle Library - Strand Rd, Dublin
7. Pembroke Library - Anglesea Rd, Dublin
8. Dublin City Library - 138-144 Pearse St, Dublin
9. Donaghmede Library - Donaghmede Shopping Centre, Donaghmede Rd, Dublin 13
10. Howth Library - Main St, Howth, Co. Dublin
11. Dublin City Council Offices, Planning Department

In addition to the above a revised poster was placed in the following locations, to publicise the change of date and venue of the Ringsend Open Day.

1. Ringsend Library - Fitzwilliam St, Dublin
2. Pembroke Library - Anglesea Rd, Dublin
3. Dublin City Library - 138-144 Pearse St, Dublin

Adverts were placed in the following local publications on the dates stated:

Date	Publication
20th April 2016	The Northside People East
19th and 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	The Herald
20th April 2016	The Southside People
21st April 2016	Dun Laoghaire Gazette
4th May 2016	The Herald

Copies of the adverts and posters are included in Appendix D.

## 2.8 Elected Members Engagement

### 2.8.1 Local Elected Representatives Briefing

A briefing event was undertaken for local councillors on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at Wood Quay Venue, Dublin City Council Civic Offices. The purpose of this event was to provide councillors with detailed information on the project and its potential impacts in advance of the public open days. A letter to relevant councillors was issued by email on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to inform them that the Scoping

Document had been published, the consultation had opened and to invite them to a briefing on the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project. This invitation was issued to members of the Dublin City Council North Central, Central and South East area committees and to Fingal County councillors who sit on the Howth-Malahide Area Committee. These constituencies were chosen as their coastline is within the Dublin Bay area. A copy of the letter issued to councillors can be found in Appendix E.

### 2.8.2 Email to Dublin TDs and remaining Dublin and selected Meath councillors

A letter was issued via email to all Dublin TDs, as well as the remaining Dublin City and Fingal County councillors, informing them that the consultation had opened, where further information could be found and of the potential for a personal briefing from the Project Team, if desired. The email was also issued to councillors from South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, as well as the Ratoath and Ashbourne areas of Meath County. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix F.

## 2.9 eZine Newsletter

At the outset of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, interested parties, including those who engaged with the previous planning process and recreational users of Dublin Bay, were identified and sent a Project Update eZine Newsletter. The mailing list included all Dublin councillors and TDs, as well as Meath councillors in the Ratoath and Ashbourne areas, and individuals who had engaged with the previous project consented in 2012. People who engaged with the current consultation were also added to this database, with their permission. The mailing list contained approximately 300 subscribers.

The initial eZine Newsletter (issued on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016) advised that the public consultation was taking place, what was being consulted on and the reasons behind the proposed change to the existing planning permission. Details of open days, contact details for the Project Team, a project roadmap and how to make a submission were also included. The second eZine Newsletter (issued on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2016) highlighted the open days, while the third eZine Newsletter (issued on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016) focused on how people could contribute to the public consultation.

The eZine Newsletters were issued to the groups of people listed below.

- Dublin City Council – North Central Area Committee
- Dublin City Council – Central Area Committee
- Dublin City Council – South East Area Committee
- Fingal County Council – Howth-Malahide Area Committee
- Councillor's from:
  - Dublin City Council
  - Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
  - Fingal County Council
  - South Dublin County Council
  - Meath County Council – Ashbourne / Ratoath Area
- TDs from:
  - Dublin Bay North
  - Dublin Bay South
  - Dublin Central
  - Dublin Fingal
  - Dublin Mid-West

- Dublin North-West
- Dublin Rathdown
- Dublin South Central
- Dublin South West
- Dublin West
- Dun Laoghaire
- Recreational Users of Dublin Bay
- Parties that engaged with the previous planning process and EIS
- Persons who attended the Public Open Days (and signed the attendance sheet)

Two additional emails were issued to inform subscribers of the rescheduling of one of the open days, ( as described in section 2.5 above). A copy of the eZine Newsletters can be found in Appendix G.

## 2.10 Prescribed Bodies and Key Stakeholders

The prescribed bodies and key stakeholders considered relevant to the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project are listed in Table 1 below. Each entity/individual was issued a letter by post advising them of the public consultation and informing them of the potential for a briefing on the proposal, if desired. The correspondence also included a hard copy version of the Scoping Document, as well as an electronic copy on CD. A sample of this letter can be found in Appendix H.

**Table 1 – List of Prescribed Bodies and Stakeholders to Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project**

Prescribed Bodies and Key Stakeholders	
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport	National Transport Authority
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority
Health Service Executive	An Taisce
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Gas Networks Ireland
Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government	The Heritage Council
Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	An Comhairle Ealaíon
Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Faite Ireland
Planning Authority - South Dublin County Council	Health and Safety Authority
Planning Authority - Meath County Council	Electricity Supply Board
Planning Authority - Kildare County Council	Environmental Protection Agency
Planning Authority – Dublin City Council	Commission for Energy Regulation
Planning Authority - Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Dublin Port Company
Planning Authority - Fingal County Council	Planning Department Electricity Supply Board
National Roads Authority (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland)	Birdwatch Ireland

The letter stated that the Project Team were available for briefings or information meetings if required by any of these bodies. The project team met with all parties who requested a meeting. Meetings were held with the following bodies:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
- Dublin City Council;

- The National Monuments Service (part of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht);
- The Environmental Protection Agency;
- The Electricity Supply Board; and
- Dublin Port Company.

## Section 3: Feedback

### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the report details public participation in terms of feedback received during the public consultation period that is of relevance to the EIS & NIS scoping stage of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project. Each submission has been reviewed and taken into consideration by the Project Team. Responses to relevant issues raised have been assessed and addressed, where appropriate, within the EIS & NIS. Many issues have been addressed in project publications, at events, open days and in direct responses to stakeholder queries as part of this phase of public consultation. The project team received eight written submissions on the Scoping Document for the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.

The personal data of the individuals who made submissions is not documented in this report. Personal data is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2003.

The EIS & NIS are concerned with identifying those aspects of the environment where there is an interaction with the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project and as a consequence there are likely significant effects which need to be assessed.

The questions in the following sections were received by phone, email, through the consultation open days and written submissions. The aspects of the environment highlighted by the public or interested parties during the consultation process are outlined in the table below.

**Table 2 – Headline Items of Feedback through written Submissions and Queries**

Headline Items
Population and Human Health
Water
Biodiversity
Land and Soils
Air and Climate
Landscape
Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts and Interaction of Effects
Other Issues Raised

### 3.2 Population and Human Health

A number of submissions were received pertaining to the health of the population in relation to air quality and water quality. Disruptions to the public were also a key concern in many submissions and these related to potential noise, vibration, main water, gas, electricity and traffic disruptions.

- It was suggested that detailed mitigation measures be identified for noise and vibration, water and air and that regular monitoring be carried out during construction and operational phases of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.

- It was suggested that regular water quality monitoring / sampling of water bodies be conducted during the pre-construction, construction and operational phases of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.
- It was requested that the Environmental Impact Assessment should also consider the protection from contamination of water bodies, as well as the safe processing, recovery and management of sludge, phosphate and any other residual semi-solid material generated from sewage or wastewater treatment processing.
- A request was made for consideration to be given to accidental spillages, such as oil and fuel, which may enter the groundwater systems. A request was made for a dust mitigation plan to protect local food premises, a pest control plan and adequate pest control measures to deal with displaced rodents.
- It was noted that disruption to utilities such as electricity, gas and main water must be avoided during business hours.
- A request was made for a traffic management plan to be put in place and that audits for all relevant hazardous materials, such as asbestos, are carried out prior to demolition.

### 3.3 Water

A number of concerns were raised in relation to water, including concerns about any potential negative impacts on the quality of the sea water and impacts on marine life. There were concerns in relation to the impact of any additional wastewater flows from the WWTP. It was expressed in a number of submissions that any impacts should be monitored.

- A concern was raised about the water quality at the proposed location for the GDD outfall north of Howth.
- Concerns were raised about the possible impact on sea water quality and marine life that may result from the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, including the potential for an increase in the discharge volume.
- It was suggested that Irish Water include the following in its water quality parameters - the level of pharmaceutical products; priority hazardous substances; pathogenic viruses; synthetic plastic microbeads; and pH level of treated water.
- It was suggested that there is a need for international best practice in terms of ongoing water quality monitoring on this Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, before, during and post construction.
- It was highlighted that Dublin Bay is the only marine UNESCO biosphere in Ireland and that Dublin is a European capital city on the edge of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which requires extra caution and monitoring.
- It was expressed that the proposed approach to assessing and monitoring water quality was insufficient and a request was made for satellite data to be used to monitor the water quality in Dublin bay.
- It was recommended that the combined impact of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, the Greater Dublin Drainage Project and the Alexandra Basin development in Dublin Port be taken into account, and for a solid baseline monitoring programme to be established for Ringsend and the Alexandra Basin in advance of any activity.
- It was expressed that while there was no concern in relation to the installation of AGS technology in the existing tanks on the Ringsend WWTP site to treat existing or lesser volumes of wastewater, there is serious concern over any additional wastewater flows or expansion of the WWTP.
- Queries were raised in relation to what the impact would be on sea water quality and marine life as a result of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project and whether there would be increases in discharge.

- Water quality data (specifically alkalinity) on Shannon and Dublin waters was requested by one open day attendee.

### 3.4 Biodiversity

Queries and questions on the flora and fauna of the surrounding environment were highlighted in several submissions, with particular emphasis on the Brent Geese habitat. It was expressed that there is a need to monitor and safeguard against any potential negative impacts on the biodiversity of the area.

- A query was raised in relation to the flora and fauna and it was noted that birds, insects, bees, butterflies are not generally addressed in the Scoping Document for the EIS and NIS.
- It was noted that flowers were not generally considered in the Scoping Document for the EIS and NIS.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the impact on the Brent geese habitat.
- Unease was also expressed about grassland for Brent Geese.
- A query was raised in relation to the potential impact of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project on the Irishtown Nature Park, in particular for the wild geese in the area.
- It was recommended that an ecological survey be carried out at an appropriate time of year to survey the habitats and species present and that the results be included in the EIS; that the impact on the development of flora, fauna and habitats be assessed; that consideration be given to prevent the introduction / spread of alien invasive species.
- The point was raised that there is a need to protect hedgerows, rivers and wetlands, and protected species. It was highlighted that licenses may be required where there are impacts on protected species.
- Concern was expressed about the flora and fauna in the area and the possibility of some difficulty in getting a complete picture because of incinerator works.
- The point was made that the construction of the already planned orbital sewer and additional treatment plant elsewhere is overdue.
- A concern was raised in relation to Eelgrass on Merrion Strand.
- A query was raised as to whether there were plans to expand the Ringsend WWTP beyond its current boundaries.
- It was asked if the AGS technology is installed, will there be any extension required to the existing Sequencing Batch Reactor.

### 3.5 Land and Soils

- A query was made as to where the extra sludge will go and if this will be dealt with in the planning application.

### 3.6 Air and Climate

The environment was evident in many submissions and it was felt by many that any potential negative impact on the environment should be minimised and monitored.

- Concerns were expressed in relation to what odours might come from the Ringsend WWTP and how this would affect the public.
- It was expressed that the residents of the Sandymount and Merrion area had received no information about the environmental impact of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.

- It was suggested that marine biologists and environmental experts be involved in the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project to ensure that the environmental impact is minimised.
- Information was sought on Irish Water's compliance with EPA licence conditions in relation to Doldrum Bay.

### 3.7 Landscape and Visual

Several submissions were concerned that the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project would have a visual impact on the area. Queries were raised about the choice of Ringsend as the location for the WWTP.

- It was queried as to what visual impact the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project would have.
- A query was raised in relation to the impact nitrogen and phosphorous would have on the Dublin Bay area.
- A query was raised as to whether there will be a loss of existing landscaping bunds with the proposal to install a road around the Sequencing Batch Reactors, particularly from a visual impact perspective.
- It was queried where all the extra sludge would go and would this be dealt with in the planning application. If so, it was suggested that GDD would be a better location to treat flows as it would be closer to agricultural outlets.

### 3.8 Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts and Interaction of Effects

Queries were raised in a number of submissions about the direct and indirect impacts of the WWTP and the potential effects that the plant would have over time on the surrounding area.

- A submission was made to highlight the adopted Land Use Plans within the proximity of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project that would need to be assessed for 'in-combination / cumulative' impact. The submission directed the Project Team to specific sections of the Dublin Port Masterplan 2012-2040 and the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022.
- Support was expressed for the objectives of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.
- Concerns were raised about the discharge location and the accelerated corrosion of the sheet piling designed to separate the cooling water outflow from the Poolbeg Station from the Liffey and that potential solutions be identified and appropriate remedial works be carried out in advance of construction of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.
- Queries were raised in relation to the cumulative impacts of Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, Dublin Port development, and the Dublin Waste to Energy Plant to the Ringsend / Dublin Bay area.

### 3.9 Other Issues

There were a number of queries and comments in relation to the functions of the WWTP, the future of the WWTP and the engineering process. There were also a number of specific queries which are detailed in this section.

- One stakeholder advised of issues affecting Sutton Dinghy club from the construction of the marine pipeline from Sutton to Ringsend WWTP.
- Objection was raised to the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project as a result of Irish Water's perceived failings at Doldrum Bay, Howth.
- Feedback received in relation to the availability of staff to discuss the project in Irish and the availability of project materials in the Irish language.

- Information was sought in relation to the engineering / build process of the WWTP and how the functionality of the plant works.
- A query was submitted in relation to where the wastewater currently being processed by the WWTP comes from, and whether or not the plant will be taking in wastewater from additional areas as a result of the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project.
- It was queried as to whether there are plans to extend the facility beyond the current parameters.
- The market for sludge fertilisers was queried.
- A query was raised in relation to whether other outfall locations were considered.
- A query was raised in relation to whether Irish Water considered the option of building a new plant elsewhere as an alternative to upgrading the existing plant and if so, why this option wasn't chosen.
- A query was raised in relation to the potential effects that dredging Dublin Harbour may have on cruise ships.
- A request was made for a long-term operational monitoring system to be put in place.

## Section 4: Acknowledgements and Next Steps

Irish Water wishes to thank all of the individuals, political representatives and organisations who expressed an interest in the project during the consultation period and in particular those who took the time to attend open days or make submissions.

All of the issues raised have been considered by the Project Team in developing and finalising the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade Project, and in preparing its planning application. This is documented in Volume 2, Section 2.5, Table 2.6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

The next step by the Project team is to submit the planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the project, which includes the EIAR. Following that submission, An Bord Pleanála will conduct a period of Statutory Consultation in line with the requirements of the relevant planning legislation.

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## Appendix A: Press Release and Media Coverage

Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Upgrade Project



Final  
Press Release

### **Irish Water launches consultation on Environmental and Natura Impact Statements for Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

#### ***-Utility will make significant savings on revised project by using advanced technology***

Irish Water, Ireland's national water utility responsible for providing and developing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland, has today launched an eight week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade Ireland's largest wastewater treatment plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The approved project included the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend Plant into Dublin Bay. Since being established, Irish Water has identified an advanced, nutrient-reduction treatment technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, removing the need to build the tunnel, and therefore delivering significant savings on this project estimated to be in the region of €170 million. This technology is already in use in two Irish Water wastewater treatment plants in Clonakilty and Carrigtwohill where significant cost savings are also being achieved.

The new planning application to be submitted in 2016 will seek permission to upgrade the Ringsend Plant through the use of this alternative technology. Irish Water is currently scoping the content of the two studies and invites interested parties to make submissions on what should be included these documents. A scoping document has been published on the project webpage ([www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)), which also explains how submissions can be made during the eight week consultation period. Submissions received on or before Tuesday, 17 May 2016 will be considered as part of the scoping process.

Commenting on the announcement, Donal O'Connor, Project Manager, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade at Irish Water said: "Irish Water is making real and significant progress addressing the most serious deficiencies in Ireland's wastewater treatment. The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally designed to treat wastewater for a capacity of 1.64 million population equivalent (PE) but is now operating over that capacity at 1.9 million PE. This project is vital to address that challenge and provide future capacity at this plant.

"The public consultation, on issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), is an important step in the next stage of this project. The advanced AGS technology that Irish Water has identified has removed the need to build the tunnel to relocate the discharge into Dublin Bay and will avoid significant additional cost on the project in the region of €170m. The upgrade to this plant, along with the proposed development of the Greater Dublin Drainage plant at Clonsilla, is a key part of Irish Water's plan to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area will have the sufficient wastewater treatment capacity to support the continued economic and population growth in the region. I encourage all interested parties to get involved now by making submissions on what issues should be considered in the EIS and NIS," concluded Donal O'Connor.

**ENDS**

Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Upgrade Project



### Project Specific Contacts for Further Information

Post: Ringsend WwTP Upgrade Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8  
Tel: 1890 989 310 or (01) 453 7063  
E-mail: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)  
Web: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

### Notes to Editor

- (i) The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently operating over capacity and is one of Irish Water's Major Capital Projects to ensure effective and sustainable wastewater services.

**ervia**

**MediaBook**

# Summary

Source	Media	Headline	Date	Page
The Herald	PRESS	Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project	20-Apr-2016	1
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Sunday Independent	PRESS	Irish Water's 316,000 on PR to deal with had press	20-Mar-2016	26
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Irish Times	PRESS	Irish Water to seek planning permission for 300m upgrade at Ringsend plant	15-Mar-2016	32
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Irish Independent	PRESS	Wastewater plant set to get 300m revamp	15-Mar-2016	35
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Fingal Independent	PRESS	Project team expects to lodge planning application for controversial giant sewage plant by end of year	08-Mar-2016	58
Irish Independent	PRESS	Almost 340 water schemes risk axe if Irish Water is scrapped	05-Mar-2016	59



# **Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project**

## Information Days

As part of an eight week public consultation on the scoping of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the **Ringsend** Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Irish Water will hold a number of information days to inform interested parties about the proposed project.

The public consultation is to invite submissions on issues to be considered in the EIS and the NIS, to be submitted with a planning application later this year to upgrade the **Ringsend** Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Members of the project team will be available at the following venues to provide further information and to answer any questions:

<b>Thursday, 21st April</b>	<b>Sutton:</b> Marine Hotel	10am to 2pm
	<b>Clontarf:</b> Clasac Centre	4pm to 7pm
<b>Saturday, 23rd April</b>	<b>Ringsend:</b> SPORTSCO, South Lotts Road	10am to 6pm
<b>Tuesday, 26th April</b>	<b>Killiney:</b> Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel	10am to 2pm
	<b>Dun Laoghaire:</b> Royal Marine Hotel	4pm to 8pm

The consultation period closes on 17th May 2016.

