



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES

In Association with the Local Authority Services National Training Group



RURAL WATER SERVICES CONFERENCE

‘Embracing Change – Opportunities and Challenges for the GWS Sector’

Thursday, 7th September 2023

Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, County Roscommon





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Conference Programme

8.30am – 9.15am	Registration - Tea/Coffee
Session 1:	Policy and Funding for the Rural Water Sector
9.15am – 9.25am	Welcome & Session Chairperson Tommy Ryan - Cathaoirleach, WSTG & Chief Executive, Cavan County Council
9.25am – 9.40am	Opening Ministerial Address Kieran O'Donnell TD - Minister of State at Dept of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH)
9.40am – 10.00am	Research & Information Report on Rural Water Brian Gallagher - Technical Director, TOBIN Consulting Engineers
10.00am – 10.20am	Legislation Changes Impacting Water Suppliers Jean Rosney - Senior Development Co-ordinator, NFGWS
10.20am - 10.40am	Upcoming Multi-annual Rural Water Programme Douglas Kelly - Principal Officer, Rural Water Unit, DHLGH
10.25am – 11.00am	Panel Discussion and Q&A
11.00am – 11.30am	Tea/Coffee Break
Session 2:	Protecting Water - Source Catchment to Consumer Tap
Session Chairperson	Dr Jolanta Burke - Senior Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
11.30am – 11.50am	Developing a Water Safety Plan – Kilconieron Group Water Scheme's Experience Geraldine Taylor - Manager, Kilconieron Group Water Scheme
11.50am – 12.10pm	Source Protection Pilot Project Final Report Patrick McCabe - Catchment Scientist, NFGWS Seán Corrigan - Source Protection Mitigations Lead, NFGWS
12.10pm – 12.30pm	A Changed Approach to Achieving Environmental Compliance Gerard Hannon – Chief Technician, Environment Section, Roscommon County Council
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Panel Discussion and Q&A
1.00pm – 2.15pm	Lunch
Session 3:	The importance of participation in the GWS sector
Session Chairperson	Dr Triona McGrath - Research and Policy Lead, An Fóram Uisce – The Irish Water Forum
2.15pm – 2.35pm	Celebrating 25 years of the NFGWS Barry Deane - CEO, NFGWS
2.35pm – 4.00pm	Panel Discussion on 'Encouraging Greater Participation on GWSs' Mary Connolly - Corrick GWS, Co. Sligo Seán Clerkin - Tydavnet GWS, Co. Monaghan Shane Curley - Glinsk Creggs GWS, Co. Galway Darragh Walsh - Irish Co-operative Organisation Society
4.00pm	Tea/Coffee & Departure