

Water Services Training Group

19th Annual Conference

Optimising Services Delivery in the Water Industry

Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo, 3rd. September 2015



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Optimising Services Delivery in the Water Industry

Where we are now?

DECLG's on-going role in the Water Services Sector

Maria Graham

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Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Presentation Overview

- * Role of DECLG in..
 - * Setting policy
 - * Funding and capital investment
- * Reforming the water sector
 - * Completing the Transition from LA to IW
 - * Delivering on Transformation of the sector

DECLG Statement of Strategy 2015-2017

Department of the Environment, Community
and Local Government

Statement of Strategy 2015 - 2017

Managing our
resources and
promoting sustainable
growth



Supporting our
citizens in safe and
sustainable
communities



Protecting
our
environment

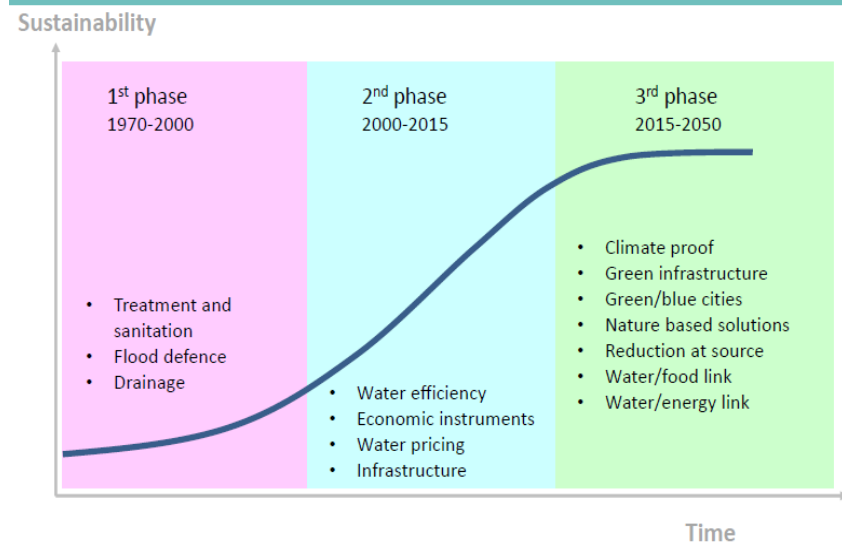


- * To manage our valuable water resources, including the provision of effective and efficient water services which enhance our economic potential and support our demographic needs.
- * To ensure a framework is in place to deliver high quality water services and protect our water environment
- * To protect our water and marine resources and improve the overall quality of the aquatic environment.

European Dimension

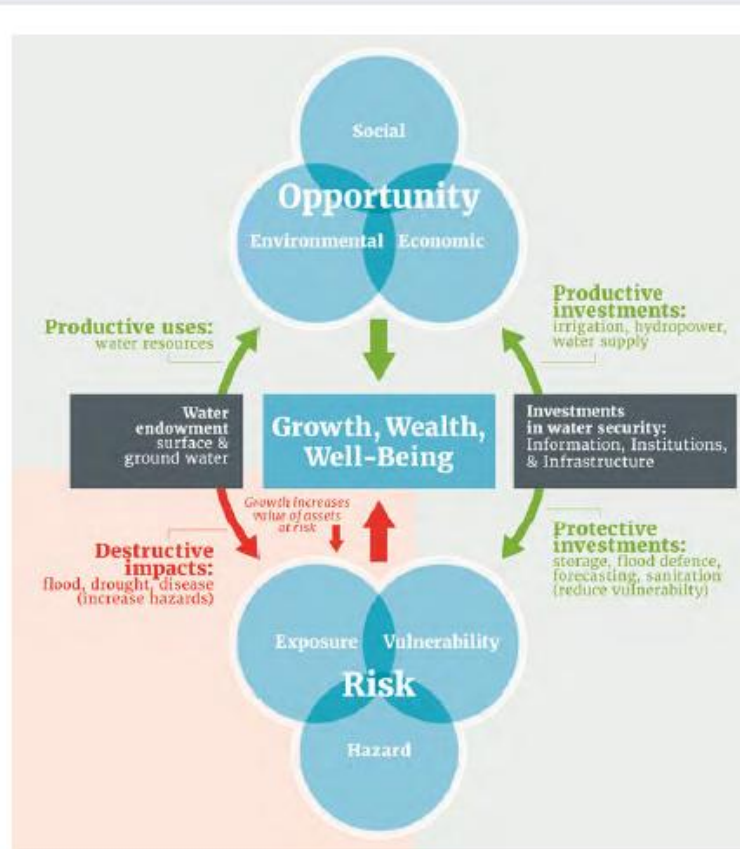
- * "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. **Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience.** Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society."
- * *Source: 7th Environment Action Programme*

