

Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050

Consultation Brochure

Public Consultation on the Draft
WSSP 2050 and Environmental Reports

What and Why

The Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is our long-term strategic plan. It sets out our objectives and the means by which we aim to achieve them in the context of the significant challenges we are likely to face over the next 25 years.

Uisce Éireann

Uisce Éireann, as Ireland's national public water services provider, supplies 1.7 billion litres of drinking water to our customers every day and collects and treats more than 1.2 billion litres of wastewater before we safely return it to the environment.

Providing safe, secure and sustainable water services is vital for our society, supporting public health, supporting the delivery of housing and jobs and protecting our environment and precious water resources.



OUR PURPOSE

We rise to the challenge of delivering transformative water services that enable communities to thrive.



OUR VISION

A sustainable Ireland where water is respected and protected, for the planet and all the lives it supports.

Our primary function is to provide clean drinking water to customers and to treat and return wastewater safely to the environment. In providing these services we play a central role in enabling economic growth, protecting both the environment and the health and safety of our customers and the public.

What to expect

The WSSP 2050 is one of a suite of plans and policy documents guiding the delivery of water and wastewater services in Ireland.

The WSSP 2050 sets the overarching framework for subsequent more detailed implementation plans, such as the National Water Resources Plan (NWRP).



Consultation

Consultation 1

Consultation 1 was on the Issues Paper, SEA Scoping Report and AA Screening. This consultation ran for eight weeks from 19 September to 17 November 2023. For this consultation, Uisce Éireann engaged directly with key statutory and regulatory stakeholders. The Issues Paper summarised the key challenges influencing Uisce Éireann and the services we deliver from now to 2050. The challenges identified in the Issues Paper, along with our foresight study, Vision 2050, are the foundations that helped Uisce Éireann define long-term objectives to be presented in the draft WSSP 2050.

Consultation 2

For Consultation 2 we are now presenting the draft WSSP 2050 and associated environmental reports, which presents the challenges we face in delivering water services to 2050. We outline actions to respond to these challenges including new approaches and ways of working to tackle our future challenges.

Have your Say

We are now looking for your input to the draft WSSP 2050 and associated environmental reports. The consultation is running for eight weeks from 21 May to 16 July 2024. As well as gathering feedback related to the draft WSSP 2050 the results of this public consultation will provide an insight into attitudes towards public water and wastewater services and the challenges we face now and into the future.

Significant challenges our water environment faces

We operate in a rapidly changing global environment that will bring enormous challenges for the delivery of water services.

Our foresight study, Vision 2050, was delivered in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and sets out desired outcomes for the water sector in Ireland to 2050 and identified challenges with the potential to have the greatest impact on delivering water services over that time-frame.

The key challenges and how they may impact our water services are detailed in our draft WSSP 2050.



How and When

Our Approach to WSSP 2050

Transforming water infrastructure and service delivery will require new approaches and new ways of working. These include: Collaboration; Systems Thinking; Adaptive Planning; Building our Culture, Empowering our People.

