

Appendix 1D: Consultation: Advertisement and Webinar

Project:

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Report:

Consultation Report



Table of Contents

SECTION 1:	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Project Background	1
1.3	Need for the Project.....	2
1.4	The Proposed Development.....	2
1.5	Project Benefits.....	3
SECTION 2:	CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	4
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Project Communication Objective.....	4
2.1	Statutory Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála	4
2.3	Non-Statutory Consultation	5
SECTION 3:	FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION.....	7
3.1	Overview	7
3.2	Shannon Group: Letter of Support.....	7
3.3	Johnson and Johnson: Query on Funding.....	7
3.4	TII: Recommendation affecting the National Road Network	8
SECTION 4:	NEXT STAGE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	10
APPENDIX 1:	GLOSSARY AND TERMINOLOGY	11
APPENDIX 2:	IRISH WATER CASTLETROY WEBINAR POSTER	12
APPENDIX 3:	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)	13

SECTION 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This Consultation Report on the Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) Upgrade Project (hereafter referred to as the proposed development) has been prepared by JB Barrys and Partners Ltd on behalf of the applicant Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water). This Consultation Report accompanies a planning application made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) under the provisions of Section 37E (Strategic Infrastructure Development) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

1.2 Project Background

Uisce Éireann is the national water utility responsible for providing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland. Irish Water is a public utility formed as a company under the Water Services Act 2013 and incorporated under the Companies Acts. Uisce Éireann took responsibility for almost all functions for the delivery of water and wastewater assets and services that were previously managed by the 31 local authorities in January 2014. The Castletroy WwTP Upgrade Project is an element of Irish Water's 2017-2021 Investment Plan, whereby 52 Wastewater 'Above Ground' (i.e., treatment) projects were identified nationally as requiring Consultancy appointments to facilitate improvement works.

Castletroy is a Limerick suburb situated approximately 3km east of the City Centre. Castletroy WwTP is surrounded by the University of Limerick campus and the Lower River Shannon that runs past its northern boundary, Figure 1.1. The existing Castletroy WwTP operates as a conventional secondary treatment activated sludge plant. The WwTP discharge point is the Lower River Shannon which is designated both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Lower River Shannon) and a Special Protected Area (SPA).



Figure 1.1: Castletroy WwTP and Discharge Point Locations

1.3 Need for the Project

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) has been providing wastewater treatment since 1992. It serves the East Limerick suburbs of Castletroy, Annacotty, Mountshannon and Castleconnell, as well as the University of Limerick and other local industry.

There is currently no capacity for stormwater storage at Castletroy WwTP which is in breach of criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria for Storm Water Overflows, 1995". Excess flows from storms and heavy rainfall events are discharged with minimal treatment to the Lower River Shannon, a special area of conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Commission of the European Communities, 2007). Stormwater storage is needed to reduce the annual rate of uncontrolled spills, and to bring the WwTP in compliance with relevant legislations.

The proposed development is also required to support growth demands in the agglomeration. Castletroy WwTP has a maximum design capacity of 45,000 population equivalent (PE). The plant is currently operating at the limitations of its design capacity and growth projections indicate that, without intervention, it will become overloaded in the coming years. This will cause severe deterioration in the quality of the final effluent discharge. In turn, there could be long term, negative effects on water quality in the Lower River Shannon and SAC habitats. The proposed development addresses this eventuality by increasing the capacity of the WwTP to cater for 10-year population growth projections of up to 77,500 PE.

1.4 The Proposed Development

The proposed development shall cater for future population growth and industrial development in the area, in line with population projections for Limerick as set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation Roadmap and the Southern Region Regional Economic Spatial Strategy (RSES). It will ensure the WwTP continues to comply with requirements of the EPA Wastewater Discharge License, Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWWTR) and Uisce Éireann Guidelines.

