10 Conclusions

10.1 Introduction

This document, the Regional Water Resources Plan South East (RWRP-SE), is the fourth and final of four (4) Regional Plans. Together, the four Regional Plans and our Framework Plan form Ireland's first National Water Resources Plan (NWRP). The NWRP allows us to review all our water supplies in a consistent way and to develop a clear approach to move towards safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable public water supplies through prioritised investment in water services over the short, medium and long-term.

Three regional plans, the RWRP for the Eastern and Midlands region, the RWRP for the South West region and the RWRP for the North West region have been finalised and adopted. The RWRP for the South East region is the final region. The Framework Plan, Regional Plans and supporting documentation are available at https://www.water.ie/projects/strategic-plans/national-water-resources/.

In developing the RWRP-SE, Uisce Éireann considered relevant government policy and legislation, and a range of external factors which have the potential to impact our water supplies. These include the effects of climate change, increased population growth, economic development and tighter drinking water and environmental standards. The water resources planning process will enable Uisce Éireann to support the sustainable development of our water resources at a regional and national scale.

This RWRP-SE has developed plan level solutions, known as Preferred Approaches, to address the Needs of the 111 Water Resource Zones (WRZs) within the South East Region. The purpose of the Plan is to allow us to understand the scale and type of transformation required across the entire public water supply in terms of achieving our Quality, Quantity, Reliability and Sustainability objectives for existing and future water users.

To understand the current state of our assets and its surrounding environment, the RWRP-SE reviewed the:

- External baseline across the South East Region in terms of natural resources, population growth and economic development, and impacts of climate change; and
- Internal baseline of our existing water supply asset base in terms of capacity and performance of supplies (abstractions and treatment plants) and efficiency of our distribution networks.

10.2 Baseline of the Public Water Supplies in the South East Region

The existing water supply asset base within the South East Region consists of 120 groundwater sources and 43 surface water sources that feed 143 Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). On average 161 million litres per day (Ml/d) of water is produced by these WTPs and fed into WRZs within the South East Region. The South East Region has 111 WRZs. The distribution network consists of approximately 6,321 kilometres of water mains. The existing WTPs and major interconnecting water pipelines (Trunk Mains) are shown in Figure 10.1.

