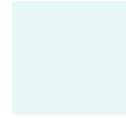


Report: May 2026

# Draft Galway Wastewater Strategy

Global Glossary and Abbreviations



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



# Safeguarding our water for our future

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Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



Draft Galway Wastewater Strategy	
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Version	Date	Status	Author	Checker	Reviewer
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## Issue Log

Version	Date	Issue Approved	Issued to	Commentary
V1	May 26	Brendan Larkin	Uisce Éireann	Issued

This report has been prepared by Ryan Hanley Stantec Limited ("Ryan Hanley Stantec") on behalf of its client to whom this report is addressed ("Client") in connection with the project described in this report and takes into account the Client's particular instructions and requirements. This report was prepared in accordance with the professional services appointment under which Ryan Hanley Stantec was appointed by its Client. This report is not intended for and should not be relied on by any third party (i.e. parties other than the Client). Ryan Hanley Stantec accepts no duty or responsibility (including in negligence) to any party other than the Client and disclaims all liability of any nature whatsoever to any such party in respect of this report.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
ADF	Average Daily Flow
AER	Annual Environmental Report
AESI	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity
AFAs	Areas for Further Assessment
AIPP	All – Ireland Pollinator Plan
AOB	Any Other Business
AQGs	Air Quality guidelines
ASSAP	Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme
BGI	Blue-Green Infrastructure
BHD	Birds and Habitats Directives
BNR	Biological Nutrient Removal
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BRAVA	Baseline Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAP25	Climate Action Plan 2025
CC	Climate Change
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CFRAM	Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CIWEM	Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
COs	Conservation Objectives

CRU	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DALYs	Disability-adjusted Life Years
DAP	Drainage Area Plan
DBO	Design Build Operate
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

DIN	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
DWF	Dry Weather Flow
DWMP	Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan
EC	European Communities
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
ELC	European Landscape Convention
ELV	Emission Limit Values
END	Environmental Noise Directive
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
ESDL	Environmentally Sustainable Discharge Limits
EU	European Union
FP	Flow Period
FST	Final Settlement Tank

FTFT	Flow to Full Treatment
GGA	Greater Galway Area
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GMA	Galway Metropolitan Area
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland
GWS	Galway Wastewater Strategy
HA	Highly Annoyed
HSD	Highly Sleep Disturbed
HSE	Health Service Executive
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICM	Integrated Catchment Modelling
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ID	Initial Dilution
IDA	Industrial Development Authority
IGH	Irish Geological Heritage
IHD	Ischaemic Heart Disease
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Over-Riding Public Interest
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAWPRO	The Local Authority Waters Programme
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LSEs	Likely Significant Effects
LVIA	Landscape & Visual Impact Assessments

MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
MASP	Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan
MCDA	Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MLSS	Mixed Liquor Suspended Solids
N	Nitrogen
NAF	National Adaptation Framework
NAP	Nitrates Action Programme
NBAP	National Biodiversity Action Plan
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
NDP	National Development Plan
NFGWS	National Federation of Group Water Schemes
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
NH3	Ammonia
NHA	National Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NMPF	Ireland's National Marine Planning Framework
No.	Number
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRP	Nature Restoration Plan
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
NUWWS	National Urban Wastewater Study
NWRP	National Water Resources Plan
NWSMP	National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan
OPW	Office of Public Works

Ortho-P/OP	Orthophosphate
OSDR	Optioneering and Solutions Development Report
P	Phosphorus
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PAPs	Pathway Action Plans
PCC	Per Capita Contribution
PE	Population Equivalent
PI	Performance Initiative
PIAs	Priority Important Areas
pNHA(s)	Proposed National Heritage Area(s)
POM	Programme of Measure
PS	Pumping Station
PST	Primary Settlement Tank
Q&A	Questions and Answers
QAQC	Quality Assurance Quality Control
QI	Qualifying Interests
RHS	Ryan Hanley Stantec
RBCS	Risk Based Catchment Screening
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
ROI	Republic of Ireland
ROMS	Regional Ocean Modelling System
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
rUWWTD	recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
RWRP	Regional Water Resources Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