The initial upgrade works will cater for the 10-year growth projections up to 77,500 PE including a future IDA load of 5,500 PE. There will also be provision made in the infrastructural development of the plant (tank sizing and pipework) for the 25-year growth projections of 81,100PE. Although the infrastructure will be in place, a planning review will be required before any uplift above 77,500PE can be instated.

The Proposed Development also includes the installation of a new stormwater storage tank that will significantly reduce the annual rate of spills to the Lower River Shannon and make the WwTP compliant with the criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria for Storm Water Overflows, 1995". The WwTP will remain operational during the construction phase. All new structures will be constructed offline and connected during temporary shutdowns. The shutdowns will be planned in a manner that will not affect WwTP performance. The main elements of the Proposed Development are listed below;

- Upgrade to the inlet works (screens and pumps);
- Installation of a new (additional) grit channel;
- Construction of a new stormwater storage tank;
- Upgrade to primary treatment process;
- Construction of a new primary sludge holding tank with odour abatement;
- Upgrade to secondary treatment aeration system;
- Upgrade to secondary clarifiers to improve hydraulic capacity;
- Construction of a new flood event pumping station;
- Construction of a new surface water attenuation tank;
- Installation of a new chemical dosing tank; and
- Upgrade and repurposing of the plant's sludge treatment facilities.

1.5 Project Benefits

Castletroy WwTP upgrade will bring benefits which include:

- Modernisation and improvements to the performance of the existing wastewater treatment plant;
- Catering to existing and future developments and communities in the area;
- Improve the health and integrity of the environment;
- Protect the water quality in Lower River Shannon and conservation habitats;
- Provide sufficient capacity to facilitate future population and industrial growth;
- Protect recreational waters for fishing and boating activities; and
- Ensure compliance with Irish and EU legislation now and into the future.

SECTION 2: Consultation Process

2.1 Introduction

A variety of communications methods were used throughout and prior to the consultation period to promote and invite stakeholders to participate in the non-statutory consultation for the Castletroy WwTP Upgradation Project. Stakeholders that were targeted included the public, elected representatives, statutory bodies, and interested bodies / groups.

Public participation is an asset in the development of any infrastructure project and our aim was to promote and encourage participation in the consultation process and welcome feedback on the project.

The following consultation strategies were used:

- Webinars for elected representatives and the public;
- Social media campaign;
- Poster campaign;
- Newspaper advertisement;
- Information web page; and
- Contact email address for submissions and queries.

2.2 Project Communication Objective

Early stakeholder engagement (including dialogue, consultation and the disclosure of information) is a key element of project planning, development and implementation. Effective stakeholder engagement assists good design, builds relationships with local community, and reduces the potential for delays through the early identification of risks and issues.

The purpose of this communications strategy is to ensure that communications are managed effectively through all stages of the project.

The project communication objectives are as follows:

- To build and maintain relationships with communities and key stakeholders; to build rapport to facilitate information sharing and enhance relationships;
- To create understanding, the need for, and benefits of the WwTP Upgrade Project;
- To create understanding and clarity around the methodology and approach to the upgrade works;
- To inform communities and stakeholders how they will be engaged as the plan progresses;
- To ensure that Irish Water becomes the trusted source of information;
- To enable a transparent and meaningful consultation process that ensures the views of all stakeholders are listened to;
- To ensure key messages are articulated to the right audiences in a timely and effective manner;.
- To ensure stakeholders are kept fully informed of project progress and how it will affect them; and
- To ensure that the project team is the trusted source of information on the project.

2.1 Statutory Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála

Consultation has been undertaken with An Bord Pleanála (the consenting authority) as part of the formal pre-application consultation process for the proposed development.

Irish Water submitted a letter to An Bord Pleanála on 29th October 2021 requesting to enter into pre-application consultation to determine if the proposed development is 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' in accordance with the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. An Bord Pleanála was also required, as part of the pre-application consultation process, to give advice on

procedural matters involved in making an application and to advise on matters relating to proper planning and sustainable development or the environment, which may have a bearing on its determination.