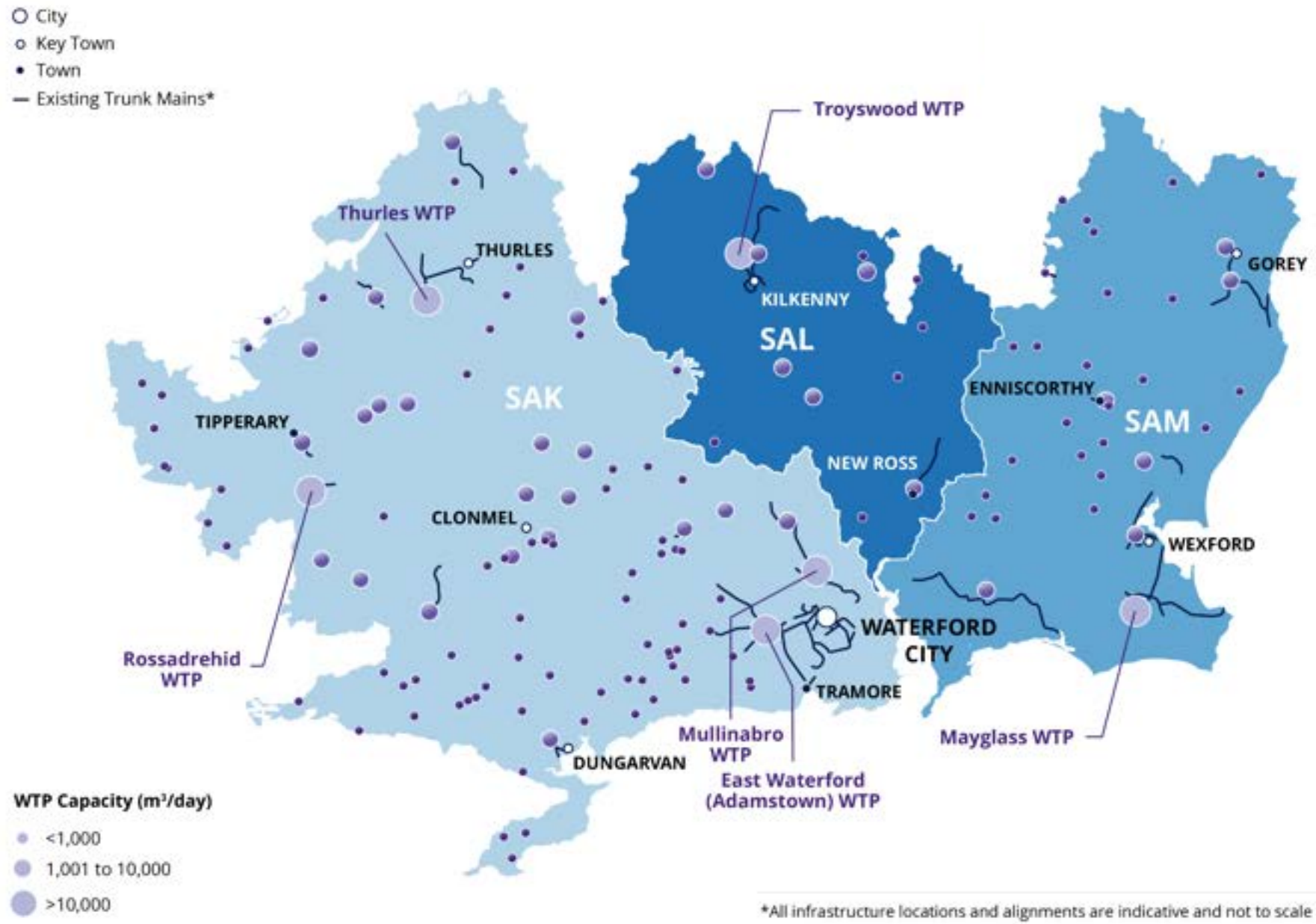

Figure 10.1 Existing Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and Major Interconnecting Pipelines (Trunk Mains)

The current Needs across the water supplies in the South East Region can be summarised as follows:

- 28% of the supplies do not meet a 1 in 50-year Level of Service (LoS) in normal weather conditions.
- 41% of the supplies do not meet the 1 in 50 LoS in drought conditions.
- 80% of supplies are associated with a 'high-risk' for one of our Water Quality Barriers and therefore do not conform to the conservative Quality risk reduction standards we have set for ourselves as a water utility.
- Based on desktop assessments, 28 of our supplies may not meet sustainable abstraction levels in the short to medium term.
- Efficiency of our current distribution networks is poor, and it is estimated that approximately 47% of the water that is passed through our watermains in this region is lost through leakage.

We also face the challenges of:

- Facilitating government policy on growth and economic development; and
- Transforming our supplies to ensure that the entire public water supply is environmentally sustainable and adaptable to climate change.

10.3 Plan Development

The purpose of the RWRP-SE is to determine the Preferred Approach and interim solutions we need to transform our water supplies in the South East Region over the short, medium and long-term. The RWMP-SE, as proposed, will achieve the standards we set for ourselves in the Framework Plan, including:

- At least a 1 in 50 LoS across all water supplies in all-weather scenarios including normal, dry, drought and winter conditions. This means that the probability of our customers experiencing a water shortage or severe limitations to supply is 2% in any given year.
- Ensuring that the correct barriers are in place at all our sources, WTPs and within our distribution networks, to reduce risks to water quality to an acceptable level.
- Ensuring that all our supplies are environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change.

To achieve this, as part of the RWRP-SE we reviewed 1,054 Unconstrained Options to address the identified Needs and took them through the option screening process. This produced a feasible list of 778 Options. We have developed plan level outline designs and costings for all 778 Feasible Options.

The basis of the Feasible Options considered within the RWRP-SE is that they must be environmentally sustainable, technically feasible, promotable and deliverable. The Feasible Options are summarised in Figure 10.2. They cover a broad range of supply types including; supply rationalisation (where smaller water supply systems are decommissioned and connected to larger supply systems), new and increased groundwater and surface water sources, water transfers and desalination.