### **Safeguarding your water for your future.**

For further information visit [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

Alternatively, please contact the project team by:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or +353 1 453 7063





# Raw sewage problem at beach will not be fixed until next year

## Laura Larkin

A HOWTH beauty spot that is the site of a raw sewage outflow will not be fixed until at least next year due to funding issues.

Doldrum Bay, an area popular with walkers and locals, is the site of a broken sewage pipe that fouls the beach with effluent from around 100 nearby homes.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has directed Irish Water to come up with the best option to fix the problem at the beach and report back with a timeline for when the works will be completed.

No solution has yet been found, despite the fact that the deactivation of the pipe was ordered in 2011.

An "unseasonably prolonged dry period" before Christmas, when a survey of the site was due to take place, and an "array of environmental complexities" means that the final report from Irish Water has been delayed.

Correspondence to local man Patrick Jackson, who regularly cleans the bay and has been campaigning to have the sewage problem fixed, outlines the funding status of the project.

Any works at the site will not be financed until at least next year, as it is not included in the current funding cycle - which runs until the end of 2016.

"Irish Water has no funding secure to progress works at Doldrum Bay but will proceed with making a business case to Water Investment Approval Committee (WIAC) for funding

under the next investment cycle," the utility said.

## DISCHARGE

Without having funding approved it is not possible for the company to provide a timeline for when the discharge onto the beach will be stopped.

The project is listed for inclusion under the next round of funding, which covers 2017-2021, but Irish Water warned that "it should be noted... this funding has not yet been approved".

The Commission for Energy Regulation will have to assess the plan put forward by the utility before it is given the green light.

Mr Jackson said that the latest development in his year-long campaign was "shocking", with the company allowing the ongoing pollution of the beach for potentially years to come.

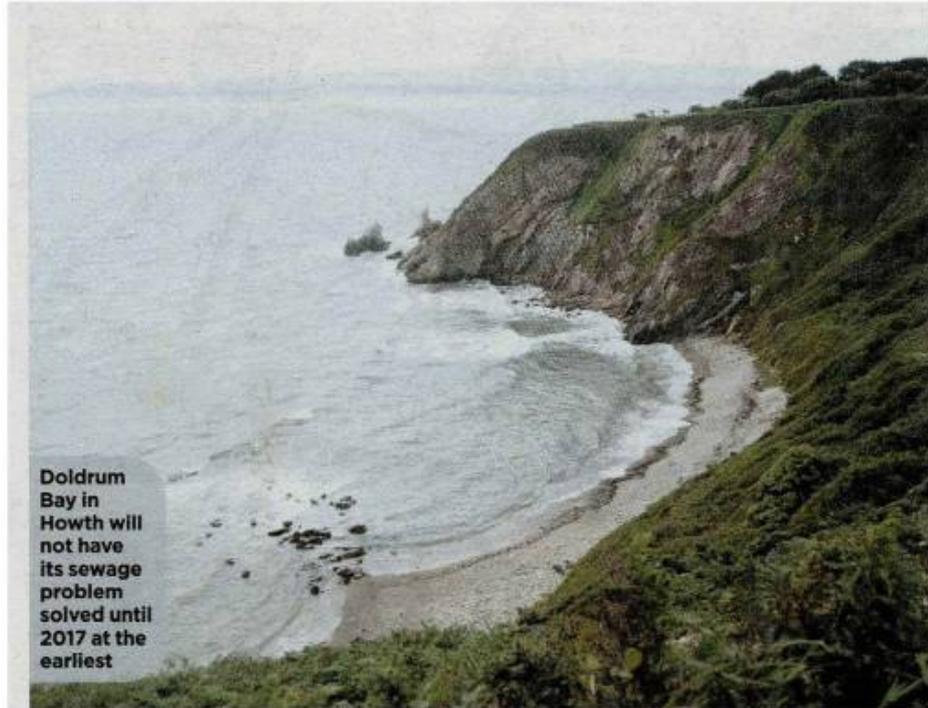
He has begun taking legal advice to investigate what action can be taken against the agencies involved in the operation of the wastewater network.

The broken pipe is located at the bottom of a cliff and is expected to pose a health and safety risk for workers carrying out any repair works or future maintenance.

In 2011, the deactivation of the pipe was ordered as part of the licence granted for the construction of the Ringsend wastewater works.

The cost of diverting the pipe to Ringsend could cost upwards of €1.5m.

A group of locals recently gathered to take part in a clean-up of the beach, which is now marked with a sign warning of the health and safety concerns.



Source: 98fm.com  
Date: 2016-04-18  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Raw Sewage Problem At Howth Beach  
URL: <http://www.98fm.com/reader/523.698/22061/>  
Extraction: 1 of 1

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## Raw Sewage Problem At Howth Beach

A broken sewage pipe that's pumping waste into the sea at Howth might not be fixed until at least 2017. Doldrum Bay is popular with walkers and locals but is being polluted by waste from around 100 nearby homes. Irish Water says it doesn't have the funding to sort the problem this year. The cost of diverting the broken pipe at Doldrum Bay to Ringsend could cost more than 1 and a half million euro. A group of locals recently gathered to take part in a clean-up of the beach, which is now marked with a sign warning of the health and safety concerns.

Title: No funding for broken sewage pipe that's pumping waste into the sea at Howth

Source: 98FM

Media Type: BROADCAST

Programme: 08:00 News

Presenter: Aideen Finnegan

Date: M, 18-April-2016, 08:00:12

Duration: 1

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## No funding for broken sewage pipe that's pumping waste into the sea at Howth

A broken sewage pipe that's pumping waste into the sea at Howth might not be fixed until next year.

Irish Water

Howth

**Ringsend**



# Raw sewage problem at beach will not be fixed until next year

**Laura Larkin**

A HOWTH beauty spot that is the site of a raw sewage outflow will not be fixed until at least next year due to funding issues.

Doldrum Bay, an area popular with walkers and locals, is the site of a broken sewage pipe that fouls the beach with effluent from around 100 nearby homes.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has directed Irish Water to come up with the best option to fix the problem at the beach and report back with a timeline for when the works will be completed.

No solution has yet been found, despite the fact that the deactivation of the pipe was ordered in 2011.

An "unseasonably prolonged dry period" before Christmas, when a survey of the site was due to take place, and an "array of environmental complexities" means that the final report from Irish Water has been delayed.

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Any works at the site will not be financed until at least next year, as it is not included in the current funding cycle - which runs until the end of 2016.

"Irish Water has no funding secure to progress works at Doldrum Bay but will proceed with making a business case to Water Investment Approval Committee (WIAC) for funding under the next investment cycle," the utility said.

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The project is listed for inclusion under the next round

of funding, which covers 2017-2021, but Irish Water warned that "it should be noted... this funding has not yet been approved".

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Mr Jackson said that the latest development in his year-long campaign was "shocking", with the company allowing the ongoing pollution of the beach for potentially years to come.

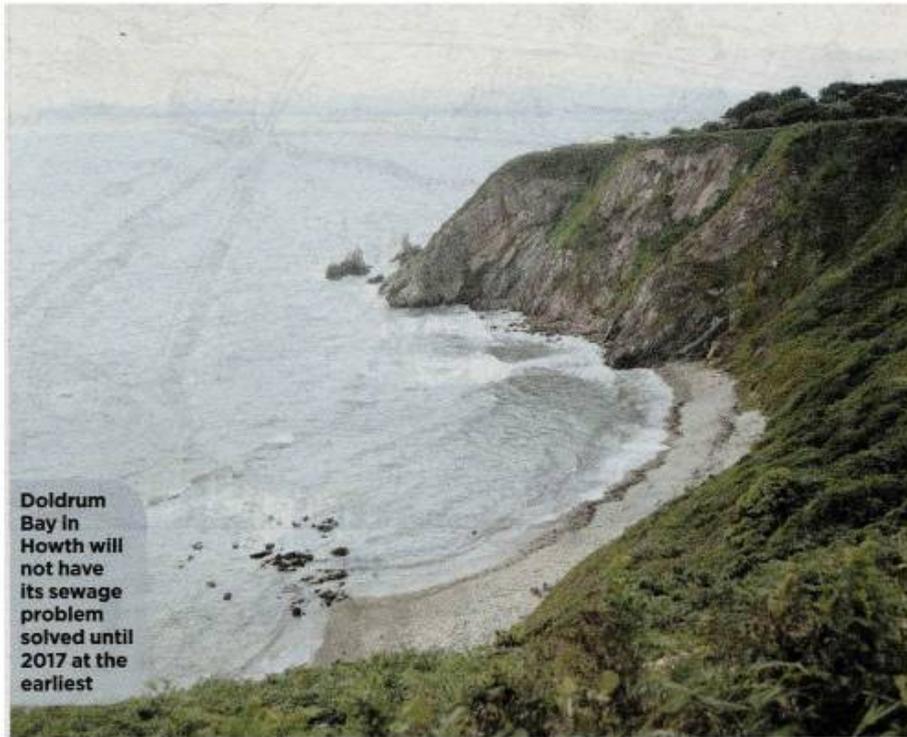
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In 2011, the deactivation of the pipe was ordered as part of the licence granted for the construction of the **Ringsend** wastewater works.

The cost of diverting the pipe to **Ringsend** could cost upwards of €1.5m.

A group of locals recently gathered to take part in a clean-up of the beach, which is now marked with a sign warning of the health and safety concerns.



**Doldrum Bay in Howth will not have its sewage problem solved until 2017 at the earliest**

Source: Irishtimes.com  
Date: 2016-04-11  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: EU takes action over sewage pollution in State's waterways  
URL: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/eu-takes-action-over-sewage-po...>  
Extraction: 1 of 3

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## EU takes action over sewage pollution in State's waterways



The EU Commission has escalated a case against Ireland over the State's failure to protect rivers and coastal areas from sewage pollution.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, which monitors compliance with the EU Waste Water Treatment Directive, 31 large urban areas failed to meet EU standards, while a further 45 urban areas had no treatment at all.

Engineers Ireland said it was clear the State's water infrastructure was "not fit for purpose" and fixing the problems would be "enormously challenging".

Irish Water put the cost of the upgrades involved at about €2 billion.

The escalation of the EU case involves the making of additional formal complaints against Ireland, after deadlines for improvements in the 12 large urban areas were not met.

The 12 large urban areas which failed to meet deadlines for improvements include the combined Ringaskiddy/Crosshaven/Carrigaline area of Co Cork which has a population of 117,000 people.

It also includes Killybegs, Co Donegal, which has a population of 23,000 and Arklow Co Wicklow, with 16,000.

Under the Waste Water Directive, issued in 1991, all three areas were to have had

Source: Irishtimes.com  
Date: 2016-04-11  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: EU takes action over sewage pollution in State's waterways  
URL: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/eu-takes-action-over-sewage-po...>  
Extraction: 2 of 3

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secondary treatment by December 2000.

The latest available estimates for compliance are December 2016 in the case of Ringaskiddy/ Crosshaven/ Carrigaline; summer 2017 for Killybegs and 2019 for Arklow.

Untreated sewage Arklow and Killybegs are also on the list of urban areas which have no treatment of sewage before it is discharged into the sea.

The EPA said urban areas receiving no treatment also include Youghal, Co Cork with a population of 15,000; Cobh, Co Cork (14,400); Passage West and Monkstown, Co Cork (9,120); Rush, Fingal, Co Dublin (7,800); Kilkee, Co Clare (5,770); and Kilrush, Co Clare (5,551).

Since the publication of the 2014 Urban Waste Water Treatment Report, Irish Water has said new plants have been completed at two of the 45 areas, Ardmore and Dunmore East in Co Waterford.

The 2015 report is expected later this year.

Areas that received preliminary treatment, "a basic form of treatment typically designed to remove floating debris, oils, fats, grease, grit, rags and large solids from the raw waste water", included the Ringaskiddy/ Crosshaven/ Carrigaline area and Bundoran, Co Donegal, which serves 13,034.

In terms of effluent quality from sewage treatment plants, the Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Works, which serves 2.1 million people in the greater Dublin area, failed the compliance test due to "quality".

Many area which discharge untreated sewage do so into special areas of conservation and specially protected areas for birds. The EPA said failure to properly treat sewage "can pose a risk to human health and the aquatic environment" .

David Flynn, EPA programme manager, said "ultimately the Commission may escalate this case all the way to the final stage if Ireland is not seen to be delivering the required large capital investment programme in waste water on a shorter timescale".

Irish Water said by the end of 2016 it would have invested some €650 million. It said it would continue to focus on the towns where there was no wastewater treatment at all.

"We have prioritised major infrastructure and investment of €162 million to provide for seven large urban areas with a commitment to end discharges of untreated waste to these areas by 2019.

"These are Cobh, Passage West/Monks town, Ringaskiddy/Crosshaven/Carrigaline, Youghal, Killybegs, Bundoran and Arklow.

"By the end of 2021 we will have addressed all areas, including the 38 smaller locations" said a spokeswoman.

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Media Type: Internet  
Title: EU takes action over sewage pollution in State's waterways  
URL: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/eu-takes-action-over-sewage-po...>  
Extraction: 3 of 3

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# EU to take action as Ireland continues to dump raw sewage into waterways

Bill of €2bn to bring State's waste-water services up to standard, says Irish Water

EPA says 31 large urban areas have inadequate treatment, 45 have none at all

## TIM O'BRIEN

The EU Commission has escalated a case against Ireland over the State's failure to protect rivers and coastal areas from sewage pollution.

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Engineers Ireland said it was clear the State's water infrastructure was "not fit for purpose" and fixing the problems would be "enormously challenging". Irish Water put the cost of the upgrades involved at about €2 billion.

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Under the Waste Water Directive, issued in 1991, all three areas were to have had secondary treatment by December 2000.

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### Untreated sewage

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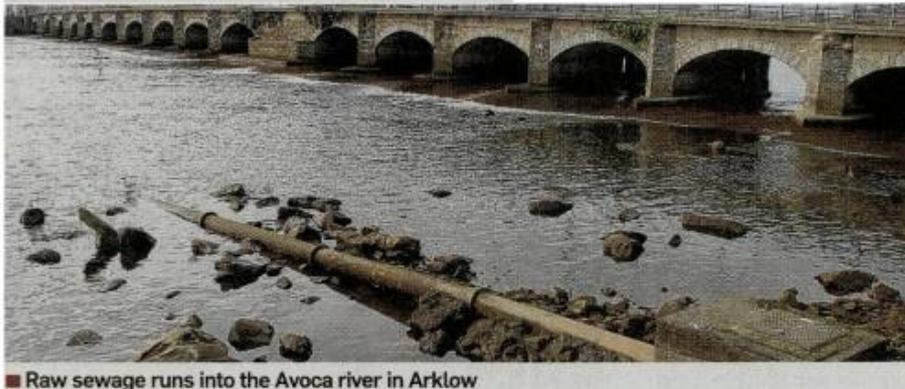
"By the end of 2021 we will have addressed all areas, including the 38 smaller locations" said a spokeswoman.

## Urban areas with no sewage treatment in 2014

1	Clare	Ballyvaughan	13	Carrigaline	
2	Clare	Clarecastle	14	Cork	Ringaskiddy village
3	Clare	Kilkee	15	Cork	Timoleague
4	Clare	Kilrush	16	Cork	Whitegate/Aghada
5	Clare	Liscannor	17	Cork	Youghal
6	Cork	Ballycotton	18	Donegal	Bundoran
7	Cork	Castletownbere	19	Donegal	Burtonport
8	Cork	Castletownshend	20	Donegal	Coolatee Housing Scheme
9	Cork	Cobh	21	Donegal	Falcarragh
10	Cork	Inchigeelagh	22	Donegal	Kerrykeel
11	Cork	Passage West/Monkstown			Kilcar
12	Cork	Ringaskiddy/Crosshaven/			

23	Donegal	.....Killybegs
24	Donegal	.....Moville
25	Donegal	.....Ramelton
26	Donegal	.....Rathmullen
27	Donegal	.....St Johnston
28	Dublin	.....Rush
29	Galway	.....Ahascragh
30	Galway	.....Carraroe
31	Galway	.....Kinvarra
32	Galway	.....Roundstone
33	Galway	.....Spiddal
34	Kerry	.....Ballylongford
35	Louth	.....Omeath
36	Mayo	.....Belmullet
37	Mayo	.....Killala
38	Waterford	.....Ardmore
39	Waterford	.....Dunmore East
40	Wexford	.....Arthurstown
41	Wexford	.....Ballyhack
42	Wexford	.....Duncannon
43	Wexford	.....Kilmore Quay
44	Wicklow	.....Arklow
45	Wicklow	.....Avoca

Source: EPA Urban Waste Water Treatment Report 2014



■ Raw sewage runs into the Avoca river in Arklow



■ Former town councillor Peter Dempsey campaigning on the issue in Arklow, where untreated sewage is still being released into local waters.  
 PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY O'NEILL



## Irish Water: no timeline for fix of Howth sewage leak

BY FEARGHAL O'CONNOR

Irish Water does not know when it will be able to fix an uncontrolled discharge of sewage and septic tank effluent across a beach on Howth Head, it said in a memo.

"It is not possible at this early stage to provide timelines for cessation of the discharge from Doldrum Bay," said the update sent to residents last week.

A mixture of raw sewage and septic tank effluent from 44 nearby homes runs from the top of the beach at Doldrum Bay, instead of being carried by an outfall pipe across the beach and into Dublin Bay.

"It should be noted however that whilst the project is listed on the emerging proposed CIP [capital investment plan] 2017-2021, this funding has not yet been approved," said the memo.

The now damaged outfall pipe was supposed to be deactivated by the end of 2011 as a condition of the license granted for the building of the huge Ringsend wastewater works on the opposite side of the bay. Irish Water had committed last summer to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that it would provide a best option to fix the problem by the end of 2015.

Works to discontinue the discharge at Doldrum Bay are not included in Irish Water's current capital investment plan, but the water company said in the latest memo that it has "proceeded with site investigations at Doldrum Bay and the project has been included in the emerging CIP

for the next investment cycle".

But the memo said that "unfortunately due [sic] unavoidable delays in completion of site investigations and the array of environmental complexities which require thorough appraisal, delivery of the final option report has been delayed."

The memo noted that the overall capital investment plan was subject to approval from the Commission for Energy Regulation but that "inclusion of a project in the Irish Water capital investment plan does not automatically confer approval; an individual project must be subject to detailed appraisal on its own terms."