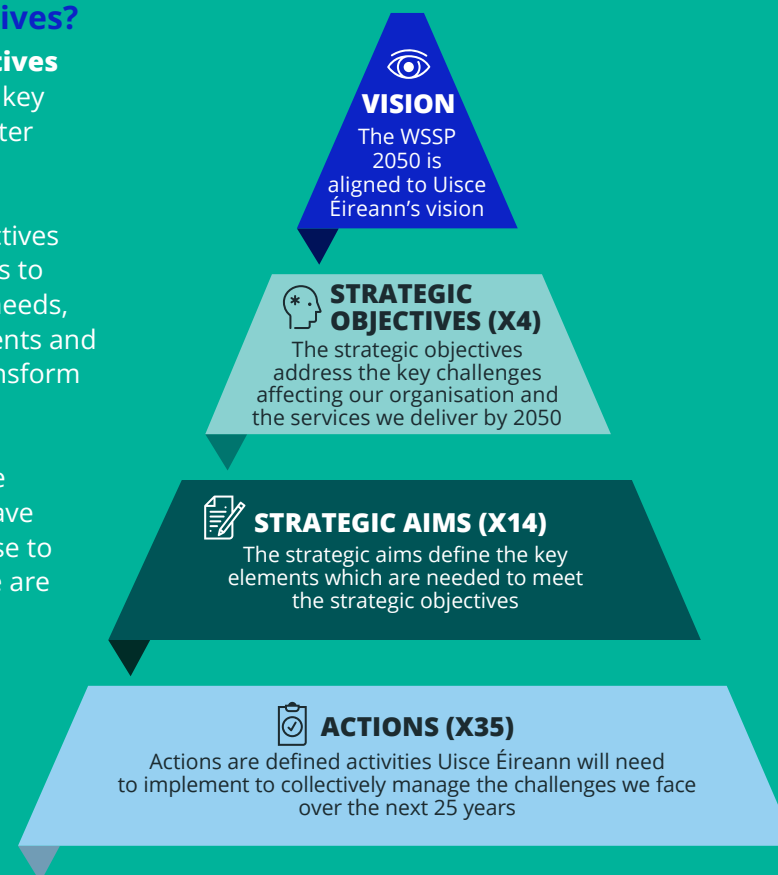
We will aim to adopt these approaches and ways of working to tackle our future challenges, while recognising that this will also need buy-in from our stakeholders in many instances.

What are our Strategic Objectives?

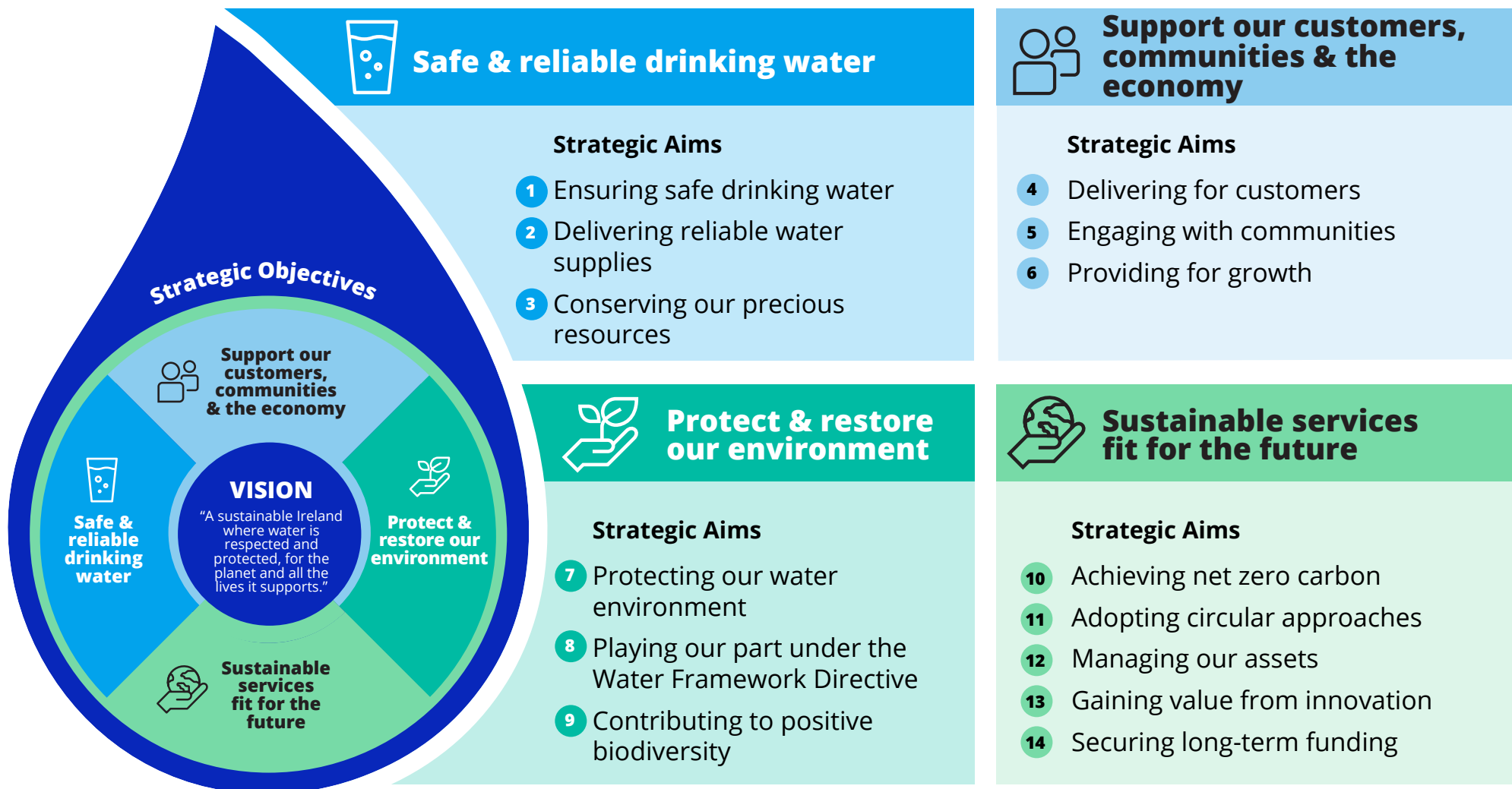
We have identified **4 strategic objectives** in the draft WSSP 2050 to address the key challenges affecting the delivery of water services to 2050.

