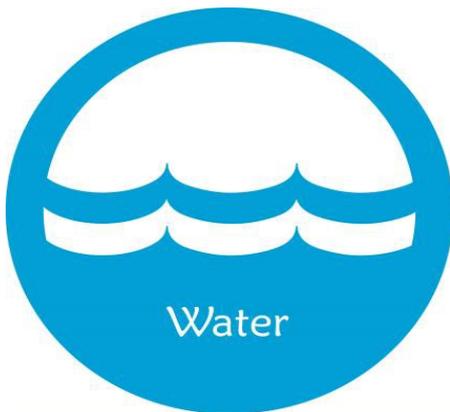


Water Services in Ireland

Irish Water / Rural Water Programme

10 June 2016



Colm Lavery, Principal
Water Sector Policy, DECLG



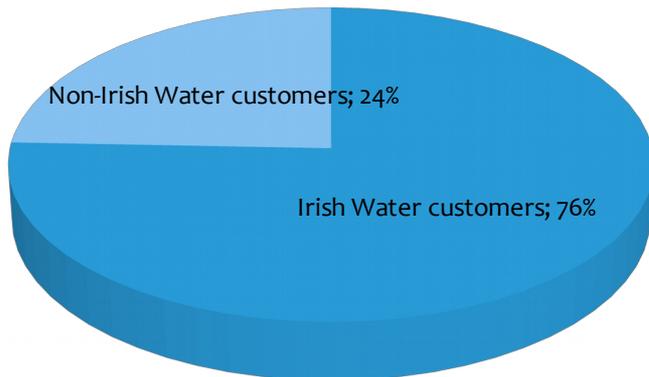
Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Department Role

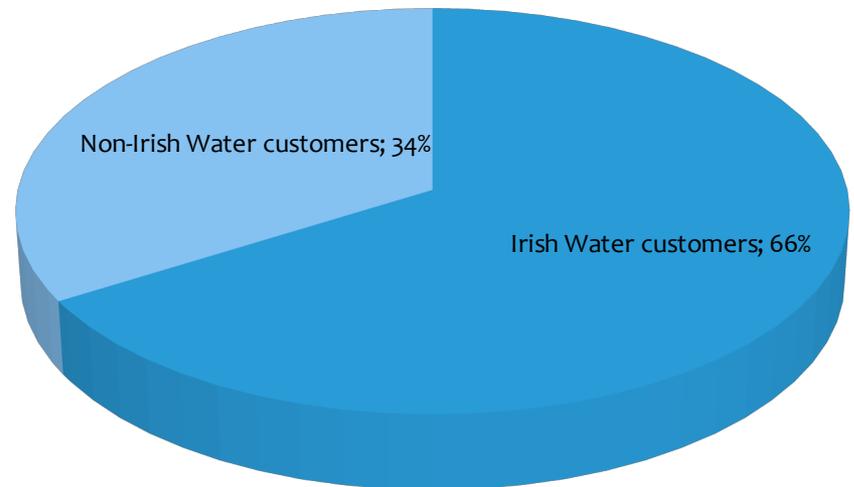
- * Role of Department is in
 - * Setting policy
 - * Operational funding and capital investment
 - * Reforming the water sector including public network and rural water sector

Role has to be holistic and integrated

* Drinking water supply



* Waste Water Treatment



Based on Census data 2011

Main reform components – Public network

Introduction of a **sustainable funding model** for water services, including usage-based domestic water charges.

Establishment of Irish Water, an independent **state-owned water utility**, assuming responsibility for water services functions.

Introduction of **independent economic regulation** of water services, assigned to the Commission for Energy Regulation.

Reform Progress

- Establishment of utility (Irish Water) in 2013; transfer of water services functions from 34 Local Authorities to Irish Water in January 2014.
- Roll-out of metering programme: approx. 832,000 meters installed (1.05m domestic meters to be installed under programme).
- Implementation of 2014-2021 Capital Investment Plan - €5.5bn.
- Progress in areas of removing boil water notices, leakage reduction, capital planning, asset management and mitigation of lead in drinking water.
- Operational efficiencies – 7% year on year or €1.1bn by 2021

New Government – Water commitments

- Suspension of domestic water charges for a period of nine months.
- External Advisory Body to advise and improve the accountability and transparency of Irish Water.
- Suspension period is to allow for the establishment of an expert Commission to consider and make recommendations to Parliament on the long term funding of water services.
- Ultimately, Parliament will determine the enduring funding model for public water services into the future.
- Protect the existing investment commitment of Irish Water, namely the €5.5 billion from 2014-2021.

RWP Investment

2000 to 2015

	2000-2013	2014	2015	2000-2015
Group Water Schemes	€781.7m	€11.084m	€11.968m	€804.752m
Small Public Schemes & miscellaneous (e.g. group sewerage schemes, well grants etc.)	€359.0m	€4.921m	€5.567m	€369.488m
Total	€1,140.7m	€16.005m	€17.535m	€1,174.24m

Rural Water Sector Reform

- * Oct 2015 – Rural Water Working Group established – to address the future development of the Rural Water Sector
- * New Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme for 2016 to 2018
- * State funding of €17.535m for RWP in 2016
- * Expert Panel established to select schemes and demonstration projects to inform future policy
- * Developing a National Remedial Action list for Group Water Schemes - to address water quality issues
- * New governance and supervisory arrangements to ensure water quality improvements continue to be made.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

Principles and Objectives

To ensure rural areas have water services that compare favourably with urban supplies

- * Support the long-term planning of schemes
- * Greater certainty about the ongoing availability of funding – RAL
- * Improve and sustain water quality
- * Address public health issues
- * Promotion of water conservation and source protection
- * Provide a well supervised & managed, economic and cost effective rural water supply including through amalgamations
- * Promote efficiency and effectiveness in operations and management

Context remains the importance of water environment for...

- * **Public health and well-being**
- * **Economic Value**
 - * 200-250,000 jobs in water intensive industries
 - * Food Wise 2025
 - * Harnessing our Ocean Wealth
- * **Heritage Value –**
citizens/customers perspectives

