



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

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## Motions approved at ADC on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

- A. Group Water Scheme Subsidy and Capital Grants:..... 1
- B. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water ..... 3
- C. Shale Gas extraction and Hydraulic Fracturing ..... 4
- D. Miscellaneous ..... 4

### A. Group Water Scheme Subsidy and Capital Grants:

1. That the NFGWS actively canvases the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure that GWS operational subsidies are maintained at current levels at a minimum.  
**Cork**
2. That the NFGWS seeks to maintain GWS operational subsidies at current levels in any future review.  
**Laois**
3. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that sufficient subsidies continue to be available to group water schemes for operation & maintenance costs.  
**Monaghan**
4. That this ADC instructs the board of the NFGWS to ensure that the GWS operational subsidy is retained for all GWSs and particularly those that entered into long term DBO contracts in good faith, on the understanding and in the expectation that subsidy for DBO Operational and Maintenance contracts would continue for the lifetime of the contracts.  
**Sligo**
5. That the NFGWS ensures that operational subsidies for Group Water Schemes remain in place, in the context of any future review.  
**Tipperary**
6. That this ADC instructs the board of the NFGWS to ensure that the GWS operational subsidy is retained for all GWSs and particularly those that entered into long term DBO contracts in good faith, on the understanding and in the expectation that subsidy for DBO Operational and Maintenance contracts would continue for the lifetime of the contracts.  
**Mayo**
7. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure the continuation of sufficient subsidies for the operation & maintenance of rural group water schemes.  
**Louth**
8. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the Operational funding necessary for the future sustainability of the Group Water Scheme sector is continued in order to ensure that top quality drinking water standards are maintained.  
**Cavan**

9. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that Capital Grant Aid and Subsidies for Group Water Schemes are kept in place.

**Galway**

10. That the NFGWS ensures that Capital Grant Aid & Subsidies remain in place to assist Group Water Schemes with managing, maintaining & improving their infrastructure and networks to a standard that will ensure that they can continue to provide quality drinking water to their members.

**Clare**

11. That the NFGWS Board ensures that the considerable financial pressures many smaller Group Water Schemes experience, due to the smaller membership over which to spread costs and their consequently very high water charges, are taken into account in any future review of funding arrangements for the sector.

**Kildare and Wicklow**

12. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the Capital funding necessary for the future development of the Group Water Scheme sector is continued in order to protect and underpin the investment and associated improvements that have been made in the sector recent times.

**Cavan**

13. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure capital grant aid continues to be available for necessary improvements/upgrades for the Group Water Scheme sector

**Monaghan**

14. That the NFGWS secures capital funding for large scale upgrading works. Three GWSs in Limerick have unsuccessfully applied for funding for essential upgrading works with estimated costs of in excess of €300,000 each year for the last 3-4 years.

**Limerick**

15. That the NFGWS seeks the provision of funding for additional in-line continuous monitoring equipment to ensure that water quality on the extremities of Group Water Scheme networks is fully compliant with various parameters.

**Limerick**

16. That the NFGWS Board ensures that the funding to the GWS sector under the RWP is maintained at current levels.

**Kilkenny**

17. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure the continuation of capital grant aid for the improvement & necessary expansion of Group Water Scheme infrastructure.

**Louth**

18. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure the availability of Capital Grant Aid under the Rural Water Programme for the refurbishment (including the replacement of saddles, joints etc.) of Group Water Scheme distribution mains where full replacement is not necessary – i.e. piping itself in good condition and of adequate size.

**Roscommon**

19. That this ADC instructs the board of the NFGWS to ensure that appropriate capital funding be provided to enable the construction of the remaining Group Water Schemes that were dependent on CLÁR funding to proceed to completion.

**Mayo**

20. That the NFGWS ensures that the capital funding available to Group Water Schemes through the Rural water Program remains in place indefinitely at current levels.

**Tipperary**

21. That the NFGWS ensures that adequate grant aid be made available for Group Water Scheme upgrades and improvements going forward.

**Sligo**

## **B. Water Sector Reform & Establishment of Irish Water**

22. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that adequate Local Authority resources continue to be provided to Group Water Schemes, including suitably qualified Rural Water Liaison Officers, to ensure the success of the Rural Water Programme can continue.