Accompanying the four strategic objectives are **14 strategic aims** that will help us to address our most critical investment needs, respond to emerging policy requirements and capitalise on new opportunities to transform our infrastructure.

In accordance with Section 33(4) of the Water Services (No. 2) Act, 2013, we have set out the means by which we propose to achieve our strategic objectives. These are presented as 35 key actions.



Our Strategic Objectives and Aims at a glance



How we will deliver our objectives.

The WSSP 2050 sets the overarching framework for subsequent more detailed implementation plans.

The WSSP sets out our long-term objectives and our strategic direction of travel in order to achieve them. More detail is provided in our Tier 2 plans on how we aim to achieve our objectives. An example of this is our National Water Resources Plan.

How will we measure progress?

Uisce Éireann is subject to rigorous monitoring and measurement under the aegis of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which monitors performance in the water sector generally. To measure progress and assess our performance, Uisce Éireann is regulated by The CRU (Commission for Regulation of Utilities), the economic regulator which oversees UE's performance and allowed revenue. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) which acts as the environmental regulator, ensuring UE's compliance with EU Directives and National Regulations.



How You Can Get Involved

This public consultation presents a unique opportunity for you to engage with Uisce Éireann in the development of our 25 year strategy for the delivery of water services in Ireland.

The purpose of this consultation is to meaningfully engage with the public, particularly those with an interest in water and wastewater services, in order to better inform the content of the draft WSSP 2050 and to gather views on its strategic objectives, aims, actions, and challenges for delivering the Plan.

A series of consultation questions are posed below to guide the process. We are now looking for your input to the draft WSSP 2050 and associated environmental reports through this public consultation.

Please visit our website to read the draft WSSP 2050 and complete **a consultation survey** or use the suggested consultation questions to guide your response and submit your feedback to the consultation.



On our website you can access:

- The Draft WSSP 2050
- SEA - Environmental Report
- Natura Impact Statement
- Consultation Survey Feedback Form
- Details of all consultation events and how to register.



Guide to the draft WSSP 2050

- 1. About Uisce Éireann:** This section outlines the Uisce Éireann vision, history, heritage and purpose of the Draft WSSP 2050
- 2. The Challenges we face to 2050:** We identified what we think are the most important issues likely to significantly affect Uisce Éireann over the period to 2050.
- 3. Our Strategic Objectives at a Glance:** This section presents a brief overview of our strategic objectives and strategic aims
- 4. Strategic Objective 1:** Safe and Reliable Drinking Water
- 5. Strategic Objective 2:** Support our Customers, Community and the Economy
- 6. Strategic Objective 3:** Protect and Restore our Environment
- 7. Strategic Objective 4:** Sustainable Services Fit for the Future
- 8. Approaches to meeting our long-term challenges :** To deliver on our strategic objectives, we will need to embrace new approaches and ways of working.
- 9. Implementation:** We identify how progress will be measured and discuss our framework of strategies that we are working on separately.
- 10. Review and Update:** This outlines how the WSSP will be reviewed and updated.

