

PRESS RELEASE
RIVER SHANNON PROTECTION ALLIANCE (RSPA)
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Irish Water has signaled its intention to apply for planning permission to divert River Shannon water to Dublin for domestic, commercial and industrial consumption. It proposes to construct a 172 kilometer pipeline from the Parteen Basin to Dublin, at a cost of 1.2 billion Euros, to transfer hundreds of millions of liters of water per day. The RSPA and other organizations, stakeholders and interested parties are pledged to strongly oppose this extravagantly priced, and needless mega scheme, and are determined to expose it as a reckless, high risk and outmoded method of providing water to consumers. In a forensic examination of Irish Water's plan, the 'Kennedy Report' found that "This project will almost certainly prove to be an unnecessary White Elephant and a huge waste of Irish people's money". The summary page of the Kennedy Report is given below, and the full report is available on the RSPA website, www.shannonprotectionalliance.ie

THE KENNEDY REPORT: A SUMMARY

For some time Irish Water has been proposing to spend up to EUR1.2billion (EUR724 for every Irish household) on the Shannon project - an ill-conceived scheme to pump water 172km from the Shannon to Dublin. This project will almost certainly prove to be an unnecessary White Elephant and a huge waste of the Irish people's money – at which point the many errors made in this process will come into sharp focus and those individuals who (explicitly or implicitly) rubber-stamped the project will be answerable to the Irish public.

- Irish Water predicts that, by 2050, Dublin will have a water *deficit* of 214.7Ml/d (million litres per day) but the report on which this is based contained basic and fundamental errors, inappropriate methodology, and flawed assumptions. In fact, by 2050, there will almost certainly be a raw water *surplus* of over 100Ml/d without having to increase existing raw water supplies at all.
- Dublin has no shortage of *raw* water. Its problems (and its recent water crises) have been due to Victorian-era water infrastructure with a history of under-investment resulting in insufficient capacity to *treat/deliver* water. Irish Water is finally investing in Dublin's water infrastructure – recent upgrades at two water treatment plants have drastically (and inexpensively) improved their water treatment capacity and more improvements are underway. Dublin has a total leakage rate in its water network of over 40% (comparable to Mexican cities) so for every litre of precious treated water put into Dublin's water pipes almost half of it ends up in the ground. Leaks are now infinitely easier to identify/fix post-the introduction of meters. Water savings as a result of Irish Water's ongoing First Fix programme have far exceeded expectations, for a fraction of predicted costs. Focus needs to remain on improving Dublin's ability to treat and deliver its plentiful supply of raw water: this scheme to source extra water from the Shannon is an unnecessary waste of money.
- If, at some point in the future, Dublin does need more raw water then local groundwater is the best option. Groundwater is inexpensive, can be developed incrementally as needed (whereas the Shannon project is "all-or-nothing" - not a drop of water can be delivered until the EUR1.2billion ten-year mega-project is completed), reduces contamination risk (sources are diversified, rather than all coming from one source as with the Shannon project) and

drilling wells is something in which we have hundreds of years of experience. Even the Geological Survey of Ireland (Ireland's main authority on groundwater) made a submission during consultation for this project that *"the use of groundwater should not be overlooked...it has a number of advantages over the use of surface water. It is a viable and widely available resource that would be relatively inexpensive to develop at a local level"* and yet during this process groundwater was dismissed as an option without a single test borehole having been drilled and Irish Water's review of the groundwater report contained basic mathematical errors that rendered its main conclusion wrong by 33%.

The Shannon project needs to be put on hold immediately and re-assessed on the basis of a correctly framed "demand" prediction taking account of improvements to Dublin's water infrastructure and thorough, accurate investigation of groundwater.