The memo said that although there is currently no funding secured to progress with works at Doldrum Bay, Irish Water would "proceed with making a business case" to its Water Investment Approval Committee for funding under the 2017-2021 investment cycle.

## You are at:



In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade Ireland's largest wastewater treatment plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The approved project included the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend Plant into Dublin Bay. Since being established, Irish Water has identified an advanced, nutrient-reduction treatment technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, removing the need to build the tunnel, and therefore delivering significant savings on this project estimated to be in the region of €170 million. This technology is already in use in two Irish Water wastewater treatment plants in Clonakilty and Carrigtwohill where significant cost savings are also being achieved.

Aerial view of a large industrial facility, likely a wastewater treatment plant, with a grid-like structure.

**AG**  
Acheson & Glover

**INGENUITY  
BUILT IN**

When we design a product, we think about it from every dimension; how it will perform, how it will be installed, how it will affect the environment.

Innovation has become second nature to us because we've been doing it for over 50 years. It's ingenuity built in.

Source: irishbuildingmagazine.ie  
Date: 2016-03-30  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: You are at:  
URL: <http://www.irishbuildingmagazine.ie/2016/03/30/consultation-launched-on-environm...>  
Extraction: 2 of 2



The new planning application to be submitted in 2016 will seek permission to upgrade the Ringsend Plant through the use of this alternative technology. Irish Water is currently scoping the content of the two studies and invites interested parties to make submissions on what should be included in these documents. A scoping document has been published on the project webpage, which also explains how submissions can be made during the eight week consultation period. Submissions received on or before Tuesday, 17 May 2016 will be considered as part of the scoping process.

Commenting on the announcement, Donal O'Connor, Project Manager, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade at Irish Water said: *" Irish Water is making real and significant progress addressing the most serious deficiencies in Ireland's wastewater treatment. The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally designed to treat wastewater for a capacity of 1.64 million population equivalent (PE) but is now operating over that capacity at 1.9 million PE. This project is vital to address that challenge and provide future capacity at this plant.*

*" The public consultation, on issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), is an important step in the next stage of this project. The advanced AGS technology that Irish Water has identified has removed the need to build the tunnel to relocate the discharge into Dublin Bay and will avoid significant additional cost on the project in the region of €170m. The upgrade to this plant, along with the proposed development of the Greater Dublin Drainage plant at Clonshaugh, is a key part of Irish Water's plan to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area will have the sufficient wastewater treatment capacity to support the continued economic and population growth in the region. I encourage all interested parties to get involved now by making submissions on what issued should be considered in the EIS and NIS ."* concluded Donal O'Connor.

## Savings identified for Ringsend waste project



IRISH Water has launched an eight-week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.

These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade Ireland's largest wastewater treatment plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The approved project included the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend plant into Dublin Bay.

Since being established, Irish Water has identified an advanced, nutrient-reduction treatment

Source: dublinpeople.com  
Date: 2016-03-25  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Savings identified for Ringsend waste project  
URL: <http://www.dublinpeople.com/news/southside/articles/2016/03/25/4116555-savings-i...>  
Extraction: 2 of 2

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technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location. This would remove the need to build the tunnel and therefore deliver significant savings on the project, estimated to be in the region of €170 million.

This technology is already in use in two Irish Water wastewater treatment plants in Clonakilty and Carrigwohill where the company says significant cost savings are also being achieved.

The new planning application to be submitted in 2016 will seek permission to upgrade the Ringsend plant through the use of this alternative technology. Irish Water is currently scoping the content of the two studies and invites interested parties to make submissions on what should be included in these documents. A scoping document has been published on the project webpage ([www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)), which also explains how submissions can be made during the eight-week consultation period.

Submissions received on or before Tuesday, May 17, will be considered as part of the scoping process.

## Savings identified for major Ringsend wastewater project



IRISH Water has launched an eight-week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.

These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

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## Savings identified for Ringsend waste project

Tony McCullagh

**IRISH Water has launched an eight-week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.**

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can be made during the eight-week consultation period.

Submissions received on or before Tuesday, May 17, will be considered as part of the scoping process.

Source: newsfour.ie  
Date: 2016-03-22  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Let Your Voice Be Heard on the Ringsend Wastewater Project  
URL: <http://www.newsfour.ie/2016/03/let-your-voice-be-heard-on-the-ringsend-wastewate...>  
Extraction: 1 of 2

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## Let Your Voice Be Heard on the Ringsend Wastewater Project



Pic: Eric Jones via Wikimedia Commons

Residents of Dublin 4 can have their voice heard by participating in the Irish Water consultation on the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. They can do this by making a submission with their feedback on the project scoping documents.

In 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project from Dublin City Council, which has been providing wastewater treatment to

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Title: Let Your Voice Be Heard on the Ringsend Wastewater Project  
URL: <http://www.newsfour.ie/2016/03/let-your-voice-be-heard-on-the-ringsend-wastewate...>  
Extraction: 2 of 2

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Dublin since 2016. This plant is the largest treatment plant in Ireland and treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area and parts of Meath.

However, the plant has now run into an issue that it needs to be upgraded, as it is operating over its design capacity. This will meet the infrastructural requirements for the plant to treat the amount of wastewater that will need to be generated to deal with the growing population and industrial needs of the area. Such measures are needed to ensure the safety of human health and the protection of the environment.

Irish Water's current plan is to use Aerobic Granular Sludge technology to allow the treated wastewater to stay at its current location rather than building expensive tunnels to discharge it. An advantage of this is that the wastewater can be treated at a higher standard, and instead of discharging it 9km out into Dublin Bay it can be done so from its current location on the Lower Liffey Estuary.

Such measures will significantly maximise efficiency, reduce risk and save money, as well as producing a higher quality of treated wastewater. They also allow for the recovery of the non-renewable energy source phosphorus, which would otherwise be discharged into Dublin Bay and could not then be reused in agriculture.

The team involved in the project wish to learn the opinions of the locals on the issues of environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been mentioned in the scoping document, additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental aspects and other information or projects that are relevant in the development of EIS/NIS.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to this can do so by emailing [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie) or posting to the address: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8.

Submissions must be made before Tuesday 17 May to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement and the Natura Impact Statement.

Irish Water will also be hosting the following open days where residents can get first hand information about the upgrade of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Marine Hotel, Sutton: Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 10am to 2pm  
Clasac Centre, Clontarf: Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 4pm to 7pm  
SPORTSCO, Ringsend: Saturday, 23rd April from 10am to 6pm  
Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney: Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 10am to 2pm  
Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire: Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 4pm to 8pm

Anyone seeking further information can contact Irish Water directly by calling 1890 989 310 or (01) 453 7063, or at the website [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend).

By Kevin Carney

On March 22, 2016 / Featured

Source: Independent.ie  
Date: 2016-03-20  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Irish Water's €316,000 on PR to deal with bad press  
URL: <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/water/irish-water-crisis/irish-waters-31600...>  
Extraction: 1 of 3

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## Irish Water's €316,000 on PR to deal with bad press



Emma Jane HadeTwitter

Published 20/03/2016 | 02:30

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Anti-water charges protesters make their way down Dublin's O'Connell St in February. Photo: Frank McGrath

Embattled Irish Water is spending a fortune trying to improve its public image.

[Share Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google](#) [Email](#) [Go To Comments](#)

Ervia - the parent group of the under-pressure utility company - has admitted it spent more than €30,000 on external press and communications advisers in just four months.

Documents released to the Sunday Independent through a Freedom of Information request have shown that the body spent a total of €316,948 on hiring four Dublin-based public relations firms since January 2014.

However, the company - which employs an internal three-person, full-time press team -

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Extraction: 2 of 3

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claims the high level of spending was necessary as it believed the media attention Irish Water received was "entirely unprecedented".

And Ervia said the substantial spend is "directly related to the significant and continuing media attention focused on Irish Water".

Since January 2014, the majority of the six-figure sum spent on external communications went to the Murray Consultants group, who have received €269,745.

A further €15,643 was given to Terry Prone's Communications Clinic in a one-off payment in August 2014, while Fleishman Hillard received €29,560 for work over a nine-month period in 2014.

Pembroke, which is now part of the massive PSG firm, received a sum of €2,000 for work carried out in January 2014.

The biggest single sum paid out was €36,153 in March 2015. This was also the same month that tens of thousands of protesters converged on O'Connell Street for an anti- water charges rally.

Just over €29,000 was paid out in November 2014. This was the same month that environment minister Alan Kelly and Irish Water managing director John Tierney apologised for what they described as "major failings" in how the semi-state company was set up.

A spokesperson for the company said that since the company was established in 2013, it has addressed more than 7,200 individual media queries.

"Irish Water has featured more than 72,602 times across print, broadcast and online media articles up to the end of 2015.

"The scale of the response required from this company to deal with this media attention has been significant and has directly contributed to a need to source additional professional communications support to deal with these queries and to assist in the proactive planning of specific media campaigns," a spokesperson added.

It is understood that both Fleishman and Murray groups provided "strategic proactive media planning support".

"This kind of external strategic support is normal for any large company with a large customer base and wide group of stakeholders," it said.

The internal press team comprises a head of media relations who joined the controversial company in March 2015, a senior press officer who was hired in June 2014 and a regional media specialist, who was taken on last December.

They work for Ervia and provide 'media support' across the group, which includes Irish Water.

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Extraction: 3 of 3

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The spokesperson said the companies competing to supply the 'communication support services' submitted tenders to Ervia and that the best value was sought.

"The process Ervia uses in acquiring goods and services at competitive prices meets best-practice standards as regards to public sector tendering."

Last week it emerged that Irish Water planned a €300m upgrade of the country's largest sewage plant in Ringsend, Dublin, which will increase its capacity by 50pc.

Sunday Independent



## Irish Water's €316,000 on PR to deal with bad press

**EMMA JANE HADE**

EMBATTLED Irish Water is spending a fortune trying to improve its public image.

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Documents released to the *Sunday Independent* through a Freedom of Information request have shown that the body spent a total of €316,948 on hiring four Dublin-based public relations firms since January 2014.

However, the company – which employs an internal three-person, full-time press team – claims the high level of spending was necessary as it believed the media attention Irish Water received was “entirely unprecedented”.

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Last week it emerged that Irish Water planned a €300m upgrade of the country's largest sewage plant in **Ringsend**, Dublin, which will increase its capacity by 50pc.



**APOLOGY:** Elizabeth Arnett, head of communications at Irish Water, Alan Kelly and MD John Tierney said sorry for fiasco

Source: Irishtimes.com  
Date: 2016-03-16  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: An essential investment in water treatment for Dublin  
URL: <http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorial/an-essential-investment-in-water-tre...>  
Extraction: 1 of 2

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## An essential investment in water treatment for Dublin



Irish Water's plans to spend a further €300 million on upgrading the State's largest municipal sewage treatment plant at Ringsend, in Dublin, underlines the importance of having a clear, long-term focus on investment in water services.

Once a very rudimentary facility, where solids were separated from liquids before the former were dumped off the nose of Howth and the latter discharged into the inner bay, the plant has already been upgraded by Dublin City Council. But now it needs 50 per cent more capacity to process sewage generated by a population equivalent of 2.4 million people, with mid-2020 set as the completion date.

Having failed EU water quality tests in recent years and previously caused noxious odours as far west as Donnybrook, the Ringsend plant is no longer fit for purpose. The city council's proposed solution of constructing a 9km pipeline into the Irish Sea – approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012 – has been reviewed and found wanting by Irish Water.

Instead, the State-owned utility intends to adopt relatively new aerobic granulation technology, which involves the removal of organic matter, nitrogen and phosphorus, allowing treated waste water to be discharged into the sea with no adverse consequences for bathing water quality.

Irish Water, a political whipping-boy since it was established in 2014, must be seen to be busy addressing issues that fall under its remit, whether bringing to an end "boil water" notices in Co Roscommon or dealing with deficiencies in sewage treatment so that Ireland will be in a position to comply with the EU water framework directive by 2020.

This will inevitably involve investing serious money in eliminating raw sewage discharges from smaller towns as well as ensuring that everyone is supplied with potable water of the highest quality.

How all of this could be funded if water charges – and Irish Water itself – were abolished, as some politicians are demanding, is a moot point. Given the scale of investment needed over the next 10 years or more, the only alternative would be to increase taxes to foot what will be

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Extraction: 2 of 2

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## Water

### An essential investment

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Extraction: 1 of 2

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## Dublin's stinking summers and pricey sewerage upgrades



Twenty years ago, following years of stinking summers and damning European water pollution reports, Dublin Corporation announced plans to end the practice of dumping raw sewage into the Irish Sea.

At the time up to 40 million gallons of sewage shot out of a pipe at Howth Head every day. In addition three boatloads of sludge – effluent treated to a very basic standard at the outdated treatment plant in Ringsend – were dumped each week 12 miles offshore.

In June 2003 the new Ringsend waste water treatment works began to operate. The following November Dublin City Council reached agreement with the then government to extend the plant, which had cost €300 million, because it could not cope with the amount of sewage it was receiving.

The plant did substantially improve water quality in Dublin Bay. Beaches that used to have severely polluted bathing waters, such as Dollymount, were able to meet “blue flag” standards.

However, even on its first day of operation, the plant did not meet the EU waste water treatment directive standard and a noxious smell persistently affected the surrounding communities for years.

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**Inability to cope** The smell was largely due to the plant's inability to cope with the volume of waste pumped in from the city's sewerage system. It had capacity to deal with the sewage of about 1.64 million people but was receiving sewage equivalent to a population of 1.9 million when the loads from industry were taken into account.

About €40 million was spent on odour alleviation measures and by the end of 2008 the problem was substantially fixed, but the capacity problem and the failure to comply with EU standards still needed to be addressed. However, it was not until 2011 that the council sought permission to extend the capacity of the plant to a 2.4 million population equivalent, including the construction of a 9km (5.6 mile) pipeline to take the treated waste water outside Dublin Bay for disposal.

**Stumbling block** The council secured permission for the scheme from in November 2012. But in 2013 the project hit a stumbling block when the Merrion Residents' Association took a High Court action against the construction of the pipe.

The association lost the case but as a result of the delay no contracts had been signed for the scheme before the handover to Irish Water in January 2014.

Irish Water's engineers said new technologies have emerged in recent years that are suitable for upgrading the plant at a far lower cost than the pipeline option. The Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) system has been in operation in the Netherlands for several years and since last year has been in use in plants in Clonakilty and Carrigtwohill, Co Cork.

This system is cheaper than the council's project, Irish Water says, but the utility's figures are difficult to grasp.

When first proposed, almost two years ago, it said that the new system would cost €170 million and it said the council's pipe project would have cost €340 million.

Irish Water now says that the AGS plan will cost €300 million but that the council's scheme would have cost about €500-€600 million.

**Ringsend by the numbers 2003** €300 million Ringsend Sewage Plant opens.

**2011** Dublin City Council applies for permission to extend the plant and build 9km outfall pipe at cost of €250 million.

**2013** Cost is revised to €270 million.

**2014** Irish Water says council pipe project would cost €340 million. It proposes Aerobic Granular Sludge system costing an estimated €170 million.

**2016** Irish Water revises its project costs to €300 million and says pipeline would have cost €500-€600 million



# Irish Water to seek planning permission for €300m upgrade at Ringsend plant

Revised estimates say scheme will cost €30m more than original city council plan

Plant will process sewage of 2.4 million people and comply with EU directives

**OLIVIA KELLY**  
Dublin Correspondent

The Republic's largest sewage plant, in Ringsend, Dublin, is to be increased in capacity by 50 per cent in a €300 million development by Irish Water.

The company is to seek planning permission this year to extend and upgrade the plant that serves Dublin city and county and parts of Meath. It has been failing to cope with the amount of sewage it receives since it opened in 2003, and has failed EU water quality tests in the past two years.

The extension will give the plant the capacity to process the sewage of 2.4 million people and allow it to comply with the EU water quality directives by mid-2020.

The company would not comment on the effect of any decision by a new government to abolish Irish Water, but said the project would continue to be required. An Bord Pleanála has confirmed that the planning application would not fall if Irish Water was abolished.

Irish Water has scrapped Dublin City Council's earlier plans, approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012, to expand the capacity of the plant by constructing a 9km pipe into the Irish Sea.

The council's €270 million project was due to begin construction in 2014.

#### Council scheme

But in May 2014, four months after it took over responsibility for water services, Irish Water said the council's scheme would cost €340 million. It said it could achieve the same result without the pipe, using new sludge-processing technology, at an estimated cost of €170 million.

The company has now radically revised these estimates and says the council's pipe pro-

ject would have cost €500-€600 million and its own project will cost €300 million, not €170 million.

"Detailed project design, from which accurate costs could only be derived for the first time, began in late 2014. The design of the project is now well advanced and realistic cost estimates are continually updated," a spokeswoman for the company said.

"In 2015 and 2016 two independent costings were carried out to verify the likely full cost of the 2012 approved project, including the tunnel. This estimated the actual total full project cost to be in the region of €500-€600million . . . The most up-to-date estimate of the upgrade without the tunnel is in the region of €300 million."

Irish Water project manager Donal O'Connor said new technology, which has come into use since the council applied for its scheme, will allow the upgrade of the plant to meet EU standards, and its expansion to deal with the equivalent of 2.4 million people's waste, without the tunnel.

#### Technology

The sewage treatment technology known as aerobic granular sludge would allow the discharge of treated waste water to remain at its current location in Dublin Bay, removing the need to build the 9km tunnel, Mr O'Connor said.

Irish Water has initiated an eight-week public consultation process on the project and will apply for planning permission towards the end of this year.

Construction work on the upgrade is expected to start in 2017 and to be completed in two phases by mid-2020.





## Dublin's stinking summers and the cost of shovelling effluent

European pressure ended dumping at sea but the system still needs work



### Olivia Kelly Background

Twenty years ago, following years of stinking summers and damning European water pollution reports, Dublin Corporation announced plans to end the practice of dumping raw sewage into the Irish Sea.

At the time, up to 40 million gallons of sewage shot out of a pipe at Howth Head every day. In addition three boatloads of sludge – effluent treated to a very basic standard at the outdated treatment plant in Ringsend – were dumped each week 12 miles offshore.

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The plant did substantially improve water quality in Dublin Bay. Beaches that used to have severely polluted bathing waters, such as Dollymount, were able to meet “blue flag” standards.

However, even on its first day of operation, the plant did not meet the EU waste water treatment directive standard and a noxious smell persistently affected the surrounding communities for years.

**Inability to cope**  
The smell was largely due to the plant's inability to cope with the volume of waste pumped in from the city's sewerage system. It had capacity to deal with the sewage of about 1.64 million people but was receiving sewage equivalent to a population of 1.9 million when the loads from industry were taken into account.