Consultation Questions

QUESTION 1:

In Section 4 we present our four Strategic Objectives. Do you have any comments on the Strategic Objectives and associated strategic aims and actions?

- **Strategic Objective 1:**
Safe and Reliable Drinking Water.
- **Strategic Objective 2:**
Support our Customers, Communities and the Economy.
- **Strategic Objective 3:**
Protect and Restore our Environment.
- **Strategic Objective 4:**
Sustainable Services Fit for the Future

QUESTION 2:

In Section 2 we have identified the biggest challenges we think will influence how we deliver our water services to 2050. Do you have views on these challenges?

QUESTION 3:

In section 8 we outline our approaches to meeting long-term challenges. Do you have any comments on these?

QUESTION 4:

Do you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which accompany the draft WSSP 2050?

What will we do with your response?

Your feedback will be recorded, collated, analysed, and evaluated to determine appropriate changes to the draft WSSP 2050.

Please note that Uisce Éireann may publish a summary of the survey results and may also publish anonymised data from the responses received. All submissions received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection legislation.

At A Glance...

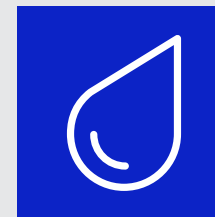
The Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is our long-term strategic plan

It sets out our objectives and the means by which we aim to achieve them in the context of the significant challenges we are likely to face over the next 25 years.



Uisce Éireann Vision

A sustainable Ireland where water is respected and protected, for the planet and all the lives it supports.



... **We supply** 1.7 billion litres of clean water through 64,000km of pipe network and 1,763 pumping stations.

... **We process** 1.2 billion litres of wastewater through 1,056 treatment plants from homes and businesses.



In the draft WSSP 2050 we present the challenges we face in delivering water services to 2050

- Climate Change
- Population and Economic Growth
- Environment and biodiversity crises
- Ageing Infrastructure
- Legislation, regulation and policy
- Economic conditions



We are now looking for your input to the draft WSSP 2050 and associated environmental reports through this public consultation

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 - Details of all consultation events and how to register.

To address these Challenges, we present 4 strategic objectives



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1
Safe & reliable drinking water



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2
Support our customers, communities & the economy



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
Protect & restore our environment



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4
Sustainable services fit for the future

Accompanying the **4 strategic objectives** are **14 strategic aims** and **35 actions** by which we propose to achieve our strategic objectives.



Timeline to date

Autumn 2023

Consultation 1 on the Issues Paper, SEA Scoping and AA Screening.

Summer 2024

Consultation 2 on on the draft WSSP 2050 & associated environmental reports.

Autumn 2024

Finalise the WSSP 2050, Issue for Ministerial Approval

Spring 2025

Publish WSSP 2050



Implementation

- The WSSP 2050 sets out our long-term objectives and our strategic direction of travel in order to achieve them. More detail is provided in our Tier 2 plans on how we aim to achieve our objectives. An example is our Biodiversity Action Plan.
- To measure progress and asses our performance, Uisce Éireann is regulated by our economic regulator the CRU (Commission for Regulation of Utilities) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), our environmental regulator.
- The WSSP 2050 will be reviewed every 5 years.



Have your say...

