Submission to Irish Water on the Matter of water abstraction from Lough Derg to pipe to serve Dublin and its satellite region on behalf of Cllr. Séamie Morris M. C .C Tipperary county councillor.

I would like to say that this submission is only to support the more substantial submission by the River Shannon Protection Alliance ( R S P A) . As a county Councillor I would like to add my voice to the wrongful assumption that the problem with lack of Water in the Dublin region can be sorted by sourcing water from another region 100 miles away . This is wrong for many reasons as the money would be better spent by fixing the up to 50% leakage rates in Dublin . a simple 15% reduction of leaks would save 100MLD of water per day . The Lough Derg/ Shannon abstraction would place a high and unsustainable cost on the mid west region in terms of the economic and social cost and the river and its tributaries would suffer ecologically and environmentally . It should be noted that Lough Derg is a protected under the European framework directive and is a protected Natura 2000 site under both the birds and Habitats directives. . The abstraction proposals are being costed as free abstraction which is wrong as Tipperary county council has a development CONTRIBUTION levy in place put there at my request which puts a cost on Abstracting water from the county.

The abstraction of water from the Mid West to Dublin is against spatial planning as it will promote unsustainable development in the Dublin region while weakening the Mid west region. The damage caused by abstraction will cause irreversible ecological damage to the plush farmland surrounding the lake and will actively damage our agricultural, tourism and economic viability of the region and is totally against balanced regional development of the country. Lough Derg is of huge economic importance to the future economic sustainability of Tipperary and I am vehemently opposed to the proposed water abstraction of Lough Derg river Shannon.

Yours sincerely Cllr. Séamie Morris 03/08/15

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