



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems: Expansion of Grant Scheme

Colin Byrne

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government



Important features of the RBMP

- Comprehensive programme of measures in place
- Evidence based and targeted
- A total of 190 Areas have been prioritised for action (2018-2021). These include a total of 726 water bodies. Improvements are expected in all.
- Conservatively estimate that 152 water bodies in Areas for Action (21%) will show improvement in status by 2021
- High status catchments are a key focus
- Progress with urban waste water and agricultural measures particularly important
- Key objective is to build the foundations and momentum for delivery in the long-term
- The new governance structures will underpin effective implementation



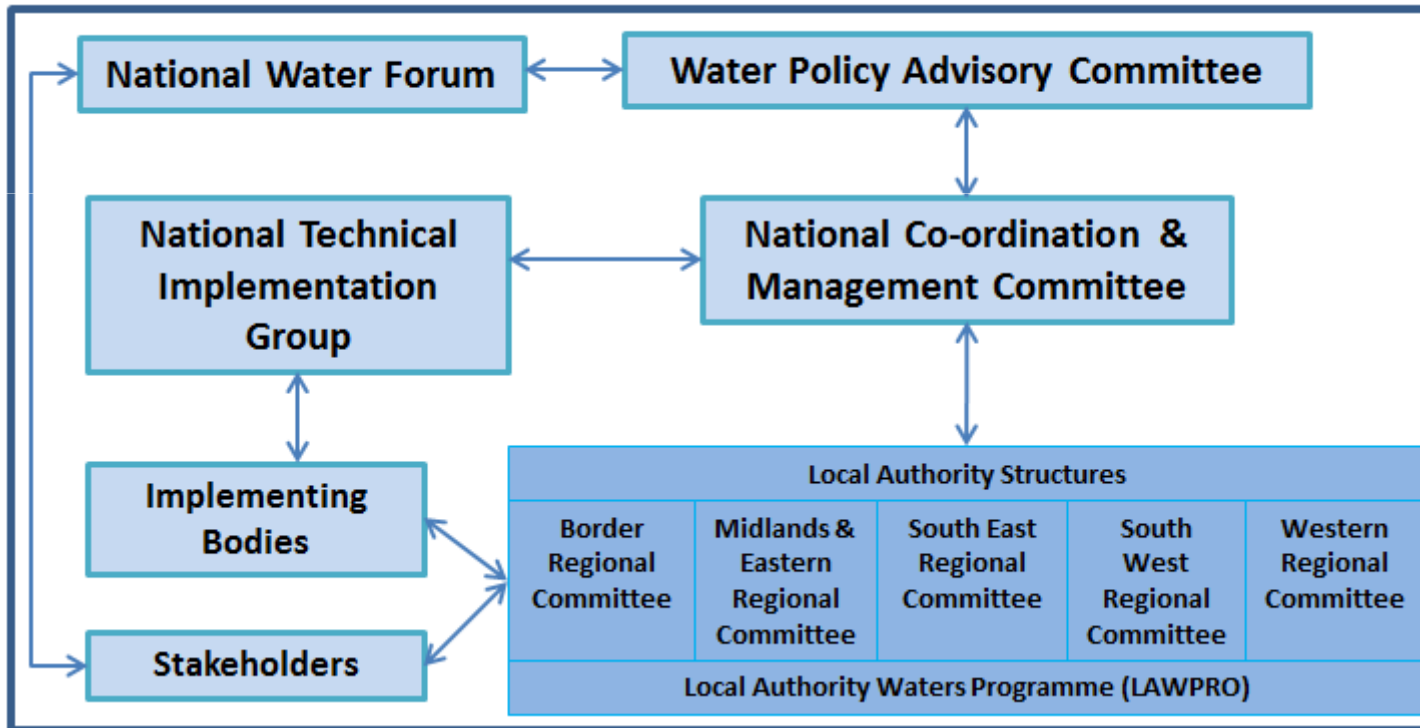
Programme of measures

- Agriculture
- Domestic waste water treatment systems
- Urban waste water discharges
- Water abstractions
- Physical condition of surface waters
- Water and Planning guidance
- Drinking water source protection
- High Status waters
- Forestry
- Peatlands
- Hazardous chemicals
- Lead strategy
- Flood risk management
- Climate change
- Invasive alien species