Pre-application consultation meetings were subsequently held with An Bord Pleanála on the 28th June 2021 and 30th August 2022. Following these meetings Uisce Éireann submitted a request to close the pre-consultation process, and on the 24th January 2023 An Bord Pleanála confirmed that the proposed development is ‘Strategic Infrastructure Development’ in accordance with the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. An Bord Pleanála also provided a list of Statutory Consultees to which Uisce Éireann are obliged to engage with directly in the application process.

Table 2-1: Prescribed Bodies List Provided by An Board Pleanála

Prescribed Bodies to be Notified of Application
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications
Limerick City and County Council
Clare County Council
South-western Regional Assembly
Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy
HSE
EPA
Inland Fisheries Ireland
Transport Infrastructure Ireland
The Heritage Council
An Taisce
An Chomhairle Ealaíon
Failte Ireland
Health & Safety Authority
GSI

2.3 Non-Statutory Consultation

After the publication of the Scoping document, Irish Water commenced a non-statutory consultation period with the public, interested parties and prescribed bodies for the proposed development. The identified statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and prescribed bodies are highlighted in table 2-1.

A non-statutory consultation period was held to introduce the project and invite feedback from relevant Elected Representatives, stakeholders and the general public. The non-statutory stakeholders were the target audience for this phase of consultation. The other stakeholders were made aware via emails. They didn't participate as they are consulted as part of the statutory period, following the planning submission.

There was one round of non-statutory consultation, for a period of 6 weeks, from 1st of June to 15th of June 2022. Two separate online briefings were organised one each for elected representatives (9th June) and general public (13th June), where design details and environmental elements of the project were presented. Relevant information such as environmental reports and project information were also made available on the project website. Stakeholders and interested parties had an opportunity on the information event to raise queries, and the project team could be contacted for the duration of the 6 weeks via the project email address.

2.1.1 Webinars for elected representatives and the public

Uisce Éireann held an information evening in the form of a webinar event to present the Proposed Development. Local Elected Representatives from Clare and Limerick were invited to meet on the 9th of June 2022. An open webinar for the public, business, industrial and all other interested parties was held on the 13th of June 2022. A copy of the advertisement for the open webinar is attached in Appendix 1D.

2.1.2 Media and poster campaigns

Various methods were used to promote the project and the webinar during the non-statutory consultation period. The advertisement was posted in the Limerick Leader Newspaper and on their digital media site. Posters were erected in public places such as post offices and libraries around East Limerick. Social media posts were created by IW and shared on Twitter, Facebook which contained a link to the project webpage.

2.1.3 Information web page

Uisce Éireann oversaw the publication of the project on their website. The landing page provided an overview of the project, with details the project background, description, benefits and FAQ's (Appendix 1E). The web page will remain live for the duration of the project and will be continually updated as progress is made at: <https://www.water.ie/projects/local-projects/castletroy-wastewater-tre/> . The Scoping report and AA were also made available to view/download from the website.

2.1.4 Contact Details for Submissions

The project email address was provided on the web page and in all documentation as follows;

castletroywwtp@water.ie

SECTION 3: Feedback from Consultation

3.1 Overview

The main purpose of the consultation process was for Irish Water to inform interested parties and the public on the project and to invite their feedback. During the entire process of consultation only three responses were received. The three responses are listed in the table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Responses received during the consultation process

STAKEHOLDERS	RESPONSE
Shannon Group	Letter of Support
Johnson and Johnson	Query on Funding
TII	Recommendation affecting the National Road Network

The issues raised and feedback provided during the public consultation period were summarised in the following sections of the report. Feedback is compiled from stakeholders' submissions with repeated themes summarised and specific issues reported directly. Feedback from public bodies has been attributed as appropriate. Feedback is summarised under headings that correspond to the questions asked in terms of reference of the consultation.

Feedback had been reviewed by the project team and, where relevant, will be considered by the project team in the development of the project.

The views contained in this section do not reflect the views of Irish Water but represent the views of the stakeholders who made submissions as part of the public consultation. Accordingly, Irish Water does not attest to the accuracy of the information provided below.