Public Consultation

21 May - 16 July 24

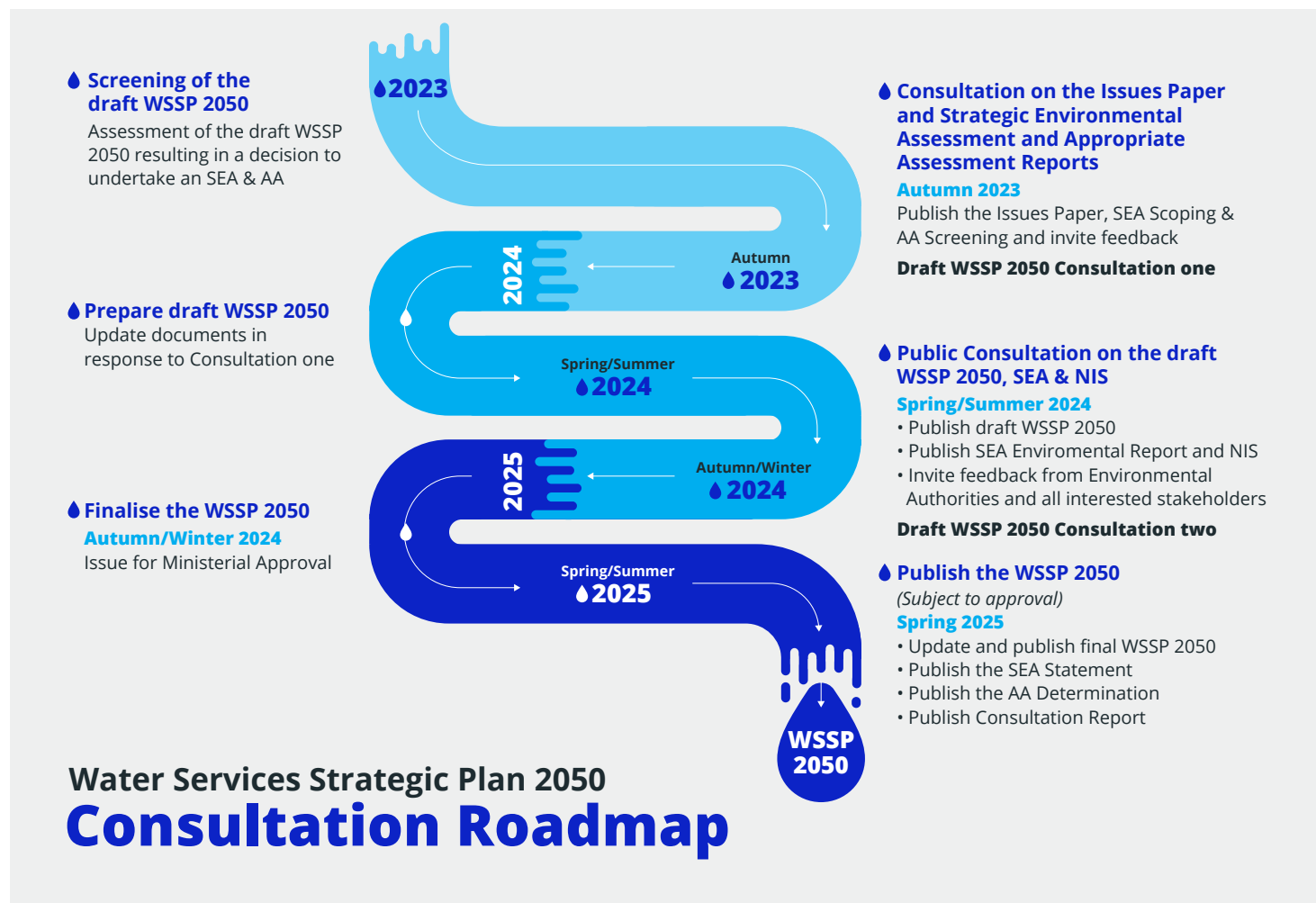
Next Steps

Following the conclusion of this consultation, Uisce Éireann will review and consider feedback received from all stakeholders. The submissions and observations received from public consultation will be taken into consideration, and the draft WSSP 2050 updated.

Following Ministerial approval, the final WSSP 2050 will be adopted in early 2025, alongside the SEA Statement and AA Determination. The SEA statement will outline the issues raised and demonstrate the amendments that were made to the WSSP 2050 as a result of the consultation.

The WSSP 2050 will undergo regular reviews, every five years, to ensure its continued relevance. These reviews will allow us to adapt to changing circumstances and evolving needs.

Updates to the WSSP 2050 will be informed by changes in legislation related to water services and better information, especially on asset performance, demographics, and climate change.





**For further inquiries
or feedback, please
contact us at:**

e. wssp@water.ie

Water Services Strategic Plan, Uisce Éireann,
P.O. Box 13216, Glenageary, Co. Dublin

t. 1800 46 36 76