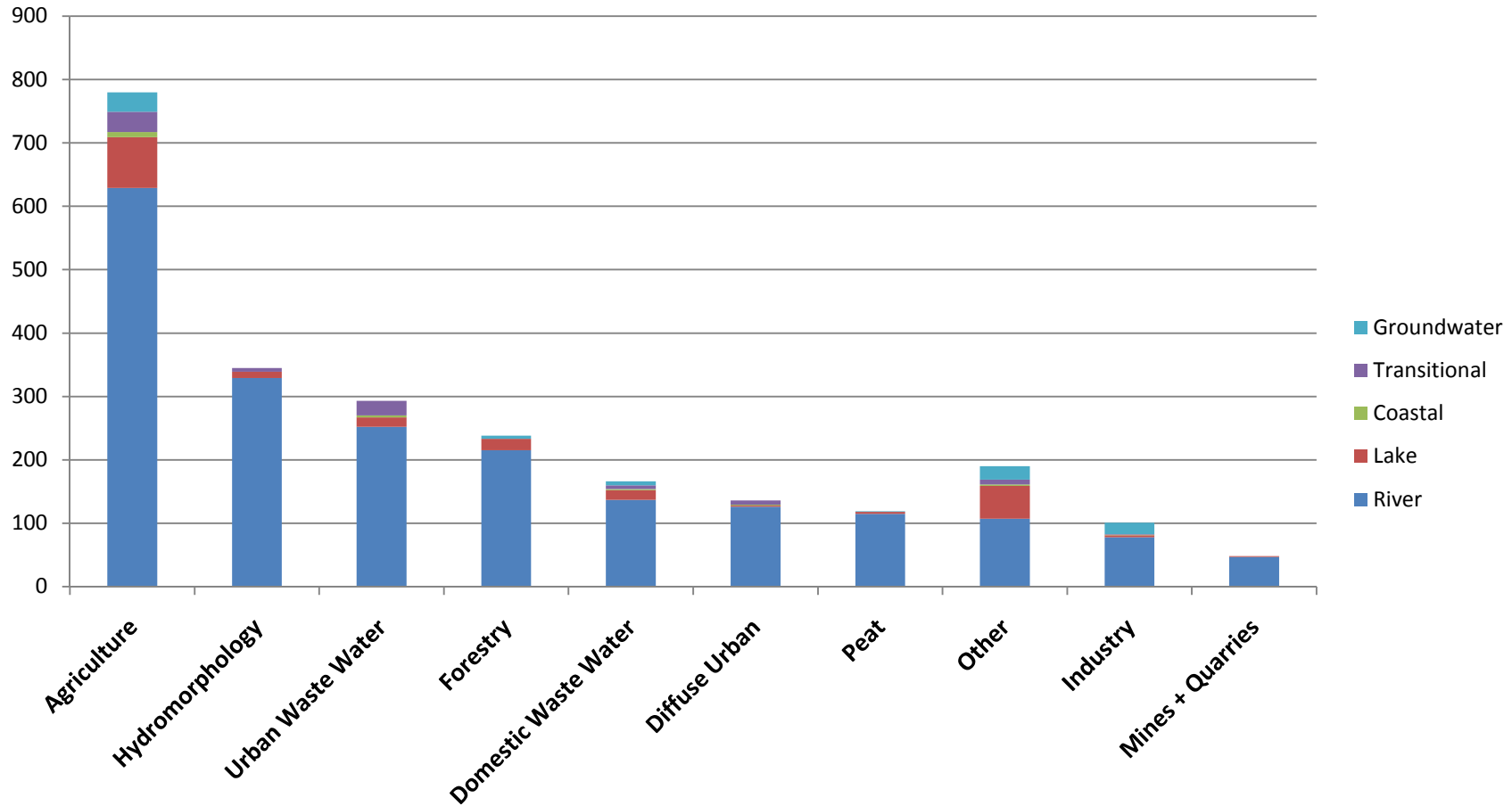
New Approach to Implementation

New implementation structures:





Identified Pressures



The number of waterbodies being impacted by each of the significant pressure types ⁵



Regulation and Management of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

- Approx. 500,000 dwellings
- Water Services Act 2007 and 2012 Regulations
- EPA Code of Practice
- Building and Planning codes
- National Inspection Plan
- ~ 50% failure rates;
 - 53% operational and maintenance issues
 - 29% structural, requiring rehabilitation
- Grant scheme in place to support rehabilitation works
 - Advisory Notice must be served
 - Uptake is low



Domestic waste water treatment systems

- Promotion of compliance with the Domestic waste water treatment Regulations
- Local authority led initiatives to promote best practice
- New National Inspection Plan (2018-2021)
 - Improved risk assessment for targeting inspections
 - Minimum of 1,000 inspections nationally
- Extension of the grant scheme for repairs, upgrades and replacement
 - High Status objectives river catchments supporting the Blue Dot Catchments Programme
 - Areas for Action supporting the investigative work of local authorities



190 Prioritised Areas for Action





High Status Catchments (4,844 townlands)





Full extent of availability of the expanded voluntary grant scheme





Expanded grant scheme

- Key principles in expanding the scheme are to
 - Streamline the application, approval and payment processes as far as possible to maximise uptake and contribute towards water quality protection and improvement (RBMP objectives)
 - Maintain sufficient governance and oversight of the process to ensure accountability
 - Recognise that the uptake of the scheme is being promoted on the basis of voluntary participation and not in response to enforcement arising out of the DWWTS NIP.