**Monaghan**

23. That, in the context of the on-going water sector reform programme, the NFGWS ensures that the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government provides for adequate staffing levels within Local Authorities for the purposes of satisfactorily administering the Rural Water Program and associated support services for the GWS sector.

**Laois**

24. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that the same level of support services for the rural water programme are kept in place.

**Galway**

25. That the NFGWS ensures that special consideration be given to the unique position of the Group Water Scheme sector in the “New Era” of water service provision so that the improvements of the recent past can be sustained and built on.

**Sligo**

26. That the NFGWS continues to seek clarification on how Irish Water intends to manage its relationship with publicly sourced Group Water Schemes nationally.

**Laois**

27. That the NFGWS ensures that the unique position of Publicly Sourced Group Water Schemes as Irish Water consumers is acknowledged and catered for as part of the overall Water Sector Reform implementation strategy associated with the establishment of Irish Water. It is essential that the additional costs associated with maintenance and administration “downstream” of the bulk meter are given due consideration.

**Cavan**

28. That this ADC instructs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the unique position of Publicly Sourced Group Water Schemes is acknowledged and catered for as part of the overall Water Sector Reform implementation strategy associated with the establishment of Irish Water. In particular, it is essential that recognition be given to the additional costs associated with network maintenance and administration.

**Mayo**

29. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the survival of the part-private Group Water Scheme sector is taken into account and that the additional costs associated with delivery of water to Group Water Scheme members is catered for.

**Leitrim**

30. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the existing free domestic allowance of 227m<sup>3</sup> and subsidy are retained for part-private Group Water Schemes.

**Leitrim**

31. That the NFGWS secures commitments for the maintenance of the existing supports to publicly sourced Group Water Schemes to ensure that they can survive independently into the future.

**Galway**

## C. Shale Gas extraction and Hydraulic Fracturing

32. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that due consideration is given to GWS source zone of contribution / catchment reports by any organisation (consultants, companies, research teams etc.) involved in environmental impact assessments and site suitability assessments associated with proposals to extract shale gas using hydraulic fracturing.

**Roscommon**

33. That the NFGWS ensures that Group Water Schemes in areas, including Clare, identified as having potential for extraction of shale gas using fracking, are consulted in advance of any investigation projects or exploration works.

**Clare**

34. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to continue to monitor any developments with regard to proposals to extract shale gas using hydraulic fracturing and to ensure that the genuine threats to ground water and the Group Water Scheme sector are presented to the relevant government bodies.

**Leitrim**

## D. Miscellaneous

35. That the NFGWS investigates the possibility of seeking amendments to legislation which will ensure that Group Water Schemes have equal powers to Irish Water when dealing with pipe lines/water mains through private property / lands.

**Clare**

36. That the NFGWS should consider the appointment of a Health & Safety Advisor, with a particular focus on chemical handling and storage, who would visit group water schemes encouraging good health and safety practice (in a similar way as farmers have a H & S advisor visiting farms).

**Donegal**

37. That the Board of the NFGWS examine all avenues, including the appointment of additional staff if financial resources permit, for the further promotion of the excellent school curriculum resources "*All About Water*" and "*Our Water, Our Resource, Our Responsibility*".

**Carlow/Wexford**

38. That the NFGWS ensures that GWSs are fully briefed, as appropriate, on the implications and possible threats that the Pallas Green Mining project may have on their sources and that they are kept informed of any advance towards the development of the mine and bring it into production. The proposed depth of 1,200m is likely to have serious implications for ground water in the area.

**Limerick**

39. That the NFGWS undertake a pilot study with Group Water Schemes from County Tipperary to assess the value of obtaining insurance quotations for a number of Group Water Schemes together, compared with each Group Water Scheme getting individual quotations.

**Tipperary**

40. That the NFGWS seeks a reduction in annual ICOS affiliation fees for co-operative Group Water Schemes, given the economic austerity currently being experienced.

**Cork**

41. That the NFGWS continues to try and negotiate a GWS rate or some form of discount with laboratories for affiliated GWS.

**Louth**