



**An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil**  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government

# Overview of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan

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21st March 2017



# Outline

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- Overview of the Water Framework Directive
- Learnings from first cycle river basin management plan
- Some key aspects of the draft second cycle RBMP
- Public consultation & engagement



# Water Framework Directive

- Objective of WFD is to protect and restore water quality
- Key goals – prevent deterioration & ensure all water bodies achieve at least good status by 2015 (or 2027 at latest)
- Do so through a catchment management approach
- Member States must develop River Basin Management Plans which characterise the river basin and set out the programme of measures to address pressures and achieve objectives
- Measure must ensure implementation of pre-existing Directives & implement supporting measures where necessary
- Public consultation and engagement central to WFD
- WFD provides for three planning cycles 2009-2015, 2016-2021 and 2022-2027 to meet objectives.



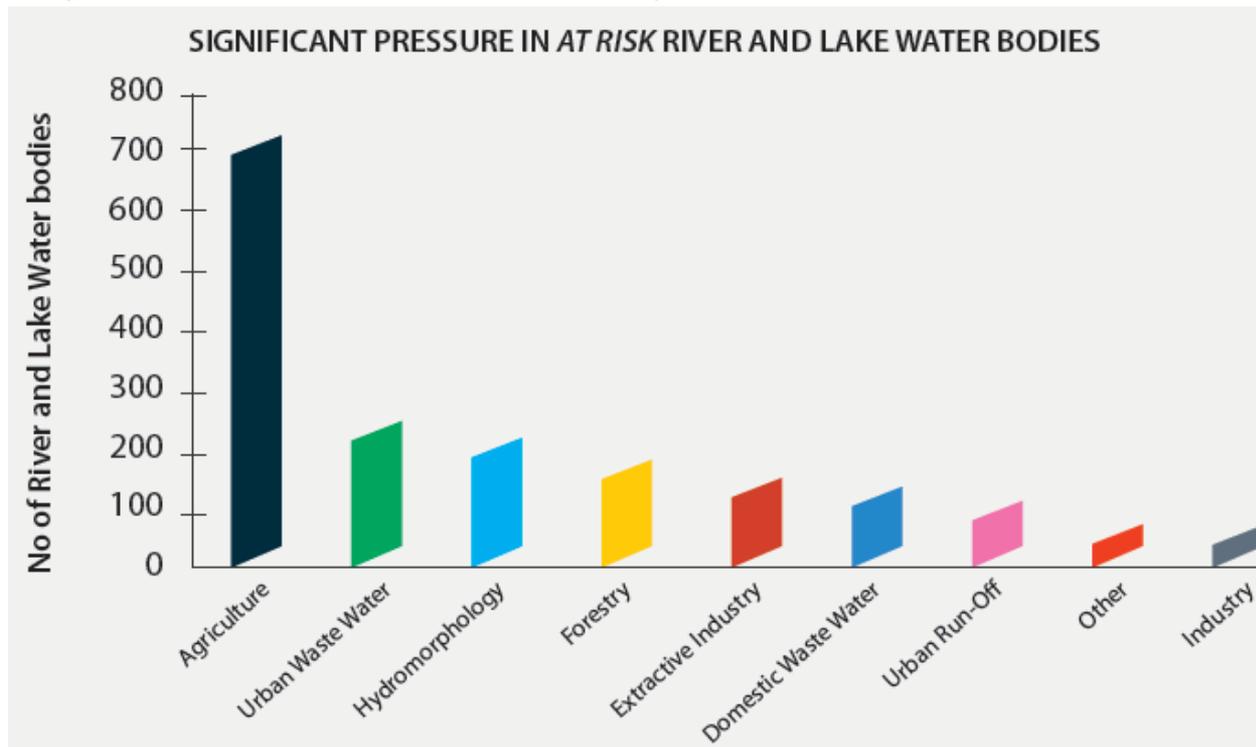
# Key learnings from 1<sup>st</sup> cycle

- Need for better evidence base (EPA characterisation work)
- First cycle too ambitious – clear prioritisation needed
- European Commission review of first cycle flagged “fragmented institutional structures” and stated “there was no single body having ultimate responsibility”
  - Second cycle moves from 4 River Basin Districts to a single RBD
  - Major focus on getting the governance & implementation structures right
- Need for improved communication & public engagement
  - Specific resource developed through setting up the Local Authority Water and Community Office (LAWCO)



# EPA Characterisation

- Detailed assessment of 46 catchments with 4,882 water bodies
- 45% of rivers and 54% of lakes at less than good status
- Significant pressures are diverse & 53% of “at risk” waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure.