Water management - investing in Natural Capital



GWP/OECD – Water investment supporting economic and social well-being

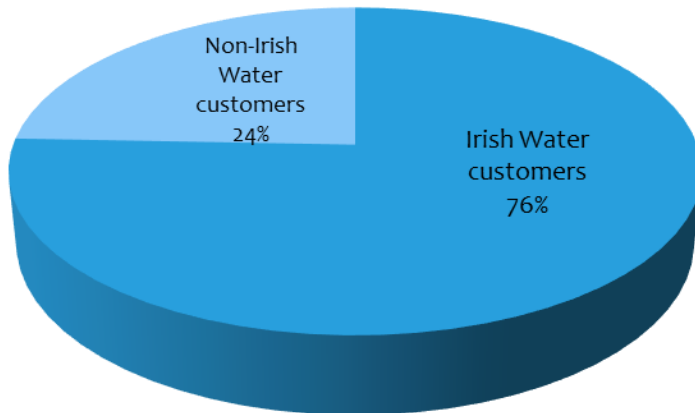
Conceptual framework of the dynamic of water security and sustainable growth



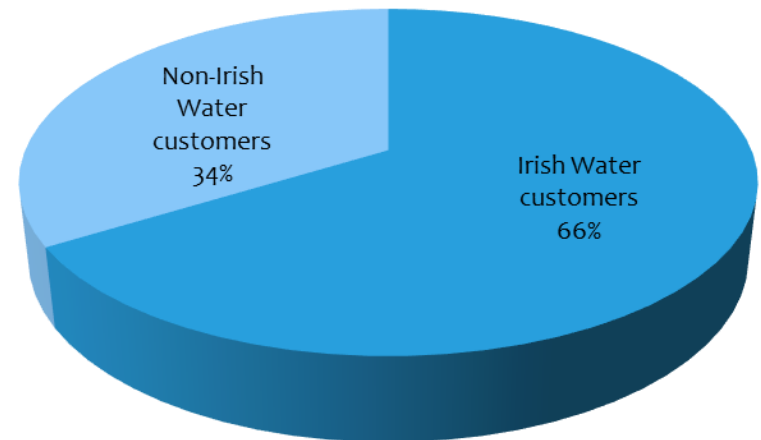
- * Source: GWP/OECD taskforce 2015 - *Securing Water, Sustaining Growth*
- * Returns on investment depend greatly on the existing infrastructure and their effective management
- * Study highlights need for complimentary institutional capacity, robust information and decision making systems

DECLG role has to be holistic and integrated

* Drinking water supply



* Waste Water Treatment



Based on CSO Census 2011

Key issues

- * Water Framework Directive - Most significant pressures – urban waste water & agriculture
- * Drinking water quality, conservation and security of supply across sector
- * Ensuring appropriate Governance and Financing of water sector

Sectoral Governance

* **Irish Water**

- * Statutory roles (Borrowing, Capital Consent, Annual Report)
- * Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies
- * Water Services Strategic Plan

* **Group Water Sector**

- * Capital investment
- * Future governance - Licensing

State Funding

Irish Water

- * Capital funding
- * Subvention related to
 - * Child allowance
 - * Capping of charges
 - * Product subsidy
- * Lending from NPRF/ISIF

Other funding

- * Group Water Sector
 - * Proposed multi-annual capital programme
 - * Subsidies for GWS domestic customers
- * Well grants & Septic Tank Grants, developing lead replacement grant
- * Water Conservation Grant

Completing the Transition Phase

Autumn
2015

PWC
report
Jan 2012

Establishment
of Irish Water
July 2013

LA
functions
to Irish
Water 2014

Domestic
Water
Charges
January 2015

Transformation Programme

Commencement of First
Regulatory Cycle October
2014 - December 2016

Commencement of
second regulatory
cycle 2017 & 2018

Commencement
of full regulatory
cycle from 2019

River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015
(effectively extended to end 2017)

Draft River Basin
Management
Plans – December
2016

Second Cycle River
Basin Management
Plan – December 2017

Transition Issues

- * Transfer of assets & liabilities
 - * Principles – financial sustainable and affordable to customers
 - * Remaining tasks - Asset Transfers & Balancing Statements
- * Developer-led infrastructure
- * Rural Water Sector
- * Planning Interface
- * Superannuation

Transformation

- * **Need to deliver on industry transformation**
 - * Key driver: Irish Water
 - * Key partner: local authorities through SLA
 - * DECLG: Strategic interest from both LA & water sectoral perspective

- * **Critical to ensure Citizen and customer understanding and engagement** – Public Water Forum will have important role.

Thank you