



National Federation of Group Water Schemes

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Final Motions Approved by NFGWS ADC 7th March 2019

A. Multi-annual Rural Water Programme and Review of Rural Water Future Investment Needs:	1
B. Source Protection	3
C. Possible Constitutional Amendment on Water Services	3
D. Road Openings & GWSs	4
E. Subsidy	4
F. Irish Water	4
G. Miscellaneous	4

A. Multi-annual Rural Water Programme and Review of Rural Water Future Investment Needs:

1. As part of the ongoing review of Rural Water Investment Needs the NFGWS and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, include a review of the DBO contract process, so that any issues can be learned from and acted upon in future contracts.

Carlow & Wexford

2. As part of the ongoing review of Rural Water Investment Needs the NFGWS:
 - a. Ensures sufficient funding is secured for the GWS sector beyond 2021.
 - b. Ensures that future RWP allocations are announced as early as possible in the year so that GWS are not put under time pressure to get work completed.

Carlow & Wexford

3. That the Board of the NFGWS seek to ensure 100% funding continues towards the cost associated with treatment plant facilities as it is essential to ensure treatment plants are maintained to a high standard and the water produced continues to be compliant with the regulations.

Cavan

4. That the board of the NFGWS ensure sufficient funding levels are secured for the Group Water Schemes in the review of the Rural Water investment needs to allow for adequate funding towards GWS infrastructure to guarantee sustainability for the sector into the future. In addition, that this funding is provided in a timely manner to allow schemes the time to get works completed & funding drawn down.

Cavan

5. Cork Federation proposes that the Rural Water Allocation is released earlier in the year to allow Group Water Schemes complete capital works before the year end and that any approved works which have not been completed by the year end can recommence the following year, within the multi-annual programme.

Cork

6. That the Rural Water Allocation is released earlier in the year to allow GWS to complete works before the year end and that any approved works which have not been completed by the year end can recommence the following year, within the multi-annual programme, without resubmitting an application.

Clare

7. That the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in consultation with the NFGWS continue to carry out a full review of the investment needs of the rural water sector and to ensure that capital grant aid would continue to be available to the Group Water Scheme Sector beyond 2021 to assist with maintaining and improving schemes' networks.

Galway

8. As part of the ongoing review of rural water future investment needs the NFGWS seeks an increase in capital funding to reflect the increased costs associated with road opening and their restoration.

Kilkenny

9. The NFGWS continues to ensure the early allocation of grants for capital funding under the MARWP so GWS aren't put under time pressure to get works completed.

Laois

10. The NFGWS to negotiate with the Department to ensure that Local Authorities are sufficiently resourced to meet the needs of the rural water sector in their area.

Laois

11. That the NFGWS seek to have additional funding provided for the takeover of "bundles" of Part-Private Group Water Schemes in certain areas where the need has been identified and the consent of such schemes has been indicated.

Leitrim

12. The NFGWS works with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to ensure an early announcement of the allocations under the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme.

Louth

13. The NFGWS ensures that both operational and capital funding are reviewed regularly with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to take account of increasing capital and upgrade costs for GWSs.

Louth

14. That this ADC calls for a full review of current treatment process on all plants on surface water supplies, whether DBO or otherwise, to see what tweaking, if any, will be required to further reduce the potential for THM formation.

Monaghan

15. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that funding under the RWP is made available early in the year so that the contracts can be completed in a timely manner and not rushed so as to facilitate drawdown of the allocated funds before the year end.

Roscommon

16. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that adequate funding is in place to meet the Rural Water Program investment requirements post 2021.

Sligo

17. That water conservation works such as bulk metering and associated telemetry is funded at 100% to assist schemes reduce their unaccounted-for water (UFW) in addition to 100% funding for equipment to allow schemes manage their water resources and become prepared for climate change.

Tipperary

B. Source Protection

18. That the NFGWS seeks that planning authorities recognise and use the Zone of Contribution (ZOC) reports completed by schemes when granting planning permissions to help ensure that drinking water sources do not become polluted by proposed development in the catchment/ZOC, in conjunction with the current EPA guidelines.

Cork

19. The NFGWS ensure that increased financial assistance is made available to GWS to cover the cost of implementing adequate source protection measures, in highly pressurised areas.

Kilkenny

20. That the NFGWS engage with Coillte and the Dept of Agriculture Food and the Marine to seek improvements in the regulations governing clear felling and replanting of forestry in areas within the Zone of Contribution of Group Water Scheme sources.

Leitrim

21. That the NFGWS seeks to engage with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that “good farming practises” are implemented at all times to give maximum the protection of our raw water sources.

Mayo

22. That the NFGWS ensures that Local authorities use the Preliminary Source Protection Plans and Zone of Contribution reports funded by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to assist them evaluate planning permissions that may have a negative impact on GWS sources.

Tipperary

C. Possible Constitutional Amendment on Water Services

23. That the NFGWS Board continue to ensure that any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution in relation to the ownership of water services does not negatively impact on the Group Water Scheme sector in any way.

Cavan

24. That the NFGWS ensures that any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution developed by the Attorney General in relation to the ownership of public water and wastewater infrastructure, does not negatively impact on the private GWS sector.

Galway

25. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that any constitutional amendment protects the interest of Group Water Schemes from any unintended consequence ensuring the autonomy of Group Water Schemes as they are currently constituted.

Mayo

26. That this ADC directs the board of the NFGWS to take every measure possible to ensure the Group Water Scheme sector is consulted and protected before any possible amendments are made to the constitution in relation to the issue of ownership of public water and wastewater infrastructure.

Monaghan

27. That the NFGWS continues to ensure that the interests of Group Water Schemes are fully protected in any constitutional referendum.

Sligo

28. That the NFGWS ensures that any constitutional amendment relating to the proposed public ownership of water will not have a negative impact on the Group Water Scheme sector.

Tipperary

D. Road Openings & GWSs

29. That the final National Charging Framework for road openings recognises that the GWS sector is in receipt of significant funding from the exchequer in terms of capital and operational funding and therefore should not be required to pay a reinstatement deposit for road openings.

Carlow & Wexford

30. The NFGWS seeks an increase in capital funding to reflect the increased charges to road opening licence fees and road restoration costs.

Laois

31. That the schedule of charges for road opening licences to be applied by the Road Management Office recognises the financial implications for Group Water Scheme contracts funded under the RWP.

Roscommon

E. Subsidy

32. The NFGWS liaises with the Department Housing Planning and Local Government on the introduction of an online method of applying for subsidy.

Kildare & Wicklow

33. That the NFGWS seeks to have "Strand C Subsidy" extended to include Publicly Sourced group water schemes.

Roscommon

F. Irish Water

34. That the NFGWS continues to engage with Irish Water and Local Authorities to progress the taking in charge (TIC) of Group Water Schemes who have applied for takeover and to try and reduce the length of time this process takes, due to the significant levels of funding spent under this measure.

Cork

35. That the NFGWS continue to ensure that the publicly sourced GWSs are helped and supported at a National Level in their dealings with Irish Water.

Galway

G. Miscellaneous

36. The NFGWS ensures that GWSs are kept up to date with the latest technologies available for the provision of water supplies

Kildare & Wicklow

37. The NFGWS research the procurement of a national insurance policy to cover all affiliated schemes.

Kilkenny

38. That the NFGWS would seek to secure reduced insurance premium costs for the GWS sector.

Limerick