About €40 million was spent on odour alleviation measures and by the end of 2008 the problem was substantially fixed, but the capacity problem and the failure to comply with EU standards still needed to be addressed. However, it was not until 2011 that the council sought permission to extend the capacity of the plant to a 2.4 million population equivalent,

including the construction of a 9km pipeline to take the treated waste water outside Dublin Bay for disposal.

#### Stumbling block

The council secured permission for the scheme from An Bord Pleanála in November 2012. But in 2013 the project hit a stumbling block when the Sandymount and Merrion Residents' Association took a High Court action against the construction of the pipe.

The association lost the case, but as a result of the delay no contracts had been signed for the scheme before the handover to Irish Water in January 2014.

Irish Water's engineers said new technologies had emerged in recent years that were suitable for upgrading the plant at a far lower cost than the pipeline option. The aerobic granular sludge (AGS) system had been in operation in the Netherlands for several years and since last year has been in use in plants in Clonakilty and Carrigtwohill, Co Cork.

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### Ringsend plant By the numbers

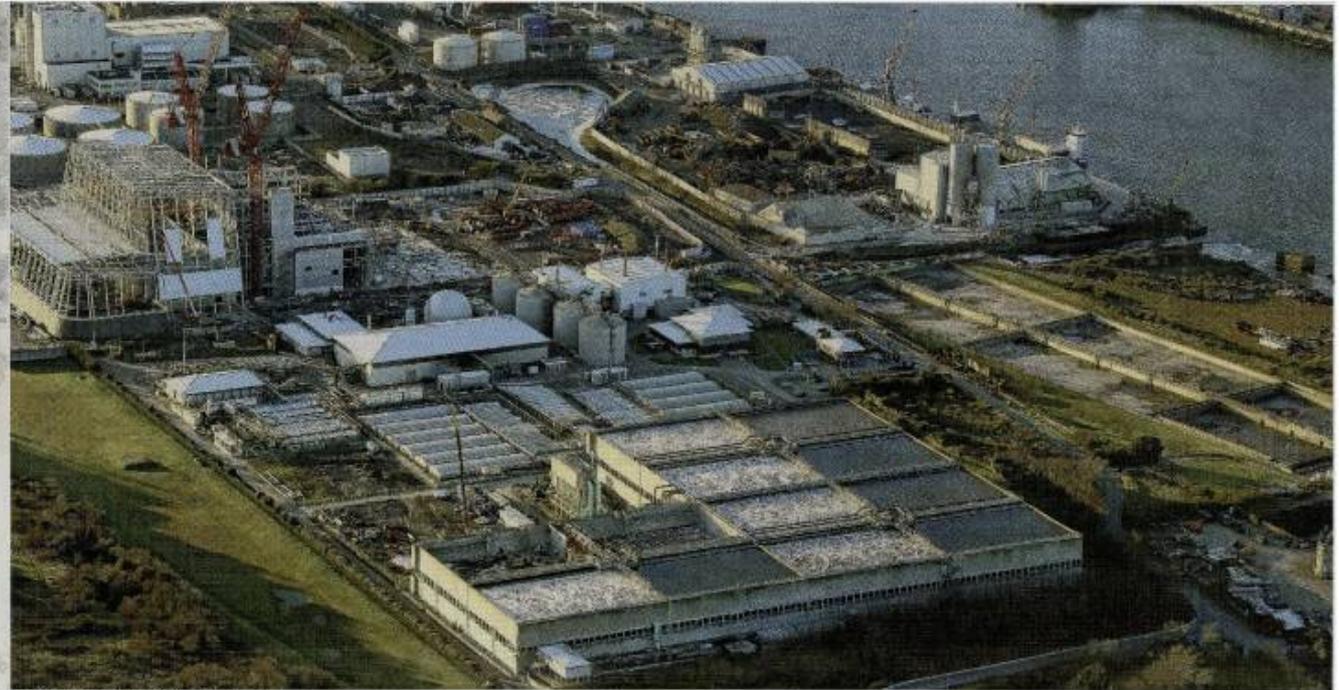
**2003** €300 million Ringsend Sewage Plant opens.

**2011** Dublin City Council applies for permission to extend the plant and build 9km outfall pipe at cost of €250 million.

**2013** Cost is revised to €270 million.

**2014** Irish Water says council pipe project would cost €340 million. It proposes Aerobic Granular Sludge system costing an estimated €170 million.

**2016** Irish Water revises its project costs to €300 million and says pipeline would have cost €500-€600 million



■ The waste water treatment plant at **Ringsend**. It improved water quality in Dublin Bay substantially but did not meet the EU waste water treatment directive standard



## Wastewater plant set to get €300m revamp

IRISH Water is planning a €300m upgrade of the country's biggest wastewater treatment plant at Ringsend in Dublin.

The existing plant is designed to process wastewater from a population of 1.64 million, but is overloaded and currently treats the equivalent waste from more than 1.9 million people.

The upgrade was originally approved in 2012 and involved construction of a 9km sea outfall tunnel, which would pump the treated effluent into Dublin Bay, south of Howth.

However, the utility now proposes to use a treatment technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, eliminating the need for the tunnel.

The technology is

already in use at two plants at Clonakilty and Carrigtwohill and will reduce the cost by €170m.

A spokesman said the expanded plant would provide enough capacity to meet the capital's needs for at least the next 20 years. It will also reduce operating costs by around 10-15pc, primarily through lower energy bills.

The Ringsend plant has been providing wastewater treatment since 1906. The existing plant was commissioned in 2003, and treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin area.

The upgrade, coupled with a new regional wastewater plant planned in north Dublin at Clonshaugh, will ensure that the city's growing population can be catered for. When complete, the plant will be capable of treating wastewater from a 2.1 million people. There will be an eight-week public consultation, before planning permission is sought later this year.

If approved, the bulk of the works will be completed by mid-2020.

Title: Big southside sewage plant expansion plan

Source: Q102

Media Type: BROADCAST

Programme: 09:00 News

Presenter: Michael McArdle

Date: T, 15-March-2016, 09:00:27

Duration: 1

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# Big southside sewage plant expansion plan

A southside sewage treatment plant is to double in size in an effort to meet growing demand.

## **Ringsend**

Deirdre Farrelly, reporter

Irish Water

EU

An Bord Pleanála

Title: Irish Water looking for €300m upgrade of sewage plant in Ringsend

Source: 98FM

Media Type: BROADCAST

Programme: 09:00 News

Presenter: Aideen Finnegan

Date: T, 15-March-2016, 09:01:47

Duration: 1

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## Irish Water looking for €300m upgrade of sewage plant in Ringsend

Irish Water is looking for a €300m upgrade of the sewage plant in **Ringsend**.

|  
|

Irish Water

**Ringsend**

|  
EU

Source: constructionireland.ie  
Date: 2016-03-15  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Plans Progress To Upgrade Ringsend Water Treatment Plant  
URL: <http://www.constructionireland.ie/construction-news/211236/plans-progress-to-upg...>  
Extraction: 1 of 2

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# Plans Progress To Upgrade Ringsend Water Treatment Plant

Construction News 15/03/2016



**Irish Water is to submit plans to upgrade Ringsend Water Treatment Plant in Dublin towards the end of 2016.** In the meantime, the firm has launched a public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the plant. The two documents will form part of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The new planning application will seek permission to upgrade the Ringsend Plant through the use of this alternative technology. Irish Water is currently scoping the content of the two studies and invites interested parties to make submissions on what should be included in these documents.

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The eight week public consultation will close on Tuesday, 17 May. Donal O'Connor, Project Manager, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade at Irish Water said: "Irish Water is making real and significant progress addressing the most serious deficiencies in Ireland's wastewater treatment. The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally designed to treat wastewater for a capacity of 1.64 million population equivalent (PE) but is now operating over that capacity at 1.9 million PE. This project is vital to address that challenge and provide future capacity at this plant." (CD/LM) News Archive



# Waste plant set to get €300m investment

## WATER

**Paul Melia**

IRISH Water is planning a €300m upgrade of the waste-water treatment plant at **Ringsend**.

The existing plant is designed to process wastewater from a population of 1.64 million, but is overloaded and currently treats the equivalent waste from more than 1.9 million people.

The upgrade was originally approved in 2012 and was to involve the construction of a 9km sea outfall tunnel, which would pump the treated effluent into Dublin Bay, south of Howth.

## DISCHARGE

However, the utility now proposes to use a treatment technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, eliminating the need for the tunnel.

A spokesman said the expanded plant would provide enough capacity to meet the capital's needs for at least the next 20 years.

The **Ringsend** plant has been providing wastewater treatment since 1906.

The existing plant was commissioned in 2003, and treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin area.

The upgrade will ensure that the city's growing population can be catered for.

When complete, the plant will be capable of treating wastewater from 2.1 million people.

Source: Irishtimes.com  
Date: 2016-03-14  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Irish Water to seek permission for €170m Ringsend upgrade  
URL: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/irish-water-to-seek-permission-for-17...>  
Extraction: 1 of 2

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## Irish Water to seek permission for €170m Ringsend upgrade



The Republic's largest sewage plant in Ringsend, Dublin is to be increased in capacity by 50 per cent in a €300 million development by Irish Water.

The company is to seek planning permission this year to extend and upgrade the plant that serves Dublin city and county and parts of Meath. It has been failing to cope with the amount of sewage it receives since it opened in 2003, and has failed EU water quality tests in the last two years.

The extension will give the plant capacity to process the sewage of 2.4 million people and allow it to comply with the EU water quality directives by mid-2020.

The company would not comment on the effect of any decision by a new government to abolish Irish Water., but said the project would continue to be required. An Bord Pleanála has confirmed the planning application would not fall if Irish Water was abolished.

Irish Water has scrapped Dublin City Council's earlier plans, approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012, to expand the capacity of the plant by constructing a 9km pipe into the Irish Sea. The council's €270 million project was due to begin construction in 2014.

Revised estimates

But in May 2014, four months after it took over responsibility for water services, Irish Water

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said the council's scheme would cost €340 million. It said it could achieve the same result without the pipe, using new sludge processing technology, at an estimated cost of €170 million.

The company has now radically revised these estimates and says the council's pipe project would have cost €500-€600 million, and its project will cost €300 million, not €170 million.

"Detailed project design, from which accurate costs could only be derived for the first time, began in late 2014. The design of the project is now well advanced and realistic cost estimates are continually updated on an ongoing basis," said a spokeswoman for the company.

"In 2015 and 2016 two independent costings were carried out to verify the likely full cost of the 2012 approved project including the tunnel. This estimated the actual total full project cost to be in the region of €500-€600million . . . the most up-to-date estimate of the upgrade without the tunnel is in the region of €300 million."

Irish Water project manager Donal O'Connor said new technology, which has come in to use since the council applied for its scheme, will allow the upgrade of the plant to meet EU standards, and its expansion to deal with the equivalent of 2.4 million people's waste, without the tunnel.

The sewage treatment technology known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), would allow the discharge of treated waste water to remain at its current location in Dublin Bay, removing the need to build the 9km tunnel, Mr O'Connor said.

The company has initiated an eight-week public consultation process on the projet and will apply for planning permission towards the end of this year.

Construction work is expected to start in 2017 and be completed in two phases by mid-2020.

Source: Independent.ie  
Date: 2016-03-12  
Media Type: Internet  
Title: Sewage plant concern  
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Extraction: 1 of 3

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## Sewage plant concern

John Manning

Published 12/03/2016 | 00:00

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Marine ground investigations were carried out at Portmarnock beach

The project team that hope to bring the outfall from a giant regional sewage plant off the shore at Portmarnock and out beyond Ireland's Eye say they are satisfied that effluent only needs a 'secondary' level of treatment because its receiving waters just 1km off the small island are not 'sensitive' enough to require the higher standard 'tertiary' treatment.

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The Greater Dublin Drainage Team, who are responsible for the project, repeated once again that there are no plans for the effluent from the planned regional sewage plant at Clonsaugh to be given the tertiary or highest level of water treatment before entering the sea, just 1km north-east of Ireland's Eye, from a pipe that will leave the shore at Portmarnock.

Cllr Keith Redmond (Renua) asked what level of treatment this wastewater would have before entering the sea and was told by Peter O'Reilly of the project team within Irish Water, that 'at the moment it is secondary treatment'.

He explained that ultimately, the Environmental Protection Agency would set the minimum standards for the treatment of the wastewater from the plant, in its licence for the project but

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he expressed the view that secondary treatment would be sufficient, in this case.

Mr O'Reilly assured councillors that the water quality around the outfall pipe would be 'maintained' and that the receiving waters 'do not require' the effluent to be treated further than the secondary level.

He said that tertiary treatment had only been used where the receiving waters from an outfall pipe were particularly 'sensitive' and he maintained this was not the case at the proposed location for this project.

The Irish Water official said that secondary treatment was not 'an old standard' and that 'quite a lot of work has been done over the years to improve what secondary treatment is'.

The project team explained that ultimately, it would be the EPA that would decide what level of treatment will be required for the plant and that those standards will be set down in the licence and would have to be complied with, even if the agency insisted on the higher, tertiary level of treatment.

Cllr Brian McDonagh (Lab) expressed the concerns of local people about any impact the outfall pipe may have on the recently increased level of shellfishing in the area and also asked for assurances that the pipe would not have a negative impact on the 'beach dynamics' on Portmarnock beach which has dunes the local community has made great efforts to preserve over the years.

Mr O'Keeffe said that the seabed over the pipe would be returned to 'as close as possible to previous levels' and that the consultants' modelling of the project shows no added contribution to erosion or sand bank build up on the beach.

That modelling also showed that the receiving waters taking the effluent from the outfall pipe only required secondary treatment, according to the project team.

Mr O'Reilly said the EPA licence was 'key' in deciding the level of treatment. 'We can't construct a plant that produces an effluent that won't comply with the EPA licence conditions,' he assured local councillors. He said that the EPA was 'quite rigorous' in enforcing the conditions of its licences.

But Cllr David Healy (GP) questioned whether this was always the case and cited an example in Doldrum Bay where raw sewage continues to be pumped into the waters.

The project team suggested that example was not related to their project and that pumping was not happening under licence. But Cllr Cian O'Callaghan (SD) countered saying that a condition for the expansion of Ringsend was that the pumping of raw sewage into Doldrum Bay would stop, and yet it has continued for 'several years'.

'Your answers do not inspire confidence if you were not aware of that,' the councillor told the project team.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien (FF) who strongly opposes the construction of the giant regional plant

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Fingal Independent

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# Project team expects to lodge planning application for controversial giant sewage plant by end of year



Published 12/03/2016 | 00:00

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A planning application for a controversial giant regional sewage plant at Clonsbaugh that will spill its contents out into the sea off Portmarnock beach, just beyond Ireland's eye, is expected to be handed to An Bord Pleanála by the end of this year.

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Despite some 30,000 submissions from the public, the vast majority of which opposed the project, the Greater Dublin Drainage Project team, now under the auspices of Irish Water, is pressing ahead with the controversial plant and expects to have a planning application completed and ready by the end of 2016.

Senior member of that project team within Irish Water, Peter O'Reilly presented a progress report on the project to local councillors from the Malahide and Howth electoral areas, last week and was joined by a representative from the consultants on the project, Jacobs and Tobin Consulting, Ciaran O'Keeffe.

Mr O'Reilly told councillors the project team would bring the planning application for the plant to An Bord Pleanála by the end of this year and said that the project was needed to cater for an expected growth in population in the greater Dublin area, particularly in the northern fringe of the city and Fingal border area and Dublin 15.

'We need to have the infrastructure in place to cope with that expected growth,' he told councillors.

He said that even the planned upgrade of Ringsend would not cope with that demand and that plant would, which he said currently deals with 50% of Fingal's wastewater, would be at capacity by '2022 or 2023;'.  
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He said that wastewater from south Fingal, the northern fringe part of Dublin and Dublin 15 would be diverted into the new proposed plant.

Ciaran O'Keeffe said the plant would be constructed in two phases and would initially be able to cope with a capacity of 420,000 PE (Population Equivalent).

The project team said that there were a small number of homes within 300m of the proposed plant but most of the adjacent population lived 600m to 1km away.

The team said that a 'significant amount' of environmental studies have now been completed to accompany the planning application, looking at everything from the impact of the project on marine mammals, to sediment, archaeology around the site and its impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the area.

The team said there had been a high level of engagement with the project from the public but some local councillors, including Cllr Eoghan O'Brien (FF) and Cllr Cian O'Callaghan (SD) questioned whether the public's voice had been listened to as the controversial plant proceeds despite tens of thousands of objections.

Mr O'Reilly said the project team would continue to engage with the public on the project and planned to hold a number of public meetings this year on the issue. The team also promised a site visit to a plant at Shanganagh wastewater treatment plant for local representatives and neighbours of the propose plant but conceded the fact that the Clonshaugh plant would be much bigger than that site, when completed.

Setting out the timeline for the project, Mr O'Reilly said that if An Bord Pleanála gives the project the green light, it would start construction in 2019 and be completed in the 'mid 2020s' as Ringsend is reaching capacity. The project was unable tell councillors how much the project has cost to date but estimated that it would cost around €350 million to complete.

Answering a question from Cllr Brian McDonagh (Lab) on the issue, the project team also confirmed that the destination for the outfall pipe from the plant will leave the shore around Portmarnock but would end on the other side of Ireland's Eye, and not between the island and the shore, as had been suggested by some.

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But Cllr David Healy (GP) questioned whether this was always the case and cited an example in Doldrum Bay where raw sewage continues to be pumped into the waters.

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Fingal Independent



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# Sewage plant concern

JOHN MANNING

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Mr O'Reilly assured councillors that the water quality around the outfall pipe would be 'maintained' and that the receiving waters 'do not require' the effluent to be treated further than the secondary level.

He said that tertiary treatment had only been used where the receiving waters from an outfall pipe were particularly 'sensitive' and he maintained this was not the case at the propose location for this project.

The Irish Water official said that secondary treatment was not 'an old standard' and that 'quite a lot of work as been done over the years to improve what secondary treatment is'.

The project team explained that ultimately, it would be the EPA that would decided what level of treatment will be required for the plant and that those standards will be set down in the licence and would have to be complied with, even if the agency insisted on the higher, tertiary level of treatment.

Cllr Brian McDonagh (Lab) expressed the concerns of local people about any impact the outfall pipe may have on the recently increased level of shellfishing in the area and also asked for assurances that the pipe would not have a negative impact on the 'beach dynamics' on Portmarnock beach which has dunes the local community has made great efforts to preserve over the years.