SCI	Special Conservation Interest
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SFP	Strategic Funding Plan
S.I.	Statutory Instrument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPS	Sewage Pumping Stations
SS	Suspended Solids
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SWO	Stormwater Overflow
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TOTEX	Total Expenditure
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UÉ	Uisce Éireann
UKWIR	UK Water Industry Research
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UPM	Urban Pollution Management
UWWTD	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
UWWTR	Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations
WAP	Water Action Plan
WBF	Wellbeing Framework
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organisation
WQ	Water Quality
WQWSISAP	Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure Sectoral Adaptation Plan

WRMP	Water Resources Management Plan
WSPS	Water Services Policy Statement
WSSP	Water Services Strategic Plan
WWDA	Wastewater Discharge Authorisation
WWDL	Wastewater Discharge License
WWPS	Wastewater Pumping Station
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
ZOC	Zone of Contribution
ZOI	Zone of Influence
ZON	Zone of Notification



# Glossary

Term	Definition
AA Screening Report	The report which provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed plan to impact on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.
Adverse Effects on Site Integrity (AESI)	Activities usually resulting from a plan or project that could result in effects on qualifying interest (Annex I habitats or Annex II species) of a European site which could have implications for the conservation objectives of the site leading to AESI.
Alternative Solutions	Following AA, including mitigation proposals, if Adverse Effects on Site Integrity remain, or uncertainty remains and the project/plan is to be progressed, an Assessment of Alternative Solutions is required under the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.
Annex I Habitat	A habitat listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
Annex II Species	A species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment required under the Habitats Directive when a plan or project has the potential to affect a European site.
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	An assessment carried out under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a plan or project, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.
Baseline Environment	The state of the environment in the absence of the Plan.
Bird Directive	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.
Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI)	A nature-based approach to urban planning that integrates vegetation, water management, and sustainable design to enhance climate resilience and environmental health. It includes wetlands, green roofs, and permeable pavements (EU Habitats Directive).
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	A measure of the amount of oxygen required by microorganisms to break down organic matter in wastewater. High BOD levels indicate higher pollution and reduced water quality (Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive).

Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR)	A wastewater treatment process that removes nitrogen and phosphorus through biological activity, improving effluent quality and reducing nutrient pollution in receiving waters (Water Framework Directive).
Catchment	The total area of land that drains into a watercourse.
Competent authority	Public body provided for in the relevant legislation that makes statutory determinations (for example, in relation to AA).
Conservation Objectives (COs)	In the context of this report, conservation objectives are discussed in relation to European Sites. Some European Sites have site-specific conservation objectives; other European Sites have generic conservation objectives. The National Parks and Wildlife Service are in the process of producing detailed conservation objectives for all European Sites and their Qualifying Interests.
Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)	A relief system in older wastewater networks where excess stormwater and untreated sewage are discharged into water bodies during heavy rainfall to prevent sewer system overloading (European Communities Environmental Objectives).
Cumulative effect	The combined effects from several plans, programmes or policies.
Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)	A strategic document outlining long-term wastewater management strategies, infrastructure investments, and compliance measures for urban drainage systems (National Planning Framework).
European site	Any Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), also referred to as Natura 2000 sites.
Galway Wastewater Strategy (GWS)	A long-term roadmap for upgrading and managing wastewater infrastructure in Galway to accommodate population growth, enhance environmental resilience, and comply with EU regulations (Galway City Council).
Habitats Directive	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Hydrometric area	[is there established definition?] Management units for hydrological areas, made up of amalgamations of large river basins.
Invasive species	Non-native species that out-compete native species to the detriment of an ecosystem.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	A measurable value that tracks progress towards key strategic objectives, such as treatment efficiency, compliance with discharge standards, and network performance (Regulatory Compliance Reports).
Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)	Term adapted from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (“likely to have a significant effect”), describing the type of effects which, if identified as potentially arising as a result of a project or plan, trigger an AA.
Mitigation	The implementation of measures designed to reduce the predicted effects of a plan or project on the environment.
Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)	Sustainable wastewater management approaches that incorporate ecological processes, such as constructed wetlands, to improve water quality and enhance biodiversity (EU Habitats Directive).
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	The National Parks and Wildlife Service is fully integrated in the Heritage Division of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and has responsibility for the protection and conservation of Ireland's natural heritage and biodiversity at national government level.
Natura Impact Statement	A document which summarises the findings of the AA and how they were factored into the plan, the reason for choosing the preferred plan in light of alternatives considered and to state the likely significant effects.
Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Term for the statutory report produced to inform the AA of a plan by the competent authority.
OFWAT	The Water Services Regulation Authority, or Ofwat, is the body responsible for economic regulation of the privatised water and sewerage industry in England and Wales.
Precautionary Principle	Implicit in the Habitats Directive is the application of the precautionary principle, which requires that the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 should prevail where there is uncertainty. This requires objectively demonstrating, with supporting evidence, that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. Where this is not the case, adverse effects must be assumed.
Priority habitat	Natural habitat types on Annex I of the Habitats Directive, and indicated by an asterisk (*), which are in danger of disappearance, and for which the European Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the European territory of the Member States.