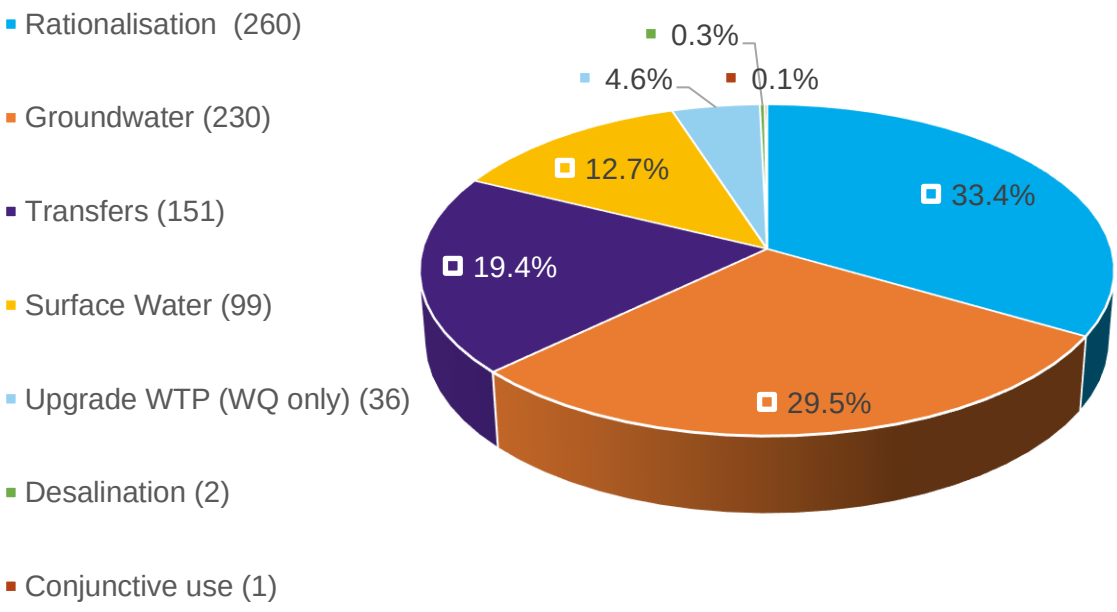

Figure 10.2 Feasible Option Types

The Feasible Options consist of both small local options that are only suitable to address the Need in the immediate vicinity of a supply, and larger Study Area and Cross Study Area Options that can address Need across multiple supplies. We assessed all the Feasible Options to develop the Preferred Approach for each WRZ. The Preferred Approach is the Feasible Option, or combination of Feasible Options, that provide the best overall outcome for the supply in terms of the assessment criteria we set within the Framework Plan. As outlined in Section 7.2, the criteria align with relevant government policy.

Within the Approach Development Process, we applied the resources planning methodology (EBSD – Economics of Balancing Supply and Demand) uniformly to rank and appraise the Options. This provided a robust and transparent process to support the selection of a Preferred Approach that represents the best overall outcome against our assessment criteria. In other words, the Plan does not promote particular types of Options. If a small local solution scores best against the Plan and policy objectives (encapsulated by the assessment criteria) our Approach Development Process would present this as the Preferred Approach. Similarly, if a larger Study Area or Regional Option provides a better outcome across a number of supplies, this would be selected as the Preferred Approach.

10.4 Plan Outcome

As set out in Section 8, our Option Development Process for the South East Region did not identify any feasible options with the potential, in terms of quantity and distribution of supply, for a large-scale interconnection of multiple WRZs across the Study Area boundaries. For this reason, the Study Area (SA) Preferred Approach that is presented in Section 7 is identified as the 'Best Value' solution to address the regional water supply Need. The Regional Preferred Approach is therefore defined as the combination of the three (3) SA Preferred Approaches for the South East Region.