Mr O'Keeffe said that the seabed over the pipe would be returned to 'as close as possible to previous levels' and that the consultants' modelling of the project show no added contribution to erosion or sand bank build up on the beach.

That modelling also showed that the receiving waters taking the effluent from the outfall pipe only required secondary treatment, according to the pro-

ject team.

Mr O'Reilly said the EPA licence was 'key' in deciding the level of treatment. 'We can't construct a plant that produces an effluent that won't comply with the EPA licence conditions,' he assured local councillors. He said that the EPA was 'quite rigorous' in enforcing the conditions of its licences.

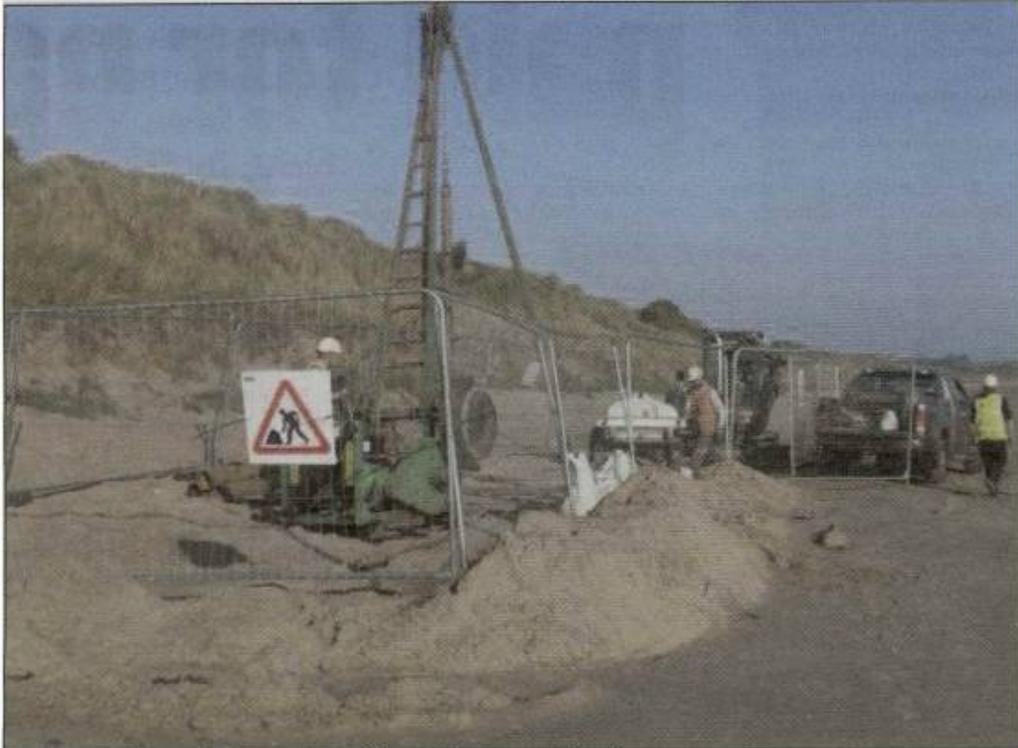
But Cllr David Healy (GP) questioned whether this was always the case and cited an example in Doldrum Bay where raw sewage continues to be pumped into the waters.

The project team suggested that example was not related to their project and that pumping was not happening under licence. But Cllr Cian O'Callaghan (SD) countered saying that a condition for the expansion of Ringsend was that the pumping of raw sewage into Doldrum Bay would stop, and yet it has continued for 'several years'.

'Your answers do not inspire confidence if you were not aware of that,' the councillor told the project team.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien (FF) who strongly opposes the construction of the giant regional plant said that 30,000 public submissions had been made and '99%' of those objected to the plant. He concluded that he hoped the project 'never sees the light of day'.

**'We can't construct a plant that produces an effluent that won't comply with the EPA'**



**Marine ground investigations were carried out at Portmarnock beach.**



# Sewage plant concern

JOHN MANNING

THE project team that hope to bring the outfall from a giant regional sewage plant off the shore at Portmarnock and out beyond Ireland's Eye say they are satisfied that effluent only needs a 'secondary' level of treatment because its receiving waters just 1km off the small island are not 'sensitive' enough to require the higher standard 'tertiary' treatment.

The Greater Dublin Drainage Team, who are responsible for the project, repeated once again that there are no plans for the effluent from the planned regional sewage plant at Clonsaugh to be given the tertiary or highest level of water treatment before entering the sea, just 1km north-east of Ireland's Eye, from a pipe that will leave the shore at Portmarnock.

Cllr Keith Redmond (Renua) asked what level of treatment this wastewater would have before entering the sea and was told by Peter O'Reilly of the project team within Irish Water, that 'at the moment it is secondary treatment'.

He explained that ultimately, the Environmental Protection Agency would set the minimum standards for the treatment of the wastewater from the plant, in its licence for the project but he expressed the view that secondary treatment would be sufficient, in this case.

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That modelling also showed that the receiving waters taking the effluent from the outfall pipe only required secondary treatment, according to the project team.

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But Cllr David Healy (GP) questioned whether this was always the case and cited an example in Doldrum Bay where raw sewage continues to be pumped into the waters.

The project team suggested that example was not related to their project and that pumping was not happening under licence. But Cllr Cian O'Callaghan (SD) countered saying that a condition for the expansion of Ringsend was that the pumping of raw sewage into Doldrum Bay would stop, and yet it has continued for 'several years'.

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**'We can't construct a plant that produces an effluent that won't comply with the EPA'**



**Marine ground investigations were carried out at Portmarnock beach.**



## Project team expects to lodge planning application for controversial giant sewage plant by end of year

A planning application for a controversial giant regional sewage plant at Clonshaugh that will spill its contents out into the sea off Portmarnock beach, just beyond Ireland's eye, is expected to be handed to An Bord Pleanála by the end of this year.

Despite some 30,000 submissions from the public, the vast majority of which opposed the project, the Greater Dublin Drainage Project team, now under the auspices of Irish Water, is pressing ahead with the controversial plant and expects to have a planning application completed and ready by the end of 2016.

Senior member of that project team within Irish Water, Peter O'Reilly presented a progress report on the project to local councillors from the Malahide and Howth electoral areas, last week and was joined by a representative from the consultants on the project, Jacobs and Tobin Consulting, Ciaran O'Keeffe.

Mr O'Reilly told councillors the project team would bring the planning application for the plant to An Bord Pleanála by the end of this year and said that the project was needed to cater for an expected growth in population in the greater Dublin area, particularly in the northern fringe of the city and Fingal border area and Dublin 15.

'We need to have the infrastructure in place to cope with that expected growth,' he told councillors.

He said that even the planned upgrade of Ringsend would not cope with that demand and that plant would, which he said currently deals with 50% of Fingal's wastewater, would be at capacity by '2022 or 2023;'

He said that wastewater from south Fingal, the northern fringe part of Dublin and Dublin 15 would be diverted into the new proposed plant.

Ciaran O'Keeffe said the plant would be constructed in two phases and would initially be able to cope with a capacity of 420,000 PE (Population Equivalent).

The project team said that there were a small number of homes within 300m of the proposed plant but most of the adjacent population lived 600m to 1km away.

The team said that a 'significant amount' of environmental studies have now been completed to accompany the planning application, looking at everything from the impact of the project on marine mammals, to sediment, archaeology around the site and its impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the area.

The team said there had been a high level of engagement with the project from the public but some local councillors, including Cllr Eoghan O'Brien (FF) and Cllr Cian O'Callaghan (SD) questioned whether the public's voice had been listened to as the controversial plant proceeds despite tens of thousands of objections.

Mr O'Reilly said the project team would continue to engage with the public on the project and planned to hold a number of public meetings this year on the issue. The team also promised a site visit to a plant

at Shanganagh wastewater treatment plant for local representatives and neighbours of the propose plant but conceded the fact that the Clonshaugh plant would be much bigger than that site, when completed.

Setting out the timeline for the project, Mr O'Reilly said that if An Bord Pleanála gives the project the green light, it would start construction in 2019 and be completed in the 'mid 2020s' as Ringsend is reaching capacity. The project was unable tell councillors how much the project has cost to date but estimated that it would cost around €350 million to complete.

Answering a question from Cllr Brian McDonagh (Lab) on the issue, the project team also confirmed that the destination for the outfall pipe from the plant will leave the shore around Portmarnock but would end on the other side of Ireland's Eye, and not between the island and the shore, as had been suggested by some.



# Almost 340 water schemes risk axe if Irish Water is scrapped

## Regulator says company has cut costs by €55m a year

**Paul Melia**

Environment Editor

ALMOST 340 drinking and wastewater schemes planned for the next five years risk being axed if Irish Water is abolished.

The *Irish Independent* has obtained details of the company's €3.5bn capital investment plan for 2017 to 2021, which will be sent to the water regulator in the coming weeks for approval.

It sets out the investment needed on a range of projects ranging from new plants to replacement of mains, but also highlights issues which emerged during an in-depth investigation of the network which was operated by under-funded local authorities until 2013.

It finds that only a "fraction" of the €200m to €250m a year needed to maintain the network was allocated to councils, and that leak detection equipment costing €130m was not fully used, meaning treated water continued to be wasted.

The report sets out the piecemeal manner in which the system was operated in the past, where councils were never given the resources needed to maintain the extensive network which comprises 25,000kms of sewers, 63,000kms of pipelines and some 1,900 treatment plants.

The system needs some €13bn of investment to bring it up to standard, and Irish Water will seek permission from the water regulator - the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) - to spend €3.5bn between 2017 and 2021.

Such is the scale of the challenge that not enough money will be available in the short-term.

"Given that the full assessment of needs to meet all deficits is estimated as in the order of €13bn, it is clear that only the highest priority schemes can progress," it says. It adds that

minor works and maintenance programmes will be "critical" to keep the system ticking over in the absence of a blank cheque.

The draft investment plan, sent to 77 statutory consultees, sets out where investment is needed.

But the final list of projects to go ahead is subject to change as Irish Water, local authorities and other consultees may suggest other projects.

It shows that works are required in each county across the country. Carlow needs four schemes, Cork needs 54. Donegal needs 32, and Dublin 49. Longford and Westmeath need three each.

The projects range in scope from new treatment plants to replacing pipes, protecting drinking water sources and using a treatment called orthophosphate to reduce the risk of leak contamination.

But it also sets out some of the major projects to be progressed, including replacement of the Vartry Tunnel which serves 200,000 people in Dublin, but at more than 140 years old is in danger of collapse.

A new supply for Dublin and the Midlands, amalgamation of plants in Galway and Mayo and a wastewater treatment scheme for the Cork Lower Harbour are also proposed. The equivalent of more than 44,000 wheelie-bins of raw sewage is discharged into Cork without treatment every day.

Not all the projects will be approved by the regulator, which must also be satisfied that the utility is operating the network efficiently and at a reduced cost.

Irish Water is obliged to reduce operational costs by 7pc, and has met this target, the CER said. It is understood the savings are between €55m and €60m a year.

"The early indications are that the utility has broadly achieved the efficiency targets that we set them, but this is

subject to further extensive review," the CER said, adding the review would be published in the summer.

The Irish Water plan also proposes amalgamating almost 600 drinking water plants to reduce costs. This will result in reducing the workforce in some local authorities, and is subject to negotiation with unions.

Counties affected include Donegal, Waterford, Cork and Galway. The reason is because 600 plants produce just 20pc of the 1.7 billion litres of drinking water needed every day.

The plan also highlights that of the 592 wastewater plants serving a population of 500 or more, 415 have issues. Some 96 have already been addressed, with 241 earmarked for investment under the capital plan. The remaining 78 do not require capital works.

The first investment plan for 2014 to 2016 totalled almost €2bn, of which €540m was for the installation of meters. Some 349 capital projects were in the first tranche of investment, of which 124 are due for completion this year, with the remainder in planning or under construction.

**The system needs €13bn of investment to bring it up to standard**



Roundwood reservoir: 340 new schemes are at risk

## PROJECTS AT RISK

Asset Class	Project Name	Asset Class	Project Name
<b>CARLOW</b>			
Drinking Water	Carlow Water Conservation - Watermains Rehabilitation Project	Wastewater	Courtmacsherry / Timoleague Sewerage Scheme
Wastewater	Borris WWTP	Wastewater	Dripsey WWTP
Wastewater	Muinebhag & Leighlinbridge WWTP	Wastewater	Dunmanway WW Network
Wastewater	Tullow WWTP	Wastewater	Fermoy WW Network
<b>CAVAN</b>			
Drinking Water	Belturbet WTW	Wastewater	Inchigeelagh WWTP
Drinking Water	Knockataggart WWTP	Wastewater	Innishannon Sewerage Scheme
Drinking Water	Lisankilly WTW (2nd WTW))	Wastewater	Kanturk WWTP
Drinking Water	Swanlinbar WTW	Wastewater	Macroom WWTP
Wastewater	Ballyborough WWTP	Wastewater	Mallow Sewerage Scheme (H) Network
Wastewater	Ballyjamesduff WWTP	Wastewater	Mallow WWTP
Wastewater	Cootehill WWTP	Wastewater	Midleton WW Network
Wastewater	Kingscourt WWTP	Wastewater	MILLstreet Sewerage Scheme WWTP
Wastewater	Virginia WW Network	Wastewater	Mitchelstown WW Network
Wastewater	Virginia WWTP	Wastewater	Mitchelstown WWTP
<b>CLARE</b>			
Wastewater	Ballyvaughan WWTP	Wastewater	Newmarket WWTP
Wastewater	Clarecastle WW Network	Wastewater	Rosscarbery/Owenahincha WWTP
Wastewater	Ennistymon WWTP	Wastewater	West Cork WW Grouped DBO Scheme
Wastewater	Kilfenora WWTP	Wastewater	Whitegate/Aghada WW Network
Wastewater	Kilkee WWTP	Wastewater	Whitegate/Aghada WWTP
Wastewater	Kilrush WWTP	<b>DONEGAL</b>	
Wastewater	Liscannon WWTP	Drinking Water	Ballyshannon WTW (Parkhill or Marymount WTW) Ph 1-New Knaddar WTW
Wastewater	Newmarket-on-Fergus WWTP	Drinking Water	Gortahork - Falcarraigh WTW, Ards Beg
Wastewater	Quin WWTP	Drinking Water	Illies WTW (Inishowen RWSS/ Pollan Dam WTW)
Wastewater	Shannon Sewerage Scheme	Drinking Water	Inishowen Regional Water Supply Scheme Trunk Mains
Wastewater	Shannon Town WW Network	Drinking Water	Killybegs WTW
<b>CORK</b>			
Drinking Water	Baltimore WTW (Skibbereen (Lake Cross) WTW)	Drinking Water	Letterkenny WTW Goldrum
Drinking Water	Banteer / Dromahane Regional Water Supply Scheme	Drinking Water	Lettermacaward WTW
Drinking Water	Bantry RWSS (Keelill)	Drinking Water	Lough Mourme WTW (Meencrumlin)
Drinking Water	Cape Clear Water Supply Scheme	Drinking Water	Owenteskna WTW (Lergynasearagh Meter House)
Drinking Water	Castletownbere Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 WTW, Reservoir & Network	Wastewater	Ballybofey/Stranorlar WW Network
Drinking Water	Cork City Water Conservation Stage 3 Works - Watermain Rehabilitation Phase 1 - Shanakiel to Tivoli Trunk Contract	Wastewater	Ballybofey-Stranolar WWTP
Drinking Water	Cork City Water Supply Scheme Network (Wilton Lee Road Trunk Main)	Wastewater	Ballyliffen WWTP
Drinking Water	Cork County - Mains Rehabilitation Works	Wastewater	Bridgend WWTP
Drinking Water	Dunmanway Regional Water Supply Phase 1 - Inniscarra WTW and Cork City Water Supply	Wastewater	Buncrana Sewerage Scheme
Drinking Water	Inniscarra WTW Sludge Upgrade	Wastewater	Burnfoot WWTP
Drinking Water	Lee Road WTW (Wilton/ Lee, Shanakiel)	Wastewater	Burtonport H.E. WWTP
Drinking Water	Midleton WTW	Wastewater	Carrigart WWTP
Drinking Water	Shanakiel Rising Main	Wastewater	Donegal (Group B) Sewerage Schemes Wastewater Treatment Plants
Wastewater	Ballicoilig WW Network	Wastewater	Dunfanaghy-Portnablagh WWTP
Wastewater	Ballingeary WWTP	Wastewater	Fahan WWTP
Wastewater	Ballycotton WWTP	Wastewater	Falcarraigh WWTP
Wastewater	Ballyvooney/Ballymakeera Sewerage Scheme WWTP	Wastewater	Kerrykeel WWTP
Wastewater	Bandon Sewerage Scheme Phase 2 Network	Wastewater	Kilcar WWTP
Wastewater	Bandon WWTP	Wastewater	Kilmacrennan WW Network
Wastewater	Bantry WW Network	Wastewater	Kilmacrennan WWTP
Wastewater	Boherbue WWTP	Wastewater	Milford WW Network
Wastewater	Castlemartyr WWTP	Wastewater	Milford WWTP
Wastewater	Castletownbere WW Network	Wastewater	Mountcharles WW Network
Wastewater	Castletownbere Waste Water Outfall	Wastewater	Moville WWTP
Wastewater	Castletownsend WWTP	Wastewater	Ramelton WW Network
Wastewater	Charleville WWTP	Wastewater	Ramelton WWTP
Wastewater	Coachford WWTP	Wastewater	Raphoe WWTP
Wastewater	Cork City - St Patricks Culvert	<b>DUBLIN</b>	
Wastewater	Cork City WW Network	Drinking Water	Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme Ph2 Jordanstown to Kilsough trunk main
Wastewater	Cork City WWTP	Drinking Water	Ballyboden Reservoir
Wastewater	Cork Lower Harbour - WWTP & Pumping Station DBO	Drinking Water	Ballycoolen Trunk Main
Wastewater	Cork Lower Harbour Project - Carrigaline / Ringaskiddy Networks	Drinking Water	Ballymore Eustace WTW (Liffey Waterworks) Saggart Reservoir
Wastewater	Cork Lower Harbour Project - Cobh Networks	Drinking Water	Dublin City - Water Conservation
Wastewater	Cork Lower Harbour Project - Passage - West / Monkstown Networks	Drinking Water	Dublin City - Water Conservation Works - SDCC
		Drinking Water	Leixlip WTW (Howth, Malahide, Pearmount/ Saggart, Jordanstown/Kilsough, Ballycoolin/Kingstown))
		Drinking Water	North City Water Supply Scheme ( Old Connaught/Woodbrook
		Drinking Water	Pearmount to Saggart Pump Station and Rising Main
		Drinking Water	Stillorgan Saggart Trunkmains