# Broad approach & priorities

- Draft plan sets out programme of measures to address these significant pressures in prioritised way
- Identified priorities in the plan:
  - Compliance with existing EU legislation (e.g. UWWTD)
  - Prevent deterioration
  - Meet water objectives for designated ‘protected areas’
  - Protect high status waters
  - Priority catchments for targeted actions and pilot schemes
- Overall approach:
  - implementation of basic measures through national authorities
  - prioritised supporting measures; and
  - building knowledge/expertise.
- 71 specific measures contained in the draft plan.

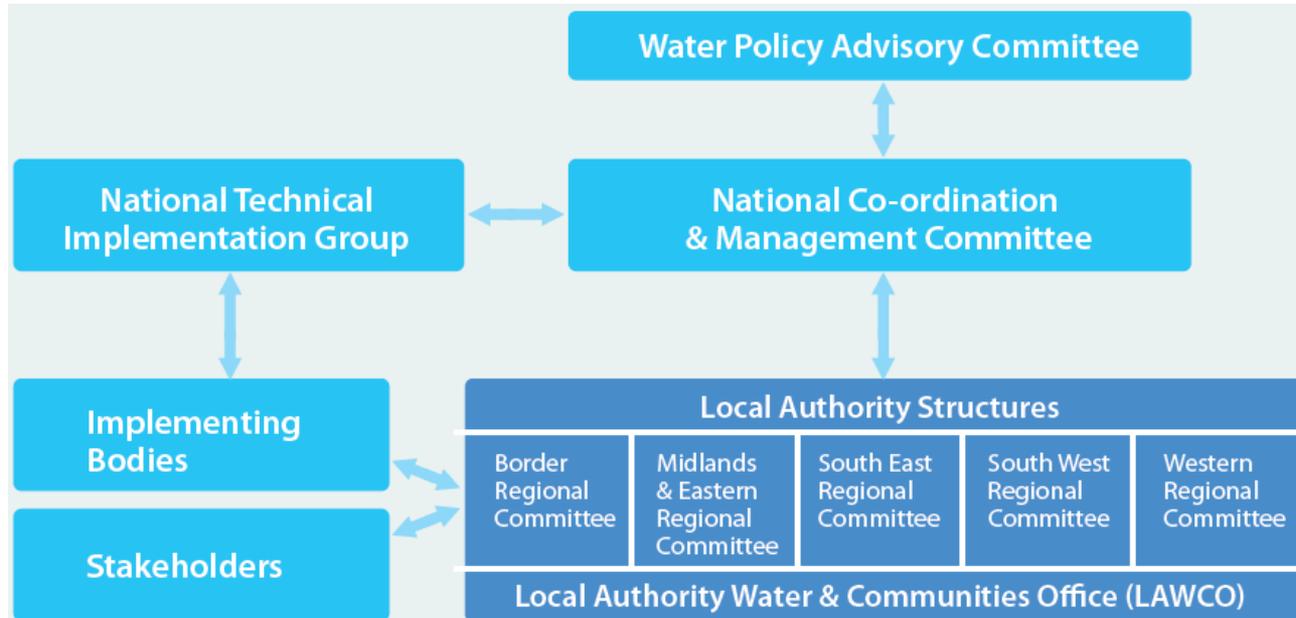


# Draft RBMP, flooding & planning

- Approach to interactions between WFD and Floods Directive is based on ensuring an appropriate process to:
  - Effectively assess potential impacts of proposed modifications at appropriate level
  - Where impacts may arise, identify mitigation measures
  - Facilitate reporting in RBMP and support decisions on Article 4(7) if necessary.
- Such an approach has been developed and implemented by OPW as part of CFRAM process
  - OPW and EPA have committed to work together on further developing this area during second cycle
- Other relevant measures in draft RBMP:
  - Mitigation measures incorporated in OPW drainage maintenance programme
  - EPA and others to work on understanding & evidence base for hydromorphology
  - DHPCLG to develop high level guidance for planning authorities on the relationship between physical planning & river basin planning.



# Proposed Implementation Structures



- WPAC high level policy direction
- NCMC to oversee programme delivery and implementation
- NTIG for technical implementation, characterisation, reporting and environmental monitoring and tracking of measures
- LA Regional structures leading on regional delivery & implementation
- Essential that structures & people work together to achieve progress.



