



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

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### A. Review of Rural Water Investment Needs:

1. In relation to the Capital Replacement Fund for GWSs in DBO contracts, the NFGWS seeks to have:
  - a. 100% funding towards the cost associated with works as they are essential to ensure treatment plants are maintained to a high standard and the water produced continues to be compliant with the regulations.
  - b. The programme be broadened to take account of new and improved technologies available to optimise treatment plant efficiency.

**Carlow & Wexford**

2. 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.

**Cavan**

3. That the Board of the NFGWS seek to ensure that funding for source protection measures in Group Water Scheme catchment and intake areas are included in the review of rural water capital funding.

**Cavan**

4. That the NFGWS continues to negotiate with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to secure equity & fairness as part of the upcoming review of capital funding available to the rural water sector, including a review of the timing of allocations and that sufficient capital funding for the rural water sector continues to be made available.

**Cork**

5. That the NFGWS seeks to have clear guidance issued on what exact expenditure headings are allowable under the revised subsidy arrangements and that this is then clearly communicated to the local authorities ensuring equity and fairness is applied nationally.

**Donegal**

6. That the NFGWS seeks to have clarity and openness from local authorities in relation to projects which are promoted by the said authorities particularly under measure 2 of the RWP.

**Donegal**

7. That the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in consultation with the NFGWS would 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 to assist with maintaining and improving schemes' networks.

**Galway**

8. The NFGWS must ensure sufficient capital grant aid is made available under the rural water programme for the installation of meters on all GWS in light of the new subsidy changes.

**Kildare & Wicklow**

9. The NFGWS ensure that GWS who agree to take part in Rationalisation and Amalgamation projects are prioritised for capital investment to get each scheme to the required standard.

**Kilkenny**

10. The NFGWS seeks 100% funding for water conservation measures as part of the upcoming review of Rural Water Sector capital investment needs.

**Laois**

11. That the NFGWS seek to have the subsidy payable to part private schemes increased where a deficit in funding is clearly identified.

**Leitrim**

12. That the board ensures that adequate capital funding is secured as part of the forthcoming review of rural water investment needs to be completed in 2018.

**Limerick**

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

**Louth**

14. That the NFGWS seeks to have Group Water Scheme capital funding increased under the Rural Water Program in keeping with the principle of Equity and fairness.

**Mayo**

15. That the Federation will secure Capital Funding for GWSs that wish to carry out upgrading and water conservation programmes and in light of the restrictions on GWSs ability to charge their members, and to seek an increase in the Grant from the existing 85% level.

**Offaly**

16. That the NFGWS seek to have Capital funding increased to protect and maintain the progress which has been made in recent years in delivering quality water to GWS members.

**Sligo**

17. That the NFGWS negotiates:
- a. That the allocations for the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme are released at an earlier date to allow schemes the greatest amount of time to complete works as possible
  - b. That capital works related to water conservation be funded at a higher rate.

**Tipperary**

## **B. Possible Constitutional Amendment on Water Services**

18. 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**

19. The NFGWS must ensure that there are no unintended consequences for the GWS sector should any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution in relation to the ownership of public water services be progressed further.

**Carlow & Wexford**

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

**Galway**

21. The NFGWS must ensure that any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution in relation to the ownership of public water services does not negatively impact on the GWS sector.

**Kildare & Wicklow**

22. The Board of NFGWS must ensure that any proposed amendment to the Constitution in relation to the provision of public water services remaining in public ownership, does not have unintended consequences for the GWS sector.

**Laois**

23. That the Board takes every step open to it, to ensure that the private GWS sector is fully protected against any negative unintended consequences in the context of the proposed amendment to the constitution in relation to water services.

**Limerick**

24. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure that any constitutional referendum public ownership of water will not adversely affect the GWS sector.

**Leitrim**

25. The NFGWS must ensure that any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution in relation to the ownership of public water services does not negatively impact on the GWS sector.