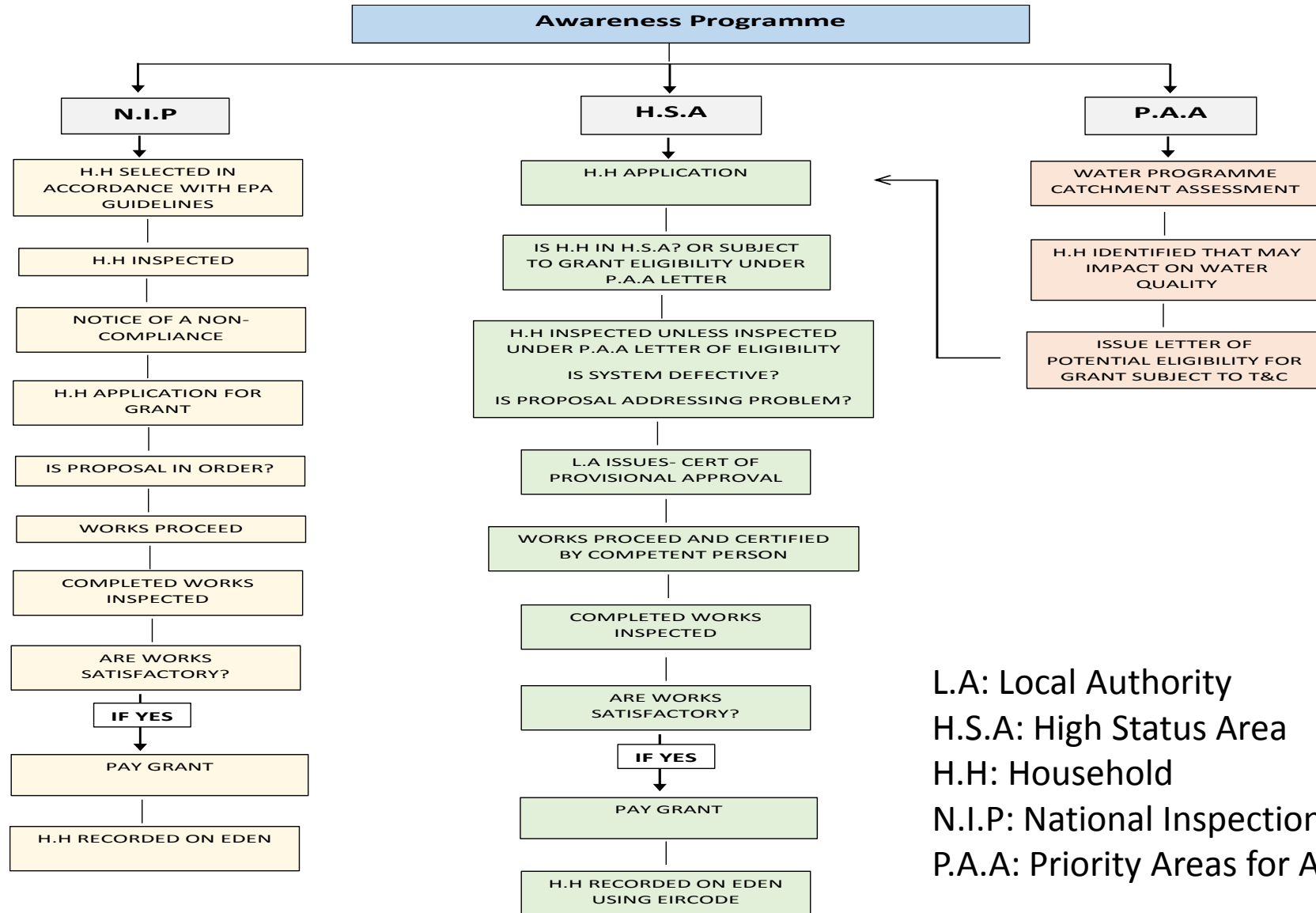


Expanded grant scheme

- Maintain the existing quota of inspections (> 1,000 / year) under the National Inspection Plan
- Separate voluntary scheme
 - High status catchments and prioritised Areas for Action.
- Provision in the new Rural Water Programme
- Terms and conditions to change:
 - Requirement to register their Domestic Waste Water System prior to the grant application,
 - Removal of the means test,
 - A new uniform grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of installation/upgrade or €5,000, whichever is the lower.



Grant application process



L.A: Local Authority
H.S.A: High Status Area
H.H: Household
N.I.P: National Inspection Plan
P.A.A: Priority Areas for Action



Administration of the grant scheme and next steps

- Working Group assisted in preparations
- Agreed with the CCMA Environment Committee
 - Review scheduled
- Provision in Rural Water Programme
- Legislative changes underway
- Documents being finalised
- Expect the updated and expanded scheme to go live at the end of May 2019
- Circular Letters to issue to local authorities
- Numbers of grant applications expected