3.2 Shannon Group: Letter of Support

A letter of support was written to Irish Water by Shannon Groups on the 15th of July 2022 expressing their support for the Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. Shannon Groups reviewed the proposed plans for the project and conveyed their support in the completion of the project as soon as feasibly possible to future proof development in the Castletroy Area. They expressed their interest in the proposed project as Shannon Group has several sites in the Castletroy area which would positively be impacted by the proposed upgrade project.

3.3 Johnson and Johnson: Query on Funding

During the consultation process a single query was received inquiring about the existence of funding for the completion of the Castletroy WwTP Upgrade Project.

The proposed project is part of the IW 2017-2021 Investment Plan. IW 2017-2021 Investment Plan presents a capital investment portfolio in water services infrastructure developed to address national strategic objectives as laid out in Irish Water's Water Service Strategic Plan.

To assist the progression and development of the 2017-2021 Investment Plan, 52 Wastewater 'Above Ground' (i.e., treatment) projects were identified nationally as requiring Consultancy appointments at this time to assist in progression of projects through the various Gates. IW bundled these into appropriate works packages and nine separate regions internally named 'Call Offs'. In November 2017, J B Barry and Partners Limited (JBB) and T J O'Connor Limited (TJOC) in association with RHDHV were appointed by Irish Water (IW) as Consultants on Call Off 8 – Limerick, as outlined in Table 1-1.

Table 3.1: Call Off 8 – Limerick projects

Project Oracle No	Project Title	Indicative Project Description
10015054	Limerick (Bunlicky) WwTP	Upgrade: Inlet, primary, secondary, sludge
10016965	Castletroy WwTP*	Upgrade: Primary, secondary, sludge

3.4 TII: Recommendation affecting the National Road Network

A response was also received by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the road network in and around the site. The following response was received from TII;

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- TII notes that the subject site accesses the local road network. Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office about locations of existing and future national road schemes,
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development,
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads,
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts,
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works),
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- The EIAR/EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)),
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs,
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required,
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.

- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.

Guidelines were carefully considered and used in the development of the Traffic and transportation section of the Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

SECTION 4: Next Stage of Project Development

A project roadmap has been used as a mode of communication to update about the current status of the upgrade project. From Figure 4.1 we can see the current status of the project. The next stage of project development is the application for An Board Pleanála. This includes the preparation of the planning application along with the EIAR, NIS report and the consultation report to the APB. This would be followed by the planning decision and the succeeding steps as shown in the road map.




Figure 4.1: Project Roadmap

Appendix 1: Glossary and Terminology


The following glossary is provided to ensure consistent use of terminology within in all documentation and communications collateral prepared for the project. A project of this nature will rely on technical terminology which may not be familiar to the public. It is important that there is no ambiguity around the language and terms adopted.

Term	Abbreviation	Explanation
An Bord Pleanála	ABP	Irish Planning Authority
Appropriate Assessment	AA	Assessment used to establish whether a plan or project can be implemented without adversely affecting a Natura 2000 site.
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) represents the amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria and other microorganisms while they decompose organic matter under aerobic (oxygen is present) conditions at a specified temperature
Environmental Impact Statement Report	EIAR	The process of examining the anticipated environmental effects of a proposed project.
Environmental Protection Agency	EPA	Body responsible for protecting and improving the environment on a national and EU level.
Irish Water	IW	The Client
Limerick City and County Council	LCCC	Local Authority
National Development Plan	NDP	The Government's commitment to capital public investment.
National Heritage Area	NHA	An area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection.
National Spatial Strategy	NSS	National strategy that aims to achieve a balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by effective planning.
Natura 2000		Natura 2000 is a European network of important ecological sites made up of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Area of Conservation (SACs)
Natura Impact Statement	NIS	Environmental report
Population Equivalent	PE	The amount of wastewater received at a treatment plant is measured in units known as population equivalent (PE). The wastewater received from all sources, e.g. industrial, tourism, commercial, residential, etc., is converted into these units, with one unit of PE representing the wastewater treatment load typically generated by a single person.
Special Area of Conservation	SAC	Established under the EU Habitats Directive(92/43/EEC)
Special Protection Area	SPA	Established under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
Water Framework Directive	WFD	EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires that management plans be prepared and specifies a structured method to achieve 'Good' water quality status throughout the EU.