Drinking Water	Swords Watermain Rehabilitation Scheme	Wastewater	Mountbellew WWTP
Drinking Water	Vartry - Stillorgan Reservoir	Wastewater	Oughterard Sewerage Scheme
Drinking Water	Vartry - Tunnel Replacement	Wastewater	WWTP Upgrade
Drinking Water	Vartry Reservoir	Wastewater	Roundstone (No WWTP)
Drinking Water	Vartry WTW (Mid-Wicklow RWSS, Old Connaught)	Wastewater	Roundstone Wastewater Outfall
Drinking Water	Water Supply Project - East & Midlands Region	Wastewater	Spiddal WW Network
Wastewater	Balbriggan Skerries Wastewater Treatment - Rush Road	Wastewater	Spiddal WWTP Expansion
Wastewater	Balbriggan/Skerries Phase 3	<b>KERRY</b>	
Wastewater	Blanchardstown Sewerage Scheme	Drinking Water	County Kerry Water Conservation
Wastewater	Blanchardstown WW Network	Drinking Water	Dawros WTW
Wastewater	DLR SS Ph1 C2 Nwk Upgrd Tunnel	Drinking Water	Kenmare RWSS
Wastewater	Doldrum Bay WW Network	Drinking Water	Kerry Water Conservation
Wastewater	Goatsdown Rd Local Network Reinforcement	Drinking Water	Mains Rehabilitation
Wastewater	Greater Dublin Drainage Project	Drinking Water	Lauragh WTW (Lauragh Chlorination House)
Wastewater	Johnstown Rd, Cabinteely	Drinking Water	Lough Guitane Headworks (Central Kerry RWSS)
Wastewater	Local Network Reinforcement	Drinking Water	Mountain Stage WSS
Wastewater	Kinsealy Local Network Reinforcement	Drinking Water	Water Conservation Mains Rehab - Derry Listowel
Wastewater	Landscape Rd, Churchtown	Wastewater	Ardfert SS - WWTP Upgrade
Wastewater	Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Ballylongford & Tarbert SS WWTP
Wastewater	Liffey Siphon (Rosie Hackett Bridge)	Wastewater	Kenmare WWTP
Wastewater	Liffey Siphon Refurbishment	Wastewater	Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme
Wastewater	Lusk Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Listowel WW Network
Wastewater	Malahide WW Network	Wastewater	Tralee WW Network
Wastewater	Newcastle Local Network Reinforcement	<b>KILDARE</b>	
Wastewater	North Docklands Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater	Celbridge Local Network Reinforcement
Wastewater	Old Connaught Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Kildare Sewerage Scheme
Wastewater	Oldcourt Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Leixlip Transfer Pipeline
Wastewater	Portmarnock South Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Lower Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme WWTP
Wastewater	Rathmichael/Shankhill	Wastewater	Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme (3 schemes)
Wastewater	<b>Ringsend - City</b> Centre	<b>KIKENNY</b>	
Wastewater	<b>Ringsend</b> - Rathmines and Pembroke	Drinking Water	Gowran WSS
Wastewater	<b>Ringsend</b> WWTP	Drinking Water	Inistioge Water Supply Scheme
Wastewater	<b>Ringsend</b> WWTP - Surgical Works	Drinking Water	Kilkenny Water Conservation
Wastewater	Rush Road Pumping Station & Gravity Sewer	Drinking Water	Mains Rehabilitation
Wastewater	SDZ North Docklands Ancillary Water Services	Drinking Water	Troystwood WTW (Dutrath)
Wastewater	South Docklands SDZ Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater	Inistioge WWTP
Wastewater	Swords WW Network	Wastewater	Mullinavat WWTP
Wastewater	Swords Nwk Old Town-Mooretown	Wastewater	Piltown WWTP
Wastewater	Swords WWTP Outfall	<b>LAOIS</b>	
Wastewater	Torquay Rd, Leopardstown	Drinking Water	Kilminchey WTW
	Local Network Reinforcement	Drinking Water	Laois Water Water Conservation Stage 3 Works
<b>GALWAY</b>		Drinking Water	Le Bergerie WTW (Portarlinton RWSS)
Drinking Water	Ballinasloe WTW	Drinking Water	Portarlinton Water Supply
Drinking Water	Carraroe WSS	Wastewater	Laois Grouped Towns Sewerage Scheme Network
Drinking Water	Galway City Water Conservation	Wastewater	Laois Grouped Towns Sewerage Scheme WWTP
Drinking Water	Inis Oir & Inis Mean WSS	Wastewater	Mountmellick Sewerage Scheme Phases 2 and 3
Drinking Water	Leenane WTW	Wastewater	Portarlinton Sewerage Scheme
Drinking Water	Terryland WTW	Wastewater	Portarlinton Sewerage Scheme WWTP (Inlet Works)
Drinking Water	Tuam Regional Water Supply	Wastewater	Portlaoise WW Network
Drinking Water	Tuam RWSS Ext Ph 1 and Ph 2	<b>LEITRIM</b>	
Wastewater	Ahascragh WWTP	Drinking Water	Moneyduff WTW (North Leitrim RWSS)
Wastewater	Athenry Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater	Drumshanbo WWTP
Wastewater	Athenry WWTP	Wastewater	Manorhamilton WWTP
Wastewater	Ballinasloe Contract No. 2	Wastewater	Mohill WWTP
Wastewater	Ballygar WWTP	<b>LIMERICK</b>	
Wastewater	Carraroe Waste Water Outfall	Drinking Water	Clareville Augmentation/Rationalisation including Adare/Patrickswell Water Supply Scheme Network
Wastewater	Eyreccourt WWTP	Wastewater	Limerick WWTP
Wastewater	Galway City WW Network	Wastewater	Dromcollagher WW Network
Wastewater	Glenamaddy Sewerage Scheme		
Wastewater	Kinvara Sewerage Scheme		

<b>LONGFORD</b>		Wastewater	Ballinacarrow and Environs WWTP
Drinking Water	Longford - Water Conservation	Wastewater	Ballymote WWTP
Drinking Water	Lough Forbes WTW (Lanesborough)	Wastewater	Collooney WWTP
Wastewater	Longford WW Network	Wastewater	Grange/Strandhill/Tubbercurry Sewerage Scheme WWTPs
<b>LOUTH</b>		Wastewater	Mullaghmore WWTP
Drinking Water	Cavan Hill WTW (Dundalk RWSS)	Wastewater	Rosses Point WW Network
Drinking Water	Drogheda to Staleen Trunkmain	Wastewater	Sligo Sewerage Scheme
Drinking Water	Louth (Dundalk) Water Conservation	<b>TIPPERARY</b>	
Drinking Water	Staleen WTW (Drogheda RWSS)	Drinking Water	Coalbrook WTW
Wastewater	Ardee WW Network	Drinking Water	Mullinbawn Pump Station
Wastewater	Ardee WWTP	Drinking Water	Nenagh Town Water Conservation
Wastewater	Blackrock WWTP	Drinking Water	New Barn Demesne WTW)
Wastewater	Blackrock Dundalk Local Network Reinforcement	Drinking Water	New Thurles WTW
Wastewater	Carlingford WWTP	Wastewater	Ballina WWTP
Wastewater	Clogherhead WWTP	Wastewater	Cashel WWTP
Wastewater	Drogheda WW Network	Wastewater	Fethard WWTP
Wastewater	Drogheda WWTP	Wastewater	Nenagh New WWTP
Wastewater	Dundalk WWTP	Wastewater	Nenagh Wastewater Network
Wastewater	Omeath Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater	Newport (TN) WWTP
Wastewater	Rathmullen Rd, Drogheda Local Network Reinforcement	Wastewater	Roscrea WW Network
<b>MAYO</b>		Wastewater	Thurles WW Network
Drinking Water	Inishturk WTW	Wastewater	Tipperary-Town WWTP
Drinking Water	Lough Mask WTW Upgrade	Drinking Water	Graigie Watermain & Borehole (Clonmel RWSS)
Wastewater	Ballinrobe WWTP	<b>WATERFORD</b>	
Wastewater	Ballyhaunis WWTP	Drinking Water	LCB Lismore WTW (LCB Lismore (Filter Beds))
Wastewater	Belmullet, Foxford & Charlestown Network & WWTPs	Drinking Water	Ring/Helvic Water Supply Scheme Source
Wastewater	Killala Sewerage Scheme Network & WWTP	Drinking Water	Tallow WTW
<b>MEATH</b>		Drinking Water	Waterford County - Water Conservation
Drinking Water	Kells Oldcastle	Drinking Water	Passage East WWTP
Drinking Water	Liscartan WTW	Drinking Water	Ballinacorney/Deelish Water Supply Scheme)
Drinking Water	Meath Countywide Water Conservation Project:	Drinking Water	Dungarvan Water Supply Scheme
Drinking Water	Navan Mid-Meath	Drinking Water	Dunmore East Water Supply Scheme Phase 2
Wastewater	Ashbourne Ratoath Sewerage Scheme Network	Drinking Water	East Waterford Water Supply Scheme (G) Network
Wastewater	Enfield WWTP	Drinking Water	River Finish BH and Storage
Wastewater	Kells (Meath) WWTP	<b>WESTMEATH</b>	
Wastewater	Kells Sewerage Scheme	Drinking Water	South Westmeath RWSS
Wastewater	Stamullen WWTP	Wastewater	Athlone Main Drainage WWTP Upgrade C2
<b>MONAGHAN</b>		Wastewater	Athlone Sewerage Scheme Interim WWTP Upgrade
Drinking Water	Kilkitt WTW (Lough Eglish RWSS)	<b>WEXFORD</b>	
Drinking Water	Monaghan Water Conservation	Drinking Water	Gorey RWSS Contract 4
Wastewater	Carrickmacross WWTP	Drinking Water	Wexford - Water Conservation
Wastewater	Castleblaney Sewerage Scheme Phase 1 WWTP	Wastewater	Arthurstown Waste Water Outfall
Wastewater	Monaghan Town WW Network	Wastewater	Ballyhack and Environs WWTP
<b>OFFALY</b>		Wastewater	Duncannon WWTP
Drinking Water	Water Conservation - Edenderry Francis Street, Edenderry S-E	Wastewater	Enniscorthy Main Drainage
Drinking Water	Seefin WTW (Birr WSS)	Wastewater	Enniscorthy WWTP
Drinking Water	Tullamore Water Supply Scheme Phase 5 (G) WTW Upgrade	Wastewater	Fethard-on-Sea WWTP
Drinking Water	Tullamore WSS, DWTW & DWNS	Wastewater	Kilmore Quay Village and Environs Waste Water Outfall
Wastewater	Bonagher WWTP	Wastewater	Wexford WWTP DBO
Wastewater	Birr WWTP	Wastewater	Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water Supply Scheme
Wastewater	Edenderry WW Network	Wastewater	Ferns WWTP
Wastewater	Tullamore WW Network	<b>WICKLOW</b>	
<b>ROSCOMMON</b>		Drinking Water	Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme
Drinking Water	Lough Gara WTW	Wastewater	Arklow and Environs WW Network
Drinking Water	Rockingham WTW	Wastewater	Arklow WWTP
Wastewater	Boyle WW Network	Wastewater	Avoca WWTP
Wastewater	Monksland WW Network	Wastewater	Greystones WW Network
Wastewater	Roscommon Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater	Wicklow Local Network Reinforcement
<b>SLIGO</b>		<b>TOTAL 337</b>	
Drinking Water	Foxes Den/Carins Hill WTWs		
Drinking Water	Lough Talt WTW		
Drinking Water	Sligo - Water Conservation		
Drinking Water	Sligo Water Conservation Stage 3		

## Appendix B: Project Brochure

### English Version



# Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
& Natura Impact Statement (NIS)  
Scoping Document - Public Consultation



water.ie

March 2016

### Have your say on informing the EIS/NIS scoping document

**The purpose of this brochure is to:**

- > Update you on the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.
- > Provide you with background information on the project and the proposed new planning application.
- > Invite you to participate in the public consultation on issues for consideration in the new Environmental Impact Statement and the Natura Impact Statement, to be submitted with the planning application.

WWW.RINGSENDUPGRADE.IE

**Safeguarding your water for your future**

### Project background

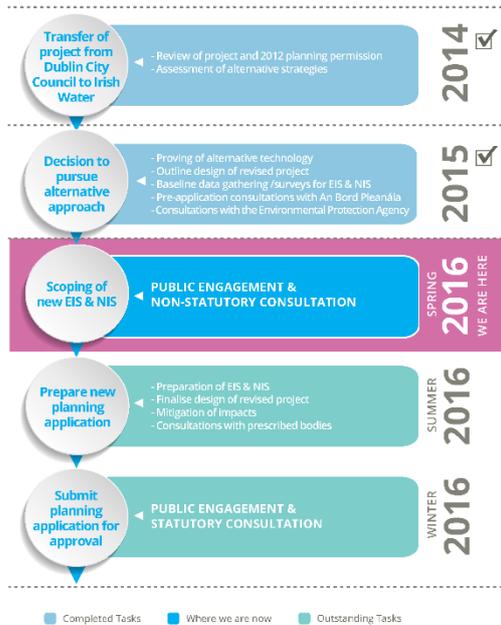
In January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision of public water services, which included the transfer of responsibility for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant from Dublin City Council.

The Ringsend plant has been providing wastewater treatment to the city of Dublin since 1906. The current plant is the largest treatment plant in Ireland. Since it was commissioned in 2003, the Ringsend plant has been treating wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area, including parts of Meath.

Today, the plant is operating over its design capacity and needs to be upgraded to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area has appropriate wastewater treatment to enable continued social and economic development.

Upgrading the current capacity at Ringsend and the proposed development of the Greater Dublin Drainage plant at Clonsilla will help to meet the infrastructural requirements to treat the amount of wastewater that will be generated as the population continues to grow and the industrial needs of the area continue to expand. This will ensure that wastewater generated in the Greater Dublin Area is appropriately treated in order to safeguard human health and to protect the environment.

## Project Planning Roadmap



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## Proposed alternative approach

In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade the plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The project approved in 2012 included the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend Plant out into Dublin Bay<sup>1</sup>. Since that time, Irish Water has been reviewing the project and an alternative solution is now being proposed.

Irish Water has identified an advanced nutrient reduction treatment technology that was not available as an option to Dublin City Council in 2012. This technology is known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) and would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, thereby avoiding the need to construct the 9km long sea outfall tunnel that was proposed in the 2012 planning application.

Irish Water intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála later this year for permission to implement the alternative solution. The revised project being proposed by Irish Water is very similar to that approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012. However, there is one major difference:

Instead of treating the wastewater to a slightly lower standard and discharging it 9km out in Dublin Bay, it is now proposed to treat it to a much higher standard and to continue to discharge treated effluent at the current location on the Lower Liffey Estuary.

<sup>1</sup> The plant currently discharges its treated effluent to the Lower Liffey Estuary beside the ESB Poolbeg Power Station.

Irish Water | Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project | 5

## The revised project

The revised project being proposed by Irish Water is very similar to that approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012. In particular, it should be noted that:

- > No increase in capacity over that approved in 2012 is being proposed, and
- > The revised project will meet the same stringent odour control standards as set out by An Bord Pleanála in 2012.

The revised project will maximise the treatment capacity of the Ringsend plant, increasing it from 1.64million PE<sup>2</sup>, to 2.4million PE. This will give the plant a 'firm'<sup>3</sup> capacity of 2.1million PE. The project will use most of the remaining unused space within the current site to provide additional treatment facilities and equipment. The revised project includes:

- > Increasing the flow through the plant by approximately 20%, thereby increasing the amount of wastewater that can be treated and reducing the level of storm overflows which occur during heavy rainfall events.
- > Provision of a new 400,000 PE extension in biological (AGS) treatment capacity, on a site reserved for that purpose within the existing boundary.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of wastewater received at a treatment plant (and its design capacity) is measured in units known as population equivalent (or PE). The wastewater received from all sources - e.g. industrial, tourism, commercial, residential, etc., is converted into these units, with one unit of PE representing the wastewater treatment load typically generated by a single person.

<sup>3</sup> 'Firm' capacity is defined as the treatment capacity available when one of the plant's largest processing units is unavailable due to routine maintenance or repair. In Ringsend's case, an installed capacity of 2.4m PE is required to ensure that a capacity of 2.1m PE is always available.

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- > Installation of the AGS technology in the existing treatment tanks on site, increasing their capacity to 2.0million PE.
- > Expansion of the plant's sludge treatment facilities to match the overall increase in wastewater treatment capacity.
- > Provision of a new phosphorous recovery process.
- > Provision of additional odour control facilities and other site works.

From an operational and visual perspective, the revised project is not expected to result in any significant change on the site of the plant from the project approved in 2012. The main change will occur outside the site due to the proposed omission of the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.

Irish Water | Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project | 7

## AGS technology

The AGS technology is a further development of the activated sludge process, which was first used 100 years ago and is now the main process for wastewater treatment around the world. This process will consistently produce a high-quality effluent, which can be sustainably discharged into Dublin Bay.

Irish Water has conducted trials of the technology to treat the wastewater arriving at the Ringsend plant. These trials have confirmed that the technology consistently produces a very high-quality effluent, which can be safely and sustainably discharged into the Lower Liffey Estuary.

### Advantages of proposed new approach

- > If approved, the use of this AGS technology would maximise efficiency, reduce risk and realise significant savings through eliminating the need to build the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.
- > A much higher effluent quality would be achieved and, even at full future capacity, emissions from the plant would be significantly lower than at present.
- > In addition, the impacts of tunnel construction could be entirely avoided, including the 70,000 heavy goods vehicles involved in removing material excavated from the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.
- > The revised approach provides for the recovery of phosphorus (a non-renewable resource), this finite resource would otherwise be discharged to Dublin Bay with the loss of its re-use potential in agriculture.

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## Environmental considerations

On large scale infrastructure projects of this nature, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) are required to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning process. The factors that must be included in an EIS are set out in national and European legislation.

Irish Water is now inviting comment and submissions from the public and interested parties on the issues to be considered in the EIS and the NIS, as part of an eight-week consultation process. The aim of the public consultation is to ensure that the EIS and the NIS address all issues of potential impact or concern, and that the assessments of the project are as comprehensive as possible.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a report that contains detailed analysis of the impacts of a project on the existing environment. It also identifies possible mitigation measures to reduce the impact and includes sufficient information to allow a decision to be made on whether consent should be given to the project.

