

August 2026

**Small Wastewater
Treatment Plants
National Plan: Supporting
Communities while
Protecting our Natural
Environment**
Scoping Leaflet

Have your say

Small towns and villages across Ireland rely on wastewater services every day. We are developing a new national plan to improve how these services are provided into the future — and we want your input.

Take part in the consultation

Why are we doing this?

The Small Communities wastewater treatment National Plan will:

- Support homes, businesses and local growth
- Protect rivers, lakes and coastal waters

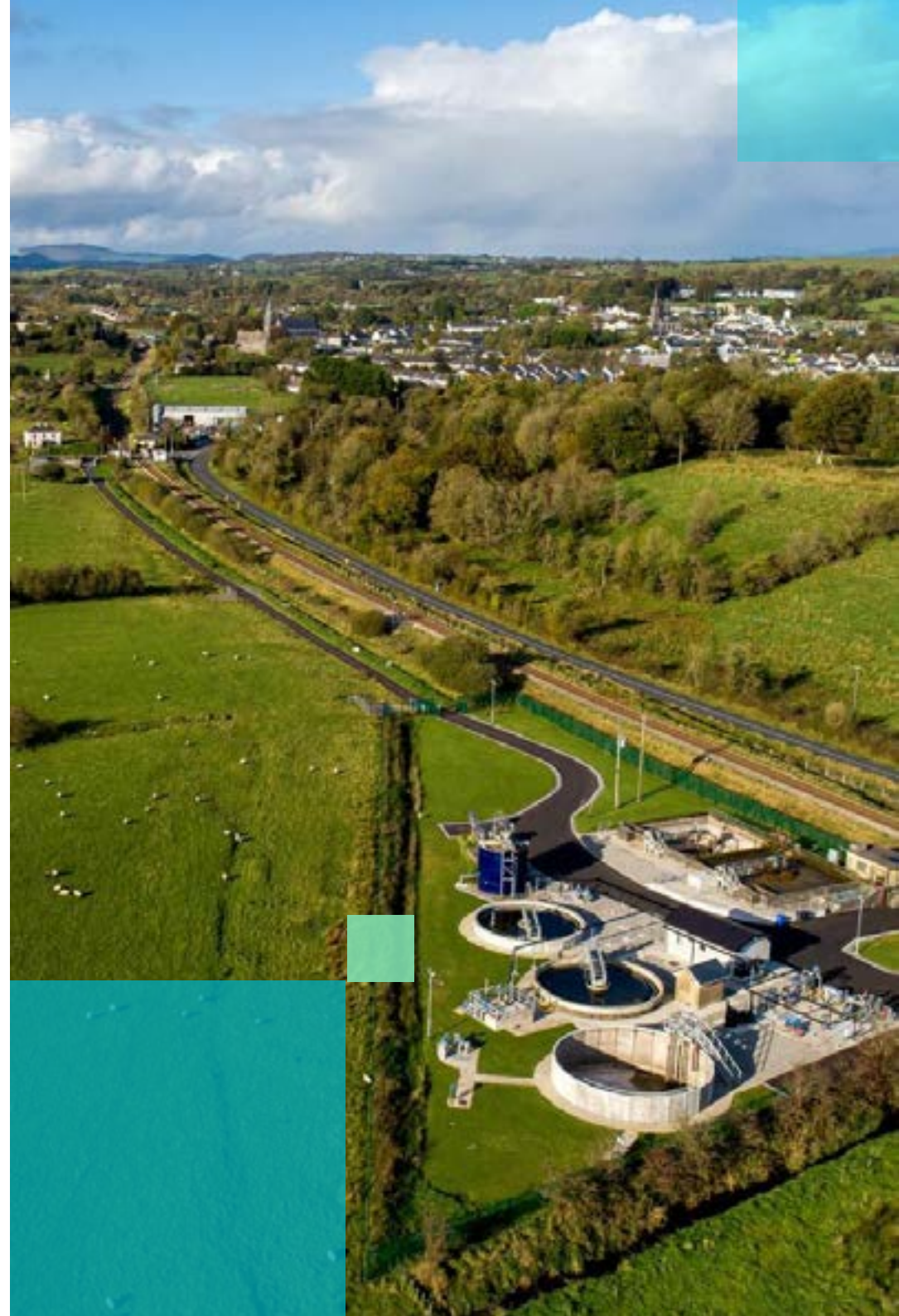
While each plant is small, together they make up a **large part of Ireland's wastewater infrastructure** and are used in communities right across the country.

However, the way they are currently planned and upgraded can be:

- Complex
- Slow
- Not always suited to local conditions

What are the challenges & opportunities?

- **Inefficiencies with bespoke design approaches:** The Plan will enable the use of standard designs and specifications.
- **Unsustainable authorisation timelines:** The Plan will support more timely delivery of upgrades.
- **Historical underinvestment:** The Plan will speed up the delivery of upgrades where standard solutions are suitable
- **Investment prioritisation imbalance:** The Plan will identify where investment is most needed and strengthen collaboration with regulators and local stakeholders.



Get involved

We want to hear from you.

Your feedback will help shape how wastewater services are planned and delivered in small communities.

- Submit your views online
- Visit www.water.ie/smallcommunitiesww
- Contact us directly via email on smallcommunitiesww@water.ie or by post at:



Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan, Enterprise Fund Business Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, F92 AF43

Consultation deadline

Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 5pm

What happens next?

- Your feedback will be reviewed
- A draft national plan will be developed
- Further consultation will take place
- A final plan will be published

What is changing?

We are developing a Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan.

This will move from:

- A reactive, site-by-site approach
- to
- A coordinated, national and evidence-led approach

What will the plan do?

The plan will:

- Protect water quality and the environment
- Identify where upgrades are most needed
- Support growth in towns and villages
- Focus investment where it will have the greatest impact
- Provide a consistent national approach

What does this mean for your community?

- Cleaner local rivers, lakes and coastal waters
- Better planning for future growth
- Investment where it matters most
- Solutions suited to local conditions



Local knowledge is important. Your input will help ensure:

- The right issues are identified
- Solutions are appropriate
- Communities are supported into the future

How will decisions be made?

We will use:

- Data on plant performance and capacity
- Information on local water quality
- Environmental standards and regulations

This ensures investment delivers the **greatest benefit for communities and the environment.**

Consultation Terms of Reference

Purpose

To gather feedback on:

- The key issues affecting wastewater services in small communities
- The proposed national approach

Scope

This consultation focuses on:

- The Issues Paper
- Strategic approaches to planning and upgrading

It does **not**:

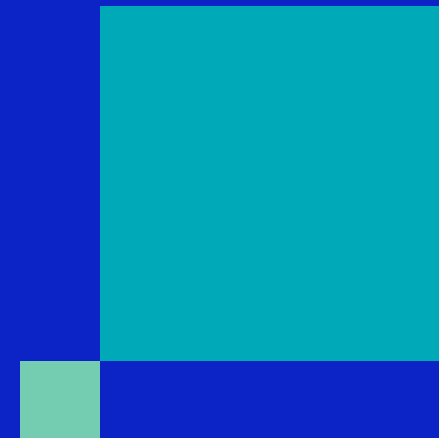
- Decide on individual projects
- Replace planning or environmental assessment processes

How your feedback will be used

Your feedback will:

- Inform the draft national plan
- Help shape priorities and approaches
- Be summarised and reported transparently





If you have any questions or need more information please contact us:

Contact Details

Website:

www.water.ie/smallcommunitiesww

X:

@IWCare

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Account information, enquiries, water supply or emergencies

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Consultation Contact Details

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