Appendix 2: Irish Water Castletroy Webinar Poster



Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Public Webinar



Irish Water is holding a public webinar on the proposed Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Project as part of a period of public consultation. This event provides an opportunity to learn about the project and inform the proposals ahead of the commencement of the planning process.

Representatives from the project team will be available to share information on the project.

The webinar will take place:

Date: Monday, 13 June

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Website: water.ie/castletroywwtp

All are welcome to attend and participate. Email castletroywwtp@water.ie to register. A recording of the webinar will be available on the website for those unable to attend. We'd like to hear your views on the project, have your say by emailing castletroywwtp@water.ie before 15th July.

Beidh seimineár gréasáin poiblí ar siúl ag Uisce Éireann maidir le hIonad Cóireála Fuiolluisce Chaladh an Treoigh mar chuid de thréimhse chomhairlúcháin poiblí. Tabharfaidh an ócáid deis don phobail dul i dteagmháil le foireann an tionscadail agus na moltaí a chur in iúl roimh thús an phróisis pleanála.

Beidh ionadaithe ó fhoireann an tionscadail ar fáil chun faisnéis a roinnt faoin tionscadal.

Beidh an seimineár gréasáin ar siúl:

Dáta: Dé Luain, 13ú lá de Meitheamh

Am: 7pm - 8pm

Suíomh Gréasáin: water.ie/castletroywwtp

Beidh fáilte chuig gach duine freastal ar agus páirt a ghlacadh san ócáid. Sheol ríomhphost chuig castletroywwtp@water.ie chun clárú don ócáid. Cuirtear tairnéadach den seimineár gréasáin ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin do dhaoine nach tithní in ann freastal ar an ócáid. Ba mhaith linn do dhuine a cloisteáil, cuir ríomhphost chuig castletroywwtp@water.ie roimh Dé hAoine, 15ú Iúil 2022.

Appendix 3: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is involved as part of this project?

The works to be constructed include:

- Construction of a new 3,750 m³ stormwater storage tank;
- Installation of new primary treatment filters and lifting pump;
- Construction of a new primary sludge holding tank;
- Upgrade of the existing secondary treatment tanks to provide additional capacity; and
- Upgrade of the plant's sludge treatment facilities.

Why is this project needed?

The plant currently holds a design capacity of 45,000 population equivalent (PE). This is adequate to cater for existing wastewater loads, but the demands of population growth and industrial development will cause Castletroy to become overloaded in the coming years. The upgrade project will prevent the plant becoming overloaded by increasing its capacity to treat wastewater for the calculated 10-year growth projections of 77,500 population equivalent.

There is currently no provision for stormwater storage at Castletroy and excess flow from storm and heavy rainfall events is currently being discharged as untreated effluent to the Lower River Shannon. This project will include the construction of a 3,750m³ (minimum volume) stormwater storage tank which will store stormwater until the main plant can accept and treat the excess flow.

The Lower River Shannon is an area of environmental conservation under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Commission of the European Communities, 2007) and must be protected from any potentially harmful wastewater emissions.

What are the benefits of this project?

The project will:

- Modernise and improve the performance of the existing wastewater treatment plant;
- Better health and integrity of the environment;
- Protection of the water quality in Lower River Shannon and conservation habitats;
- Provision of sufficient capacity to facilitate future population and industrial growth; and
- To provide a wastewater treatment facility that will comply with all relevant legislative requirements into the future.

What is the status of planning permission?

The application for planning permission, which will include all relevant environmental and consultation documents, will be submitted in November 2022.