A Natura Statement (NIS) is a report that contains an examination of the possible impacts of a project on Natura 2000 sites that allows a decision to be made on whether consent should be given to a project. Natura 2000 sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas classified under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive.

Irish Water | Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project | 9

## Consultation

This consultation period will run from 14 March through to 17 May 2016.

The key elements to be considered in the EIS are:

- > Population and human health
- > Biodiversity
- > Land, soils and geology
- > Water
- > Air
- > Climate
- > Material assets
- > Cultural heritage
- > Landscape

Irish Water has now published a scoping document which sets out the issues it considers should be included in the EIS and the NIS and the methodologies for examining their environmental impacts. This document is available at [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

### What is being consulted on?

The project team would like to hear your views on the following:

- > Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the scoping document?
- > Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- > Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?

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## What happens next?

Once this consultation period is complete, Irish Water will gather all of the relevant comments received and ensure they are considered in the preparation of the EIS and the NIS.

The Environmental Impact Statement and the Natura Impact Statement will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application. As the competent authority for assessing and determining planning applications, the Board will carry out a statutory consultation, which will provide you with a further opportunity to have your say.

Irish Water intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála in late 2016 for permission to implement the revised project. The Board will then undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment of the project before making its decision on the application.

## Open Day Information

### Thursday, 21st April

Sutton: Marine Hotel – 10am to 2pm.  
Clontarf: Clasaic Centre – 4pm to 7pm.

### Saturday, 23rd April

SPORTSCO, South Lotts Road, Ringsend – 10am to 6pm.

### Tuesday, 26th April

Killiney: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel – 10am to 2pm.  
Dun Laoghaire: Royal Marine Hotel - 4pm to 8pm.

For further information, or to make a submission, please:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or + 353 (1) 453 7063

Post: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Visit: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

Safeguarding your water for your future

[water.ie](http://water.ie)

## Irish Version



# Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne Tionscadal Uasghrádaithe

Doiciméad Scóipe an Ráitis Tionchair  
Timpeallachta (EIS) agus an Ráitis  
Tionchair Natura (NIS)

- **Comhairliúchán Poiblí**



[water.ie](http://water.ie)

Márta 2016

Cuir do thuairimí in iúl chun eolas a  
dhéanamh do dhoiciméad scóipe an EIS/NIS

**Is é cuspóir an bhróisiúir seo ná:**

- > Tó a chur ar an eolas faoi Thionscadal Uasghrádaithe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne.
- > Faisnéis chúlra a thabhairt duit faoin tionscadal agus faoin iarratas pleanála nua atá beartaithe.
- > Cuireadh a thabhairt duit páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhairliúchán poiblí ar shaincheisteanna lena gcur san áireamh sa Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta nua agus sa Ráiteas Tionchair Natura a chuirfear isteach leis an iarratas pleanála.

Ag cosaint ár n-uisce don saol atá romhainn

## Cúlra an tionscadail

I mí Eanáir 2014, ghlac Uisce Éireann freagracht as seirbhísí uisce poiblí a sholáthar, rud lenar áiríodh aistriú na freagrachta as Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne ó Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Tá ionad na Rinne ag cur seirbhísí cóireála fuíolluisce ar fáil do chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath ón mbliain 1906 leith. Tá an t-ionad reatha ar an ionad cóireála is mó in Éirinn. Ó coimisiúnaíodh é sa bhliain 2003 go dtí an lá atá inniu ann, tá ionad na Rinne ag cóireáil fuíolluisce ó Mhórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath, ceantair i gContae na Mí ar áireamh.

Faoi láthair, tá an t-ionad ag oibriú ag leibhéal os cionn a thoilte deartha agus is gá é a uasghrádú chun a chinntiú gur leor an chóireáil fuíolluisce i Mórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath chun forbairt leantach shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch a chumasú.

Uasghrádú an toille reatha in Ionad na Rinne agus forbairt bheartaithe Ionad Draenála Mhórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath i gCluain Seach, cabhróidh na gníomhartha sin le freastal ar na riachtanais bhonneagair a theastaíonn chun cóireáil a dhéanamh ar an bhfuíolluisce a ghnífead de réir mar a leanann an daonra ar aghaidh ag fás agus a leanann riachtanais thionsclaíocha an cheantair ar aghaidh ag méadú. Cinnteoidh sé sin go gcóireálfar go cuí an fuíolluisce a ghnífead i Mórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath d'fhonn sláinte an duine agus an comhshaoil a chosaint.

Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaíthe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne | 3

## Cur chuige malartach beartaithe

Thug an Bord Pleanála cead do Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 2012 an t-ionad a uasghrádú agus a thoilleadh a mhéadú, bunaithe ar na teicneolaíochtaí a bhí ar fáil ag an am. Áiríodh leis an tionscadal a ceadáil sa bhliain 2012 tollán sruth éalaithe farraige 9 km ar fad a thógáil le haghaidh scaoileadh an eisilteigh chóireáilte a athlonnú ó Ionad na Rinne chuig Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath<sup>1</sup>. Ón uair sin leith, tá Uisce Éireann ag athbheithniú an tionscadail agus tá réiteach malartach á bheartú anois.

Shainnigh Uisce Éireann ardeicneolaíocht cóireála laghdaithe cothaitheach nach raibh ar fáil lena roghnú ag Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 2012. Tugtar Sloda Gráinneach Aeróbach (AGS) ar an teicneolaíocht sin agus, dá n-úsáidí í, d'fhéadfaí scaoileadh an fhuíolluisce chóireáilte a choinneáil mar a bhfuil sé. Mar sin, sheachnófaí an gá le tógáil a dhéanamh ar an tollán sruth éalaithe farraige 9 km ar fad a beartaíodh san iarratas pleanála a rinneadh sa bhliain 2012.

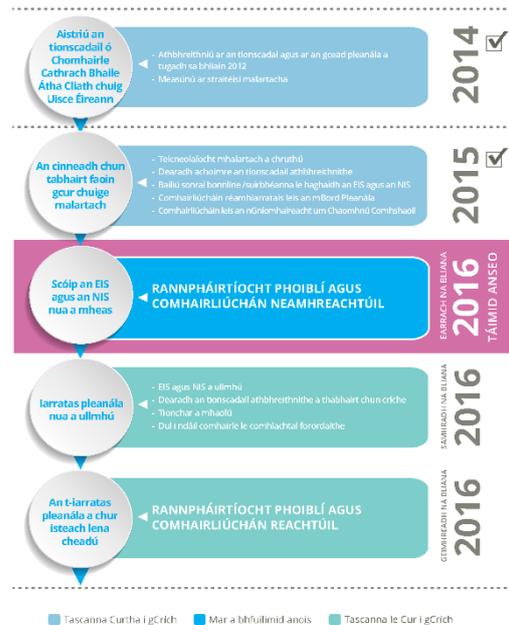
Tá rún ag Uisce Éireann iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an mBord Pleanála tráth níos déanaí i mbliana ar chead le haghaidh an réiteach malartach a chur chun feidhme. Tá an tionscadal athbheithnithe atá á bheartú ag Uisce Éireann an-chosúil leis an tionscadal a cheadaigh an Bord Pleanála sa bhliain 2012. Tá mórdhíríocht amháin eatarthu, áfach:

In ionad an fuíolluisce a chóireáil ar chaighdeán beagáinín níos ísle agus é a scaoileadh 9 km amach i gCuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, tá sé beartaithe anois é a chóireáil ar chaighdeán i bhfad níos airde agus leanúint ar aghaidh ag scaoileadh eisilteach cóireáilte ag an láthair reatha ar Inbhear na Life Íochtarach.

<sup>1</sup> Faoi láthair, scaoileann an t-ionad a eisilteach cóireáilte chuig Inbhear na Life Íochtarach in aice Stáisiún Cumhachta an Phoill Bhig de chuid BSL.

Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaíthe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne | 5

## Treochlár Pleanála Tionscadail



4 | Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaíthe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne

## An tionscadal athbheithnithe

Tá an tionscadal athbheithnithe atá á bheartú ag Uisce Éireann an-chosúil leis an tionscadal a cheadaigh an Bord Pleanála sa bhliain 2012. Ba cheart na nithe seo a thabhairt faoi deara go háirithe:

- > Níltear ag beartú aon mhéadaithe ar thoilleadh atá níos mó ná an méadú ar thoilleadh a cheadaíodh sa bhliain 2012, agus
- > Comhlíonfaidh an tionscadal athbheithnithe na dianchaighdeáin rialaithe bolaidh a leag an Bord Pleanála amach sa bhliain 2012.

Uasmhéadóidh an tionscadal athbheithnithe thoilleadh cóireála ionad na Rinne, agus an thoilleadh á mhéadú ó 1.64 milliún PE<sup>2</sup> go 2.4 milliún PE. Fágfaidh sé sin go mbeidh thoilleadh 'daingean'<sup>3</sup> 2.1 milliún PE ag an ionad. Bainfidh an tionscadal úsáid as an gcuid is mó den spás neamhúsáidite atá fágtha ar an láithreán reatha chun thoilleadh saoráidí cóireála agus trealamh cóireála a chur ar fáil. Tá na nithe seo a leanas i gceist leis an tionscadal athbheithnithe:

- > Méadú de thart ar 20% a chur ar an sreabhadh tríd an ionad, rud a mhéadóidh an méid fuíolluisce a d'fhéadfaí a chóireáil agus a laghdóidh leibhéal na rósreafaí stoirme a tharlaíonn le linn dianbháistí.
- > Síneadh nua 400,000 PE i dtoilleadh cóireála bitheolaíche (AGS) a chur ar fáil ar láithreán atá in áirithe chun na críche sin laistigh den teorainn reatha.
- > An teicneolaíocht AGS a shuiteáil sna humair chóireála atá ar an láithreán cheana, rud a mhéadóidh a dtoilleadh go 2.0 milliún PE.

<sup>2</sup> Is in aonaid ar a dtugtar cobhéis daonra (nó PE) a thomhaistear an méid fuíolluisce a fhaighgear ag ionad cóireála agus a thoilleadh deartha. Déantar an fuíolluisce a fhaighgear ó gach cineál foinne, e.g. foinne tionsclaíoch, turasóireachta, trachtála, cónaithe, etc., a choinneáil go dtí na haonaid sin. Is gnáth gur bitheolaíocht aonad amháin de PE agus an t-ualach cóireála fuíolluisce a ghnéann duine amháin.

<sup>3</sup> Is é an sainmhíniú a thugtar ar thoilleadh 'daingean' ná an thoilleadh cóireála atá ar fáil nuair nach bhfuil na haonaid phróiseála is mó de chuid an ionad ar fáil de bharr gnáthchothabháil nó deire. I gcás ionad na Rinne, teastáilonn thoilleadh suiteáilte 2.4 milliún PE chun a chinntiú go mbeidh fáil ar thoilleadh 2.1 milliún PE.

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- > Saoráidí cóireála sloda an ionaid a leathnú le go mbeadh siad cothrom leis an méadú foriomlán ar an toilleadh cóireála fuíolluisce.
- > Próiseas nua athshlánaithe fosfair a chur ar fáil.
- > Saoráidí breise rialaithe bolaidh agus oibreacha eile láithreán a chur ar fáil.

Ó thaobh oibriúcháin agus amhairc de, níltear ag súil leis go mbeidh an tionscadal ina chúis le haon athrú suntasach ar láithreán an ionaid ón athrú a beartaíodh sa tionscadal a ceadaíodh sa bhliain 2012. Beidh an t-athrú is mó le sonrú lasmuigh den láithreán mar go bhfuil sé beartaithe an tollán sruth éalaithe farraige 9 km ar fad a fhágáil amach.

Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaithe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne | 7

## Cúrsaí comhshaoil

I gcás tionscadail bhonneagair ar mhórsála den chineál seo, tá sé ina cheangal Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIS) cuimsitheach agus Ráiteas Tionchair Natura (NIS) a chur faoi bhráid an Bhoird Phleanála mar chuid den phróiseas pleanála. Is i reachtaíocht náisiúnta agus i reachtaíocht Eorpach a leagtar amach na tosca nach mór a chur ar áireamh in EIS.

Tá Uisce Éireann ag iarraidh barúlacha agus aighneachtaí ón bpobal agus ó pháirtithe leasmhara faoi na saincheisteanna a chuirfear ar áireamh san EIS agus san NIS mar chuid de phróiseas comhairliúcháin ocht seachtaine. Is é aidhm an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí ná a chinntiú go bpléifear san EIS agus san NIS na saincheisteanna uile a bhféadfadh tionchar nó imní a bheith ag baint leo agus go mbeidh measúnachtaí an tionscadail chomh cuimsitheach agus is féidir.

Is é is Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIS) ann ná tuarascáil ina ndéantar mionanailís ar an tionchar a bheidh ag tionscadal ar an timpeallacht atá ann cheana. Sainnítear ann freisin bearta maolaithe a d'fhéadfaí a úsáid chun an tionchar a laghdú agus cuirtear ar áireamh leis faisnéis dhóthanach lenar féidir cinneadh a dhéanamh ar cé acu ba cheart nó nár cheart tionscadal a cheadú.

Is é is Ráiteas Tionchair Natura (NIS) ann ná tuarascáil ina ndéantar scrúdú ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag tionscadal ar láithreán Natura 2000, rud a fhágann gur féidir cinneadh a dhéanamh ar cé acu ba cheart nó nár cheart tionscadal a cheadú. Cuimsíonn láithreán Natura 2000 Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta agus Limistéir Chosanta Speisialta arna rangú faoin Treoir um Éin agus faoin Treoir um Ghnáthóga.

Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaithe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne | 9

## Teicneolaíocht AGS

Is é is an teicneolaíocht AGS ann ná forbairt bhreise a rinneadh ar an bpróiseas sloda ghníomhachaithe, ar próiseas é a úsáideadh den chéad uair 100 bliain ó shin agus atá ar an bpríomhphróiseas le haghaidh cóireáil fuíolluisce ar fud an domhain. Is go seasta a tháirgfidh an próiseas sin eisilteach ar ardchaighdeán, rud a fhéadfaí a scaoileadh chuig Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath ar bhealach inbhuanaithe.

Rinne Uisce Éireann tástálacha ar an teicneolaíocht d'fhonn an fuíolluisce a thugtar chuig ionad na Rinne a chóireáil. Deimhníodh sna tástálacha sin go dtáirgtear go seasta leis an teicneolaíocht eisilteach de chaighdeán an-ard, rud is féidir a scaoileadh go sábháilte agus go hinbhuanaithe chuig Inbhear na Life lochtarach.

### Buntáistí a bhaineann leis an gcur chuige nua beartaithe

- > Má cheadaítear í, dhéanfaí úsáid na teicneolaíochta AGS sin éifeachtúlacht a uasmhéadú, riosca a laghdú agus coigiltí suntasacha a bhaint amach ach deireadh a chur leis an ngá le tollán sruth éalaithe farraige 9 km ar fad a thógáil.
- > Bhainfí cáilíocht i bhfad níos airde eisiligh amach agus, fiú ag toilleadh iomlán amach anseo, b'ísle go mór ná atá siad faoi láthair a bheadh astaíochtaí ón ionad.
- > Anuas air sin, d'fhéadfaí an tionchar a bheadh ag tógáil an tolláin a sheachaint go hiomlán, lena n-áireofaí an 70,000 feithicil earraí troma a bheadh páirteach in ábhar arna dtóhalt ón tollán sruth éalaithe farraige 9 km ar fad a bhaint.
- > Leis an gcur chuige athbheithnithe, déantar soláthar d'fhosfar (acmhainn neamh-in-athnuaite) a athshlánú. Murach sin, scaoilfí an acmhainn fhíneach sin chuig Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, rud a d'fhágfaidh nach bhféadfaí é a athúsáid i gcúrsaí talmaíochta.

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## Comhairliúchán

Beidh an tréimhse comhairliúcháin ar siúl ón 14 Márta go dtí an 17 Márta 2016.

Is iad seo na príomhghnéithe a chuirfear san áireamh san EIS:

- > Sláinte an phobail agus an duine
- > An aeráid
- > An bhithéagsúlacht
- > Sócmhainní ábhartha
- > Talamh, ithreacha agus geolaíocht
- > An oidhreacht chultúrtha
- > Uisce
- > An tírdhreach
- > Aer

Tá doiciméad scoipe foilsithe ag Uisce Éireann. Leagtar amach sa doiciméad na saincheisteanna a measann sé gur cheart iad a chur ar áireamh san EIS agus san NIS agus na modheolaíochtaí le haghaidh an tionchair chomhshaoil a bheidh acu a scrúdú. Tá fáil ar an doiciméad ag [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

### Cé na nithe a bhfuiltear ag dul i ndáil comhairle fúthu?

Ba mhaith le foireann an tionscadail do chuid tuairimí a fháil faoi na nithe seo:

- > An ann d'aon saincheisteanna comhshaoil ba chearta a bheith san EIS nár breithníodh sa doiciméad scoipe?
- > An ann d'aon mhodheolaíochtaí breise nó malartacha ba chearta a úsáid chun tionchar comhshaoil a mheasúnú?
- > An ann d'aon fhaisnéis eile nó tionscadail eile a chreideann tú a bheith ábhartha maidir le forbairt an EIS/NIS?

10 | Uisce Éireann | Tionscadal Uasghrádaithe Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce na Rinne

## Cad a tharlóidh ina dhiaidh seo?

A luaithe is atá an tréimhse comhairliúcháin seo curtha i gcrích, cuirfidh Uisce Éireann gach ceann de na barúlacha ábhartha a fuarthas le chéile agus cinnteoidh sé go mbreithneofar iad agus an EIS agus an NIS á n-ullmhú.

Cuirfear an Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta agus an Ráiteas Tionchair Natura faoi bhráid an Bhoird Phleanála mar chuid den iarratas pleanála. Ós rud é go bhfuil sé ar an údarás inniúil le haghaidh iarratais phleanála a mheasúnú agus a chinneadh, tabharfaidh an Bord faoi chomhairliúchán reachtúil ina mbeidh deis bhreise agat do chuid tuairimí a chur in iúl.

Tá rún ag Uisce Éireann iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an mBord Pleanála go mall sa bhliain 2016 ar chead le haghaidh an tionscadal athbhreithnithe a chur chun feidhme. Ina dhiaidh sin, déanfaidh an Bord Measúnacht Tionchair Timpeallachta agus Measúnacht Chuí ar an tionscadal sula ndéanfaidh sé a chinneadh ar an iarratas.