**Louth**

26. 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**

27. 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**

28. That the NFGWS seeks to have the rights of private GWS's protected are protected in any constitutional referendum on public ownership of Irish Water.

**Sligo**

29. 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**

### **C. Road Openings & GWSs**

30. The NFGWS must ensure that any proposed National charging system for Road Opening Licences are not excessive, particularly the deposit element required which will put a financial strain on many GWS.

**Kilkenny**

31. That the NFGWS seek to have Road Opening Licenses charges removed for openings well in on the verge and not on the road surface.

**Kilkenny**

32. That the Board of the NFGWS seek to secure a derogation from the Road Management Office with regard to the road opening costs associated with maintaining and working with meters.

**Monaghan**

33. That the NFGWS continues to liaise with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to ensure road openings and road works are carried out in a co-ordinated way simultaneously to avoid multiple openings and associated costs after reinstatement works are completed.

**Tipperary**

## **D. Irish Water**

34. That the NFGWS seeks to remove the standing charge of €145 which applies to non-domestic connections on publicly sourced schemes in Co. Clare that is payable to Irish Water. Such connections are also liable for usage on the GWS and are therefore paying twice, to two different entities for their water which is causing extreme difficulty for GWS management.

**Clare**

35. That this ADC should direct the Board of the NFGWS to ensure that the publicly sourced GWSs are helped and supported at a National Level in their dealings with Irish Water.

**Galway**

36. That the NFGWS ensures that:

- a) communications issued by Irish Water or the Regulator relating to Irish Water or their customers, make it abundantly clear that such communications do not apply to Group Water Schemes.
- b) That the NFGWS seek to have a dedicated Irish Water point, or person of contact to deal with any issues which arise on part-private schemes.

**Mayo**

37. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to seek that public pronouncements which are made by Irish Water or the Energy Regulator be made abundantly clear that such statements apply to public schemes only and not Water Schemes in general.

**Sligo**

## **E. NFGWS Affiliation Fees**

38. Carlow and Wexford Federation propose that the NFGWS Affiliation fee be increased from €5 to €6 to ensure that the organisation has sufficient funding to continue to help and support GWS Nationally.

**Carlow & Wexford**

39. That the increase in Affiliation fees, from €5 to €6 per domestic connection, discussed at the SDC in December be formally adopted at this ADC.

**Limerick**

40. That the Board of the NFGWS increase the current affiliation fee of €5/house by €1, considering the fee has not been increased since 2002 and the increase demands on the organisation nationally in their support to the Group Water Schemes and for the provision of future staffing needs as the sector develops.

**Monaghan**

## **F. Miscellaneous**

41. That the NFGWS seeks clarification of how new data protection laws will affect the GWS sector in regard to storage of data relating to their members and advise GWS on what is required to comply with such legislation.

**Clare**

42. That the NFGWS create a document for GWS relating to the employment of staff, to include employment legislation and policies that will affect the GWS sector.

**Clare**

43. That the NFGWS seeks to have Rural Water Monitoring Committees re-established where these committees are not in place.

**Donegal**

44. Kildare and Wicklow FGWS suggest that the NFGWS produce a guidance checklist for GWS on what to look for when securing insurance cover for their GWS.

**Kildare & Wicklow**

45. The NFGWS must ensure that Local Authorities are sufficiently resourced to meet the needs of the rural water sector in their area.

**Laois**

46. That the NFGWS seeks to bring about a change in the restrictive planning regulations that threaten the existence of Group Water Schemes in rural Ireland, and by doing so help with the rural regeneration policy and halt the decline in rural communities.

**Leitrim**

47. The NFGWS seeks funding from the Department of Social Welfare, for consumers on a GWS that receive social welfare, to help pay for any water used above their free allocation.

**Louth**

48. That the NFGWS seeks to have the requirement for the provision audited accounts for small Group Water Schemes, for subsidy purposes made optional so as to reduce costs for small schemes.

**Roscommon**