How can I view the application documents?

The application and associated documents will be made available to view/download at www.water.ie/castletroy

How can I make a query submission?

Stakeholders and interested parties will have an opportunity on the information event to raise queries, and the project team can also be contacted for the duration of the 6 weeks via the project email address ; castletroywwtp@water.ie

When will works commence and what is the timescale for the works?

Subject to the outcome of the planning application, works are expected to start in 2024 and continue into 2026.

What is wastewater?

We all create wastewater in our everyday lives. At home, we access water with ease; we turn the tap, we flush the toilet and we hit the button on the washing machine. Industry, hospitals, schools and offices also create wastewater.

Wastewater can contain a wide range of contaminants, some of which can be broken down in the environment easily while others not so easily and must therefore be treated to ensure that it is not a threat to public health or the environment when discharged to the receiving environment.

Wastewater is collected and transported via underground sewers / pipelines to be treated at a wastewater treatment plant (WwTP).

Why do we need to treat wastewater?

Untreated wastewater poses a threat to public health and the environment. Treatment is therefore carried out in order to produce an environmentally safe liquid that is suitable for disposal to our aquatic environment, such as rivers, lakes and seas.

Proper wastewater treatment systems are essential for sustaining modern living and contributing to development as householders, businesses, industries, schools and hospitals all rely on a robust wastewater treatment system to maintain their daily activities.

How is wastewater treated?

The sewerage system transports wastewater via underground sewers / pipelines to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated to strict standards under EPA licence and in compliance with EU and national water quality legislation, to a standard that is safe to be discharged to the environment. At the treatment plant, contaminants are removed including fats, oils and greases along with biological matter such as bacteria and faecal matter.

For more information on the wastewater treatment, check out our section [From Drain to Sea](#).

How is wastewater transported to the treatment plant?

Wastewater will be transported from homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) through an underground drainage network. The Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Works project therefore includes a new drainage network to carry the wastewater to the WwTP for treatment.

What happens when there is a storm water overflow now?

The sewer system in Limerick was built in the 1900s and, as was typical at the time, it carries both wastewater from homes and businesses and water that is drained off roads and pavements. When more rain and wastewater than the plant can process arrives, the excess is discharged directly to the Lower River Shannon as untreated effluent.

What is the purpose of a stormwater holding tank?

When more rain and wastewater than the plant can process arrives, the excess is directed to a storm water holding tank. When the rain has passed and incoming flow subsides, the stormwater in the tank is returned to the plant for full treatment.

In the event of unusually heavy and sustained rainfall, the amount of water entering the sewer network may exceed the capacity of both the plant and the holding tank. In that case, to prevent the sewer network from backing up and causing flooding of roads and properties, the storm water is released from the holding tank to the environment. The storm water tank overflow contains wastewater that is highly diluted with rainwater and has been screened and settled to remove debris – a form of primary treatment.

The current upgrade of Castletroy means that the capacity will be increased, and these incidents will be fewer in number although in extreme weather conditions they could still occur.

What happens if there is an incident or overflow?

Irish Water notifies Local Authorities and the EPA of any incidents or overflows that occur at the plant that could impact the receiving waters.

What is an EIAR?

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is an analysis of the likely effects (good and bad), that a proposed development may have on the environment. This includes any likely effects on people, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, landscape and cultural heritage.

What is an EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the possible effects on the environment of a project before a decision is made whether or not to proceed with that project. The steps in the EIA process are set out in national and EU legislation. Most large-scale infrastructure projects are subject to EIA as part of their planning consent process.

When a project proposer submits its application for consent to An Bord Pleanála it must include an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) describing the project and its anticipated effects on the environment. A period of public consultation then follows, during which the public and any interested body may make comments and observations to An Bord Pleanála on the project and its environmental effects. An Bord Pleanála must then undertake an environmental impact assessment of the project before making its determination on the application.

What is an NIS and Appropriate Assessment (AA)?