## Faisnéis faoi Laethanta Oscailte

### Déardaoin an 21 Aibreán

Cill Fhionntain: Marine Hotel – 10am go dtí 2pm.  
Cluain Tarbh: Clasaí Centre – 4pm go dtí 7pm.

### Dé Sathairn an 23 Aibreán

SPORTSCO, Bóthar na Lotaí Theas, an Rinn – 10am go dtí 6pm.

### Dé Máirt an 26 Aibreán

Cill Iníon Léinín: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel – 10am go dtí 2pm.  
Dún Laoghaire: Royal Marine Hotel - 4pm go dtí 8pm.

Le haghaidh tuilleadh faisnéise a fháil nó le haghaidh aighneacht a dhéanamh:

Seol ríomhphost chugainn ag: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Cuir glao orainn ag: Íosghlao 1890 989 310  
nó +353 (1) 453 7063

Seol litir chuig: Tionscadal na Rinne, Bosca OP 11561,  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Téigh chuig: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

**Ag cosaint ár n-uisce don saol atá romhainn**

[water.ie](http://water.ie)

## Appendix C: Open Day Banners

### Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project



- > Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant is operating over its design capacity.
- > An upgrade is necessary to deal with existing and future wastewater to facilitate social and economic development in the Greater Dublin Area.
- > An Bord Pleanála granted permission in 2012 for the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel.
- > Irish Water has identified an advanced process technology, known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS), which would achieve a higher standard of treatment; allow discharge of treated water to remain at its current location and would eliminate the need for the tunnel.
- > This would deliver savings and reduce any significant disruption for local communities, during construction.
- > Irish Water intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for this revised proposal.

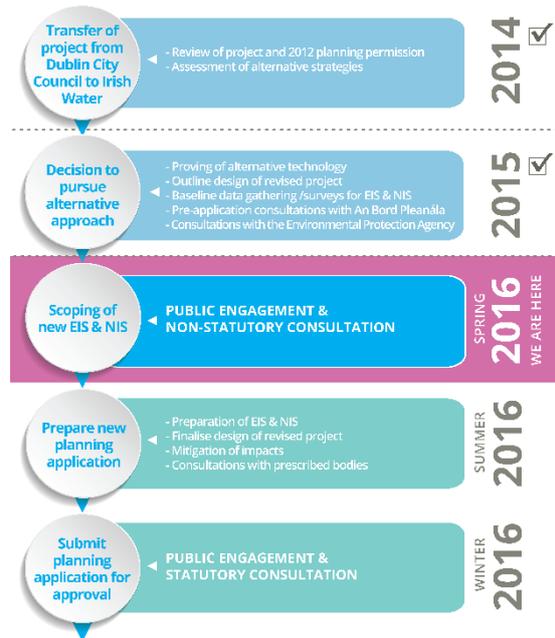
Instead of treating the wastewater to a slightly lower standard and discharging it 9km out in Dublin Bay, it is now proposed to treat it to a much higher standard and to continue to discharge treated effluent at the current location on the Lower Liffey Estuary.

#### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



### Project planning roadmap



■ Completed Tasks   ■ Where we are now   ■ Outstanding tasks

#### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



## History of the plant and project



- > Dublin's wastewater has been treated in Ringsend since 1906.
- > The current plant was commissioned in 2003. It treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area, including parts of Meath.
- > The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, recommended the expansion of Ringsend and a new regional wastewater treatment facility to be located in North Dublin, to deal with projected population growth and economic development.
- > Irish Water took over responsibility for the provision of public water services in January 2014.



### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



## AGS Technology

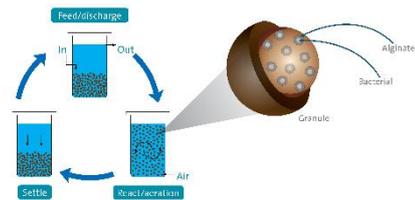
- > The aerobic granular sludge process is a development of the activated sludge process.
- > The activated sludge process was first used 100 years ago and is now the main process used for wastewater treatment around the world.



Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) is an advanced biological treatment process which:

- > Provides a high quality effluent
- > Significantly reduces nutrients - nitrogen and phosphorus
- > Reduces energy consumption compared to other biological processes
- > Is a sustainable and robust process with greater ability to adapt to fluctuating loads
- > Provides significant savings

The higher effluent quality will further enhance improvements in water quality in the Lower Liffey Estuary and Dublin Bay.

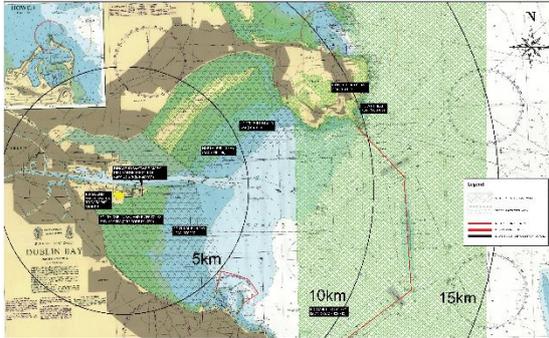


### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



## The Environment



- > Large scale infrastructure projects of this nature require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).
- > Both will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning process.
- > Factors to be included in an EIS are set out in national and European legislation, but key elements include:
  - Population and human health
  - Water
  - Material assets
  - Biodiversity
  - Air
  - Cultural heritage
  - Land, soils and geology
  - Climate
  - Landscape
- > Irish Water is now inviting submissions from the public and interested parties on the issues to be considered in the EIS and NIS.



### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

## Have your say



This consultation period will run from  
**14 March to 17 May 2016.**

### Questions

- > Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the scoping document?
- > Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- > Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?

### Get in touch

For further information, or to make a submission, please:

**Email:** [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

**Phone:** LoCall 1890 989 310 or + 353 (1) 453 7063

**Post:** Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

**Visit:** [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

### Safeguarding your water for your future

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

## Appendix D: Open Day Advert and Poster

# Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

## Information Days

As part of an eight week public consultation on the scoping of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Irish Water will hold a number of information days to inform interested parties about the proposed project.

The public consultation is to invite submissions on issues to be considered in the EIS and the NIS, to be submitted with a planning application later this year to upgrade the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions at the following venues:

<b>Thursday, 21st April</b>	<b>Sutton:</b> Marine Hotel	10am to 2pm
	<b>Clontarf:</b> Clasac Centre	4pm to 7pm
<b>Saturday, 23rd April</b>	<b>Ringsend:</b> SPORTSCO, South Lotts Road	10am to 6pm
<b>Tuesday, 26th April</b>	<b>Killiney:</b> Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel	10am to 2pm
	<b>Dun Laoghaire:</b> Royal Marine Hotel	4pm to 8pm

The consultation period closes on 17th May 2016.

### Safeguarding your water for your future.

For further information visit [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

Alternatively, please contact the project team by:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or +353 1 453 7063



# Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Information Day

**As part of an eight week public consultation on the scoping of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Irish Water will hold an information day in Ringsend to inform interested parties about the proposed project.**

The public consultation is to invite submissions on issues to be considered in the EIS and the NIS, to be submitted with a planning application later this year to upgrade the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions on **Friday, 6th May** at the **Shelbourne Park Greyhound Stadium, South Lotts Road, Dublin 4**, from **2pm to 8pm**.

The consultation period closes on 17th May 2016.

## **Safeguarding your water for your future.**

For further information visit [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

Alternatively, please contact the project team by:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or +353 1 453 7063



## Appendix E: Invitation to Wood Quay Event



**Tionscadal Uasghrádú na Rinne**  
Bosca OP 11561  
Baile Átha Cliath 8  
Éire

**Ringsend Upgrade Project**  
PO Box 11561  
Dublin 8  
Ireland

14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Councillor,

**RE: Update on Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project**

Irish Water, Ireland's national water utility responsible for providing and developing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland, has launched an eight week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

On behalf of Irish Water, I wish to invite you to a briefing session on the Ringsend Upgrade Project on **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March** from **2pm – 7pm** at the Woodquay Venue, Dublin City Council, Dublin 8.

This informal briefing will provide you with an update on the current status of the plant, and plans for its development. Please see the Ringsend Upgrade Project brochure for further details.

The project team will be available between 2pm and 7pm, if you wish to drop in to Woodquay at any stage during this time frame for a one-on-one briefing.

Yours sincerely,



Donal O'Connor  
Project Manager  
Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

## Appendix F: Email Letter to TDs and Councillors



**Tionscadal Uasghrádú na Rinne**  
Bosca OP 11561  
Baile Átha Cliath 8  
Éire

**Ringsend Upgrade Project**  
PO Box 11561  
Dublin 8  
Ireland

14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Deputy / Councillor,

**RE: Update on Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project**

Irish Water, Ireland's national water utility responsible for providing and developing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland, has launched an eight week public consultation on issues to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

Full details of the project and the public consultation process can be found at [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend), along with the Ringsend Upgrade Project brochure.

Should you wish to receive further information or if you would like a personal briefing on the current status of the plant, and plans for its development, please contact the project team, who will be glad to arrange this at your convenience.

Project team contact details are:

- Phone: 1890 989 310 / 01 4537063
- Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Yours sincerely,

Donal O'Connor  
Project Manager  
Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

## Appendix G: EZine newsletters

### Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project – eNewsletter Issue 1 – Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

# Project Update

## Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project



Issue No. 1  
March 2016

#### Public consultation on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Natura Impact Statement (NIS) scoping document

Irish Water has entered an eight week public consultation period on a scoping document which sets out the issues it considers should be included in the EIS and NIS and the methodologies for examining their environmental impacts.

The aim of the consultation is to ensure that the EIS and the NIS address all issues of potential impact or concern, and that the assessments of the potential impacts of the project are as comprehensive as possible. These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

The scoping document is available at [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend), where information on making a submission is also available.

#### Project background

In January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision of public water services, which included the transfer of responsibility for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project from Dublin City Council. The Ringsend plant has been providing wastewater treatment to the city of Dublin since 1906. The plant is the largest treatment plant in Ireland and treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area, including parts of Meath.

Today, the plant is operating over its design capacity and needs to be upgraded to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area has appropriate wastewater treatment to enable continued social and economic development. Upgrading the current capacity at Ringsend and the proposed development of the Greater Dublin Drainage plant at Clonshaugh will help to meet the infrastructural requirements to treat the amount of wastewater that will be generated as the population continues to grow and the industrial needs of the area continue to expand. This will ensure that wastewater generated in the Greater Dublin Area is appropriately treated in order to safeguard human health and to protect the environment.

### Proposed change to existing planning permission

In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade the plant and increase its capacity, based on technologies available at the time. The project approved in 2012 included the construction of a 9km long sea outfall tunnel to relocate the discharge of treated effluent from the Ringsend Plant out into Dublin Bay. Since that time, Irish Water has been reviewing the project and an alternative solution is now being proposed.



Irish Water has identified an advanced nutrient reduction treatment technology that was not available as an option to Dublin City Council in 2012. This technology is known as Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) and would allow the discharge of treated wastewater to remain at its current location, removing the need to build the tunnel, and therefore delivering significant cost savings on this project - estimated to be in the region of €170 million. This technology is already in use in two Irish Water wastewater treatment plants - in Clonakilty and Carrigrohilly - where significant savings are also being achieved.

Irish Water intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála later this year for permission to implement the alternative solution. The revised project being proposed by Irish Water is very similar to that approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012. However, there is one major difference: Instead of treating the wastewater to a slightly lower standard and discharging it 9km out into Dublin Bay, it is now proposed to treat it to a much higher standard and to continue to discharge treated effluent at the current location on the Lower Liffey Estuary.

### Advantages of the proposed new approach

If approved, the use of this AGS technology would maximise efficiency, reduce risk and realise significant savings through eliminating the need to build the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.

- A much higher effluent quality would be achieved and, even at full future capacity, emissions from the plant would be significantly lower than at present.
- In addition, the impacts of tunnel construction could be entirely avoided, including the 70,000 heavy goods vehicles involved in removing material excavated from the 9km long sea outfall tunnel.
- The revised approach provides for the recovery of phosphorus (a non-renewable resource). This finite resource would otherwise be discharged to Dublin Bay with the loss of its re-use potential in agriculture.

### What is being consulted on?

The project team would like to hear the views of interested parties on the following:

- Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the scoping document?
- Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?

### Have your say

You can participate in the Irish Water consultation on the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project by making a submission with your feedback on the [project scoping documents](#). Your submission can be made via email or post:

**Email:** [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)  
**Post:** Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Submissions received on or before Tuesday, 17th May 2016 will be considered as part of the scoping process. Once this consultation period is completed, Irish Water will gather all the comments received and ensure they are addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

For further information:

**Phone:** Lo-Call 1890 989 310 or (01) 453 7063

**Web:** [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

**Information events**

Irish Water is holding a series of open days in relation to the upgrade of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant. You can receive information on the planning process and the published scoping document by attending one of the below events:

- Marine Hotel, Sutton:** Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 10am to 2pm
- Clasac Centre, Clontarf:** Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 4pm to 7pm
- SPORTSCO, Ringsend:** Saturday, 23rd April from 10am to 6pm
- Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney:** Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 10am to 2pm
- Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire:** Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 4pm to 8pm

**Project roadmap**



For further information, or to make a submission, please:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or + 353 (1) 453 7063

Post: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Visit: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

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**Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project – eNewsletter**  
**Issue 2 – Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

# Project Update

## Ringsend

### Wastewater Treatment Plant

### Upgrade Project



**Issue No. 2**  
**April 2016**

**Irish Water to hold information events as part of the public consultation**

Irish Water is inviting comment and submissions from the public and interested parties on the issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), as part of an eight week public consultation, closing on 17th May 2016.

As part of this public consultation, information events will be held in April to provide members of the public with an opportunity to meet the project team and to ask any questions or to provide feedback.

The aim of the consultation is to ensure that the EIS and the NIS address all issues of potential impact or concern, and that the assessments of the potential impacts of the project are as comprehensive as possible. These two documents will form part of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, which Irish Water expects to submit towards the end of 2016.

The scoping document is available at [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend). Information on making a submission is also available there.

**What is being consulted on?**

The project team would like to hear your views on the following:

- Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the scoping document?
- Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?



**Information events**

Members of the project team will be available to provide information on the draft scoping document and on the proposed upgrade to the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant at the below events:

- Sutton: Marine Hotel** - Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 10am to 2pm
- Clontarf: Clasac Centre** - Thursday, 21st April 2016 from 4pm to 7pm
- Ringsend: SPORTSCO** - Saturday, 23rd April from 10am to 6pm
- Killiney: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel** - Killiney: Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 10am to 2pm
- Dún Laoghaire: Royal Marine Hotel** - Tuesday, 26th April 2016 from 4pm to 8pm

Irish Water invites members of the public and interested groups to attend these open days.

**Have your say**

If you would like to provide feedback on the project’s environmental impact [scoping document](#), you can make a submission via:

**Email:** [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

**Post:** Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Submissions received on or before Tuesday, 17th May 2016 will be considered as part of the scoping process. Once this consultation period is completed, Irish Water will gather all the relevant comments received and ensure they are addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). An Bord Pleanála will then carry out a statutory consultation, which will provide you with a further opportunity to have your say

For further information:

**Phone:** Lo-Call 1890 989 310 or (01) 453 7063

**Web:** [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

**Project background**

The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant has been providing wastewater treatment to the city of Dublin since 1906. The plant is the largest treatment plant in Ireland and treats wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area, including parts of Meath.

The plant is now operating over its design capacity and requires an upgrade to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area has appropriate wastewater treatment to meet current demand and to allow for economic and population growth. In 2012, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Dublin City Council to upgrade the plant and increase its capacity. Irish Water has reviewed the project and is proposing an alternative approach, based on technology that was not available as an option in 2012. Visit [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend) for further details.

**Project roadmap**



For further information, or to make a submission, please:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or + 353 (1) 453 7063

Post: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Visit: [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend)

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## Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project – eNewsletter Issue 3 – Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

# Project Update

## Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project



Issue No. 3  
May 2016

### Contributing to the public consultation

The eight week public consultation period on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Scoping Document for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project ends next week. You can make a submission on the Scoping Document up until Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016, using the Project Team contact details below:

**Email:** [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)

**Post:** Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

You can find out more information on the project website [www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend) or by calling the following numbers: Lo-Call 1890 989 310 or +353 1 453 7063.

As part of this consultation, we would like to hear your views on the following:

- Are there any environmental issues that should be contained in the EIS that have not been considered in the scoping document?
- Are there any additional or alternative methodologies that should be used to assess environmental impacts?
- Is there any other information or projects that you believe are relevant in the development of the EIS/NIS?

All relevant issues raised during the public consultation process will be considered by the project team in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). A Consultation Response Report will be compiled and contained within the appendices of the EIS.

The EIS and NIS will form part of the planning application which will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in late 2016.

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## Appendix H: Letter to Prescribed Bodies



Tionscatal Uasghrádú na Rinne  
Dosca OP 11561  
Baile Átha Cliath 8  
Éire

Ringsend Upgrade Project  
PO Box 11561  
Dublin 8  
Ireland

### General

14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Sir / Madam,

#### **RE: Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Consultation on Scoping of EIS and NIS**

Irish Water is currently progressing plans to upgrade the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for permission to carry out development works under Section 37E of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 to 2015. It is intended that the application will be submitted in Quarter 4 of 2016.

The documentation required to be submitted with the planning application will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which are currently being scoped to identify the issues that will need to be examined as part of the environmental assessments.

Irish Water has launched a public consultation process, on the scoping of the EIS and the NIS, to ensure that the documents submitted to An Bord Pleanála take account of the views of all stakeholders, with environmental concerns.

A scoping document, identifying the proposed scope of the EIS and the NIS, has thus been prepared, and is enclosed herein, together with an electronic copy on CD. Irish Water is now seeking views from interested parties. The public consultation period on the scoping document closes on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016, and thereafter Irish Water will commence preparation of its EIS and NIS. However, submissions or observations from prescribed bodies and key stakeholders received after this date will be fully considered wherever feasible.

Further information is available on the project website:  
[www.water.ie/ringsend](http://www.water.ie/ringsend) Observations and comments on the EIS and the NIS scoping document can be submitted by post or email (contact details below). Alternatively, if you would prefer to provide feedback at a meeting and / or would like a specific briefing on the project, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Team at the number below to arrange:

Email: [info@ringsendproject.ie](mailto:info@ringsendproject.ie)  
Phone: LoCall 1890 989 310 or + 353 (1) 453 7063  
Post: Ringsend Project, PO Box 11561, Dublin 8

Yours sincerely,



Donal O'Connor  
Project Manager  
Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project