



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

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- A. **Proposed Establishment of Irish Water**
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## A. Proposed Establishment of Irish Water

1. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to;
  - a. Ensure that the interests of the Group Water Scheme sector are protected and that the sector is not disadvantaged in any way as a result of any organisational changes that may arise through the establishment of Irish Water.
  - b. Ensure that financial and organisational supports remain in place for the GWS sector so that rural Ireland can continue to benefit from the vibrant, efficient and sustainable service being provided through community owned and operated Group Water Schemes.

**Cavan and Meath**

2. That the NFGWS model be preserved, maintained and enhanced under new legislation being considered / enacted.

**Galway**

3. That this ADC requests the NFGWS Board to lobby robustly to retain the same allowances, conditions and arrangements that are currently in place for Group Water Schemes with their Local Authorities in the context any re-organisation of water services delivery through the proposed establishment of Irish Water.

**Leitrim**

4. That this ADC requests the NFGWS Board to ensure existing Group Water Scheme networks (including publicly sourced GWSs) are not targeted for eventual takeover by the proposed public water utility, "Irish Water" or any other body in the future. (These networks were built up very successfully over the past 40 years by dedicated voluntary community groups who will now defend and resist any attempt to takeover or privatise them.)

**Leitrim**

5. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the needs of the GWS Sector are catered for with the establishment of Irish Water.

**Kildare / Wicklow**

6. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the good will established and enjoyed by Group Water Schemes, whereby land-owners allow permission to access sites of water abstraction points and treatment plants, is protected in any re-organisation of water services provision through the establishment of Irish Water.

**Louth**

7. That the NFGWS Board ensures that any transfer of functions to Irish Water will be conditional on GWS funding continuing.

**Kilkenny**

8. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the level of service currently received by GWS from LAs is not lost at local level with the establishment of the proposed utility 'Irish Water'.

**Carlow/Wexford**

## **B. Group Water Scheme Subsidy:**

9. 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**

10. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the operational subsidy is retained to help schemes meet their obligations under the drinking water regulations when ever domestic water charges are introduced on public supplies.

**Carlow/Wexford**

11. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the strand A Subsidy (general operations & management) continues to apply to the rural group water scheme sector due to the obvious additional high costs associated with delivering services across the more sparsely populated parts of rural Ireland, as distinct from the more densely populated public scheme sector, which it is proposed to transfer to Irish Water.

**Monaghan**

12. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the strand B Subsidy (DBO related) remains in place for the full duration of the Contract period (20 years) irrespective of the any developments in connection with the setting up of Irish Water.

**Monaghan**

13. That, regardless of water charges on Public GWSs, the NFGWS Board takes steps to ensure that the subsidy remains in place to assist GWS meeting their obligations under the Regulations.

**Clare**

14. That the NFGWS Board ensures that the DECLG maintains the current levels of Operational Subsidy towards GWS operational costs into the foreseeable future

**Kilkenny**

15. That the NFGWS ensures any proposals to re-introduce domestic water charges on Public GWSs do not affect the subsidy arrangements for GWSs.

**Roscommon**

16. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the value of the voluntary input of the GWS sector is accounted for when negotiating any future funding with the DECLG

**Kildare / Wicklow**

17. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that the DECLG includes an allowance for UFW when setting a domestic allowance for water.

**Kildare / Wicklow**

18. That this ADC requests the NFGWS board to seek the placing of a time-limit on the payment of the subsidy entitlements, so that group water schemes can expect to receive their entitlement with a period of no more than three calendar months from the date of submission of their completed claims.

**Donegal**

### **C. Capital Grant and Group Water Schemes:**

19. 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**

20. That this ADC directs the Board of the NFGWS to ensure ongoing State capital grant aid is made available to the rural group water scheme sector for infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement, as its networks can be up to 10 times greater in length, based on members served, compared to the more densely populated public scheme sector.

**Monaghan**

21. That the NFGWS ensures that funding will continue to be available for upgrading of GWSs infrastructure in the coming years as many GWS networks are over 30 years old and in need of replacement / upgrading.

**Roscommon**

22. That the NFGWS Board ensures that the DECLG capital investment grant aid through the Rural Water Programme is maintained at the current level into the foreseeable future.

**Kilkenny**

23. The Board of the NFGWS should continue to seek funding from the Department of Environment Community & Local Government for universal metering for all group water schemes.

**Meath**

24. That the NFGWS Board ensures that funding continues to be made available for GWSs to improve and replace infrastructure on an ongoing basis.

**Limerick**

25. That the NFGWS Board seeks to have the date for announcing the RW Allocations brought forward and to request the DECLG to consider a 2 year rolling Rural Water Programme and budget to assist with the completion of Capital Works on GWSs.

**Clare**

26. That this ADC requests the NFGWS board to ensure that the CLÁR initiative of providing top-up funding towards the extension of GWS networks to un-serviced areas be reactivated as part of a co-ordinated national strategy under the Rural Water Programme to ensure that such communities have the benefit of a safe and wholesome drinking water supply.

**Donegal**

## **D. Proposed Mining and Shale Gas Extraction**

27. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to continue to monitor developments with regard to any proposal to extract shale gas using the process of hydraulic fracturing and to continue to highlight, in the appropriate forums, the genuine concerns of the GWS sector in relation to any potential impact such activity may have on drinking water sources.

**Cavan**

28. That the NFGWS Board seeks to secure the protection of GWSs drinking water sources against Fracking and liaises with those involved to identify the areas that may affect the GWSs.

**Roscommon**

29. That this ADC requests the NFGWS Board, in view of widespread concerns expressed at home and internationally relating to “Hydraulic Fracturing” that the process involved poses a serious threat to public health, the environment and the geological structures in areas where Hydraulic Fracturing is carried out, to call on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to ensure that no hydraulic fracturing or any similar process be undertaken by parties to whom licenses to explore for minerals have been granted unless and until assurances are provided to the Minister by leading independent experts in this State indicating that there will be no threat to geological structures, environment, or human health resulting from Hydraulic Fracturing.

**Leitrim**

30. That the Board of the NFGWS ensures that Gas fracking in Ireland is not allowed to impact on our drinking water sources.

**Laois**

31. That the NFGWS would liaise with the Consultants involved with the mining works in County Limerick to identify the impacts and effects on the GWSs in the surrounding areas and to identify solutions or options available to the GWSs before any works would commence.

**Limerick**

## **E. Miscellaneous**

32. That the NFGWS should seek to negotiate with the relevant authorities that digitalised ordnance survey mapping be made available to group water schemes at a cost affordable by group water schemes, taking into account the not for profit and voluntary nature of such schemes.

**Galway**

33. That the Board of the NFGWS negotiate a GWS rate with a number of laboratories located in various regions for analysing water samples.

**Laois**

34. That this ADC requests the Board to continue its work on ensuring that GWS pipe networks and rights-of-way are afforded sufficient legal recognition and protection – through legislative amendment if necessary.

**Cavan**

35. That the NFGWS Board, in the interest of protecting GWS drinking water sources, seeks to ensure that funding be made available to assist householders comply with standards and to correct the workings of septic tanks.

**Clare**

36. That this ADC requests the NFGWS to provide space within the NFGWS website and/or Rural Water News for schemes to share information about companies, products and services of relevance to group water schemes, in the interests of helping to point other schemes in the right direction.

**Donegal**