Priority species	Species for the conservation of which the European Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the European territory of the Member States, these priority species are indicated by an asterisk (*) in Annex II of the Habitats Directive. At present, Ireland does not have any priority species.
Qualifying Interest (QI)	One of the features (habitat or species) that are the reasons for designation of a Special Area of Conservation, identified in the Conservation Objectives for that site.
RAMSAR site	An international designation for an important wetland site under the Ramsar Convention.
Red, Amber or Green (RAG)	A colour code using the traffic light scoring system where a red rating will assume unviability and therefore will be eliminated on this basis and assessed no further; an amber rating would not be ruled out and will be carried forward for further evaluation and a green rating will assume that there are no negative impacts and will therefore be carried forward.
Screening for AA	The screening of a plan or project to establish if an AA of the plan or project is required. An AA must be carried out unless the screening assessment can establish that there is no potential for LSEs on a European site.
SEA Post Adoption Statement	The document which details how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, how the environmental report and consultation responses were taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of reasonable alternatives considered and the measures to be taken into account to monitor or mitigate the likely significant effects.
SEA Scoping Report	The SEA report sets out the scope and objectives of the SEA.
SEA Screening statement	A summary of the SEA screening determining whether the proposed plan requires SEA.
Special Area of Conservation	An international designation for habitats and/or species under the EC Habitats Directive.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	SACs are sites designated under the Habitats Directive. This requires the conservation of important, rare or threatened habitats and species (not birds, which are protected by Special Protection Areas) across Europe.
Special Conservation Interest (SCI)	The term used to refer specifically to bird species for which Special Protection Areas have been designated. These are also identified in the Conservation Objectives for the site.

Special Protection Area (SPA)	A site of international importance for birds, designated as required by the EC Birds Directive.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	SPAs are sites designated under the Birds Directive to conserve the habitats of certain migratory or rare birds.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report	The SEA report that documents the effects of investment priorities outlined in a plan.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A SEA is an environmental assessment of plans and programmes to ensure a high-level consideration of environmental issues in the plan preparation and adoption, and is a requirement provided for under the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). The SEA and AA are undertaken in tandem with the drafting of a plan.
Strategic Environmental Objectives	Methodological measures against which the effects of the Plan can be tested.
Stormwater Overflow (SWO)	A controlled discharge point in the wastewater network that releases excess rainwater and untreated sewage to prevent sewer flooding during extreme weather conditions (Bathing Water Regulations).
The Framework Plan	A plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impacts on the environment.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD)	An EU directive that sets wastewater treatment and discharge standards to protect water bodies from pollution caused by urban wastewater (European Commission).
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the WFD) is an EU Directive which commits European Union member states to achieve “Good” qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies by taking a holistic approach to managing all waters. It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. Note: Changes to the WFD/ Groundwater Directive and EQS standards have been agreed at EU level and are due to be published in Summer 2026. The national transposition date is fixed as December 2027.
Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs)	A facility that processes and converts wastewater into an effluent (outflowing of water to a receiving body of water) that can be returned to the water cycle with minimal impact on the environment or directly reused.

Zone of Influence  
(Zoi)

Term used widely in environmental assessments. The Zoi defines the spatial area over which there is potential for LSEs, taking account of the sensitivity and mobility of different QI/Special Conservation Interest, on species or habitats from a project or plan.