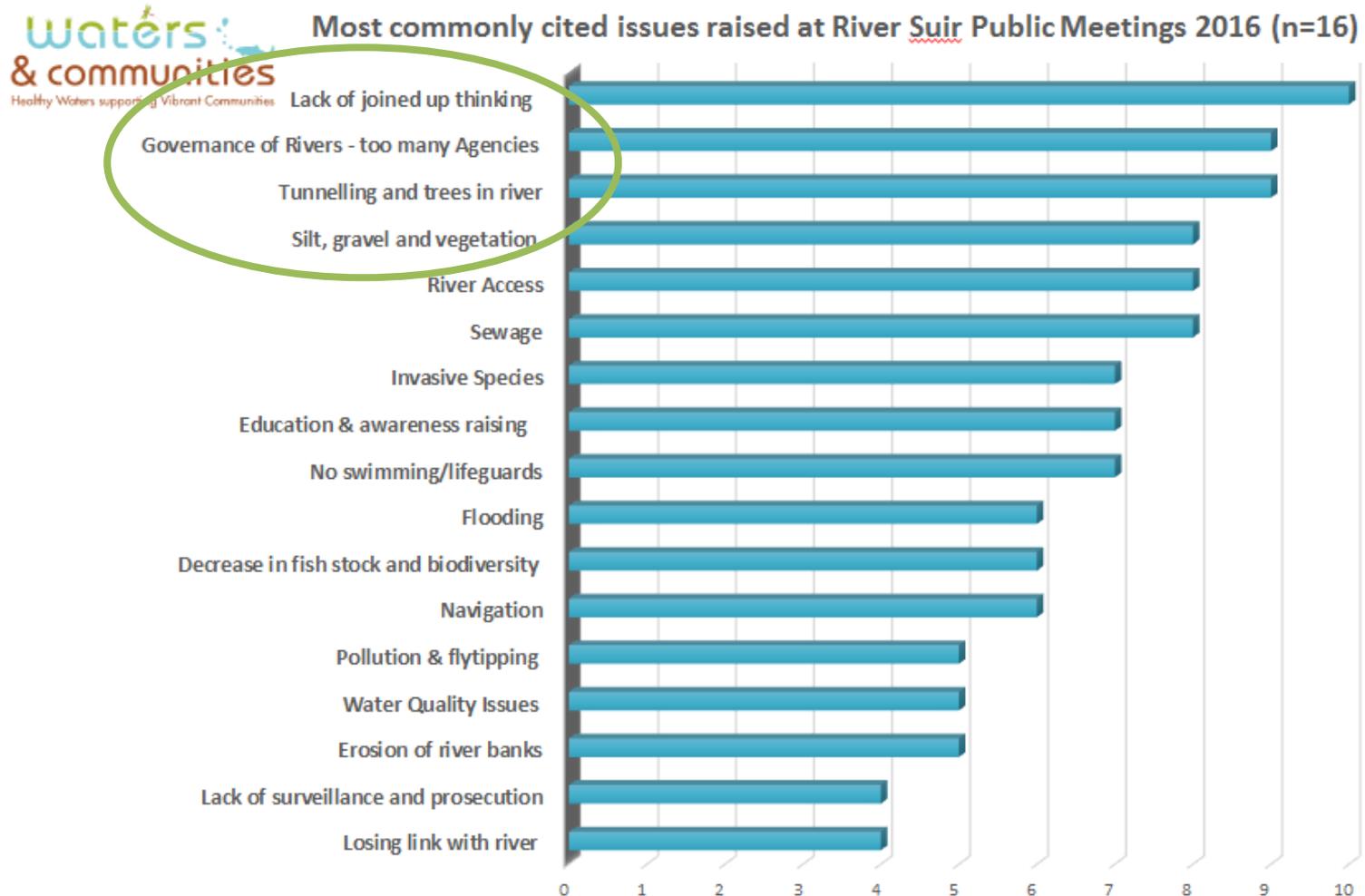
# Consultation & final plan delivery

- [Draft Plan](#) approved by the Minister & published on 28<sup>th</sup> February for 6 month consultation process
- Planned public consultation process:
  - Formal submissions to Department on the draft plan
  - Continued bilateral engagement with State bodies to further refine plan and programme of measures
  - Direct consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. farming groups, e-NGOs, industry groups)
  - Stakeholder event in May at Farmleigh
  - Local Authority Waters & Communities Office engaging LA staff and hosting public events in all 95 municipal districts.
- Final RBMP, approved by Minister, required for December 2017.



# Consultation & final plan delivery

- Issues arising from public engagement – slide from a LAWCO presentation:





# Conclusion

- Draft plan aims to address very significant challenges in prioritised way
- Particular focus on implementation structures, public engagement and building knowledge/expertise
- Measures in plan that interact with physical planning and flooding
- Extensive consultation & engagement to inform final plan for December 2017
- Submissions welcome:
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- Bilateral engagement also welcome
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