The Birds and Habitats Directives of the European Union (EU) set out various procedures and obligations including the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the protection of specific habitats and species. Collectively, the SPAs and SACs established throughout the EU comprise a network known as Natura 2000.

The Habitats Directive imposes a duty on Member States to consider the possible nature conservation implications of any project on the Natura 2000 site network before any decision is made to allow that project to proceed. This assessment procedure is known as Appropriate Assessment and is quite similar to the EIA procedure. It is normally undertaken at planning consent stage by An Bord Pleanála.

Like the EIA procedure, a document is prepared by the project proposer and submitted with its application for project consent. This document is known as a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). While there is significant overlap between the EIA and AA processes, it should be noted that the NIS and AA only consider and assess impacts on the Natura 2000 network and that AA is a separate legal

consent process distinct from EIA.

Can residents expect much disruption, traffic diversions, delays etc.?

During the works a traffic management plan, agreed with Limerick City and County Council will be in place. To minimise traffic disruption, construction vehicle movements will only take place outside of peak morning and evening traffic times.

How will construction impact the area?

All potential impacts resulting from construction works were subject to Environmental Impact Assessment by An Bord Pleanála. All mitigation measures contained in the assessment will be strictly complied with.

What will be the construction site hours?

To minimise disruption heavy construction equipment/machinery will only be operated during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday 7.00am to 7.00pm
- Saturday 7.00am to 2.00pm
- No operation on Sundays or Bank Holidays
- Note that these limits exclude the tunnelling machine and directly associated activities which are low noise emitting activities

Will the construction works generate dust?

In order to minimise the generation of dust the Project Team will undertake the following:

- Spraying of exposed earthworks activities and site haul roads during dry weather
- Provision of wheel washes at site exit points
- Control of vehicle speeds, speed restrictions and vehicle access
- Sweeping of hard surface roads
- Provision of a 2.4 hoarding around the site

Will the project and operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant generate noise?

In order to minimise the generation of noise the Project team will ensure the following measures are in place:

- The provision of hoarding around the construction works
- Continuous noise monitoring will be undertaken to ensure it does not exceed limits
- Continuous vibration monitoring will be undertaken to ensure it does not exceed limits.

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Public Webinar



Irish Water is holding a public webinar on the proposed Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Project as part of a period of public consultation. This event provides an opportunity to learn about the project and inform the proposals ahead of the commencement of the planning process.

Representatives from the project team will be available to share information on the project.

The webinar will take place:

Date: Monday, 13 June

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Website: water.ie/castletroywwtp

All are welcome to attend and participate. Email castletroywwtp@water.ie to register. A recording of the webinar will be available on the website for those unable to attend. We'd like to hear your views on the project, have your say by emailing castletroywwtp@water.ie before 15th July.

Beidh seimineár gréasáin poiblí ar siúl ag Uisce Éireann maidir le hIonad Cóireála Fuíolluisce Chaladh an Treoigh mar chuid de thréimhse chomhairliúcháin poiblí. Tabharfaidh an ócáid deis don phobail dul i dteagmháil le foireann an tionscadail agus na moltaí a chur in iúl roimh thús an phróisis pleanála.

Beidh ionadaithe ó fhoireann an tionscadail ar fáil chun faisnéis a roinnt faoin tionscadal.

Beidh an seimineár gréasáin ar siúl:

Dáta: Dé Luain, 13ú lá de Meitheamh

Am: 7pm - 8pm

Suíomh Gréasáin: water.ie/castletroywwtp

Beidh fáilte chuig gach duine freastal ar agus páirt a ghlacadh san ócáid. Sheol ríomhphost chuig castletroywwtp@water.ie chun cláraigh don ócáid. Cuirfead taifeadach den seimineár gréasáin ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin do dhaoine nach bhfuil in ann freastal ar an ócáid. Ba mhaith linn do dtuaraimí a cloisteáil, cuir ríomhphoist chuig castletroywwtp@water.ie roimh Dé hAoine, 15ú Iúil 2022.