The Regional Preferred Approach consists of a combination of local water supply sources and Study Area solutions. These involve:

- Reducing the number of WRZs in the South East Region from 111 to 58;
- Constructing 455 kilometres of trunk mains (diameter > 300mm) to develop larger interconnected WRZs for the urban areas in the region;
- 13 new water treatment plants (WTPs);
- Decommissioning 63 WTPs and 66 existing sources;
- Increasing the barrier performance of the 56 remaining WTPs and upgrading the capacity of 24 of these to address the current supply Deficit and to meet forecast growth; and
- Reducing leakage from the 2019 baseline, which represents 47% of regional demand, to 24% of regional demand. (For WRZs with a demand greater than 1,500 cubic meters per day (m^3/day), leakage will be reduced to 21% of the average WRZ demand). Leakage reduction will be achieved through pressure management, active leakage control, find and fix and asset replacement.

The outcome of delivering the Regional Preferred Approach as proposed, is that:

- All WRZs in the South East Region will have an improved minimum LoS of 1 in 50 in drought and winter conditions, as well as increased resilience during normal and dry;
- All WRZs will include appropriate barriers to mitigate against water quality risk; and
- All WRZs will be resilient with improved environmental sustainability.

These outcomes are described further in Section 10.5.

10.5 Benefits of the Preferred Approach for the South East Region

10.5.1 Reducing Quantity Risk

If all the Options identified in the Regional Preferred Approach are delivered there will be no supply deficit for any of the WRZs in the South East Region. This means that following implementation of the RWRP-SE, each WRZ will have enough water in supply (Water Available for Use) to meet peak water demand during all-weather planning scenarios (Normal Year Annual Average (NYAA), Dry Year Annual Average (DYAA), Dry Year Critical Period (DYCP) and Winter Critical Period (WCP)) at a 1 in 50 LoS. This achieves the objectives identified under the Lose Less and Supply Smarter pillars set out in our Framework Plan.

In the South East Region, the supply deficit and forecast growth will be met by 46 local independent supply systems (Figure 7.11). Twelve (12) new interconnected systems (Figure 7.12) will be created that will incorporate 57 pre-existing WRZs within the region. A further eight (8) WRZs will be connected to supply systems in the Eastern and Midlands Region. The interconnected supplies will benefit an estimated 60% of the 2044 population.

The largest interconnected systems across the study areas supply about 48% of the regional population. These are shown in Figure 10.3 and include:

- Expansion of the existing East Waterford Supply System that will develop a new surface water abstraction from the River Suir, upstream of Carrick-on-Suir. The system will supply Waterford and surrounds and an additional nine (9) WRZs that will be connected to the scheme;
- Interconnection of ten (10) WRZs near Clonmel that benefit from a new surface water abstraction from the River Suir and new WTP near at Barnes;
- Interconnection to Thurles WRZ to supply the forecast deficit across five (5) WRZs;
- Connection of the Ballyragget Public Water Supply to the existing Kilkenny supply system in Study Area L for increased resilience; and

- Increased abstraction from the existing River Slaney source to supply the Enniscorthy Town deficit and additional demand of four connecting WRZs.

As well as the proposed upgraded and new supply sources, the regional Deficit will be addressed by leakage reduction measures. Uisce Éireann has committed to leakage targets beyond the Sustainable Economic Levels of Leakage (SELL) (as outlined in Section 5). The additional targets will reduce leakage levels to 21% of demand in WRZs where demand exceeds 1,500 m^3/day. When smaller WRZs with higher leakage targets are considered, this averages to 24% of demand across the region.

Figure 10.4 shows the cities, Key Towns and other settlements that will benefit from the Lose Less Pillar (leakage reduction) of the Framework Plan.

Additional benefits of the Preferred Approach for the South East Region include:

- Each supply will have the appropriate headroom and outage standards to ensure that we can provide a minimum 1 in 50-year LoS to water users. Provision of the 1 in 50 LoS to our customers will reduce the number of outages our customers would typically expect to experience and reduce the frequency of water conservation orders and hose pipe bans required.
- The 12 new interconnected systems will allow us to balance peaking and variability in demand across a larger baseline thus reducing our vulnerability to events such as droughts.
- Overall Quantity risk will also be reduced based on utilising sustainable sources for supplies. This will support population growth and economic development within the South East Region and ensure that the growth targets set by the Regional Assemblies and Local Authorities can be achieved.
- Increased efficiency and economies of scale in delivering leakage reduction measures to large interconnected systems (compared with fragmented systems). This will also result in environmental benefits from energy and carbon savings and reduce pressure on abstractions.

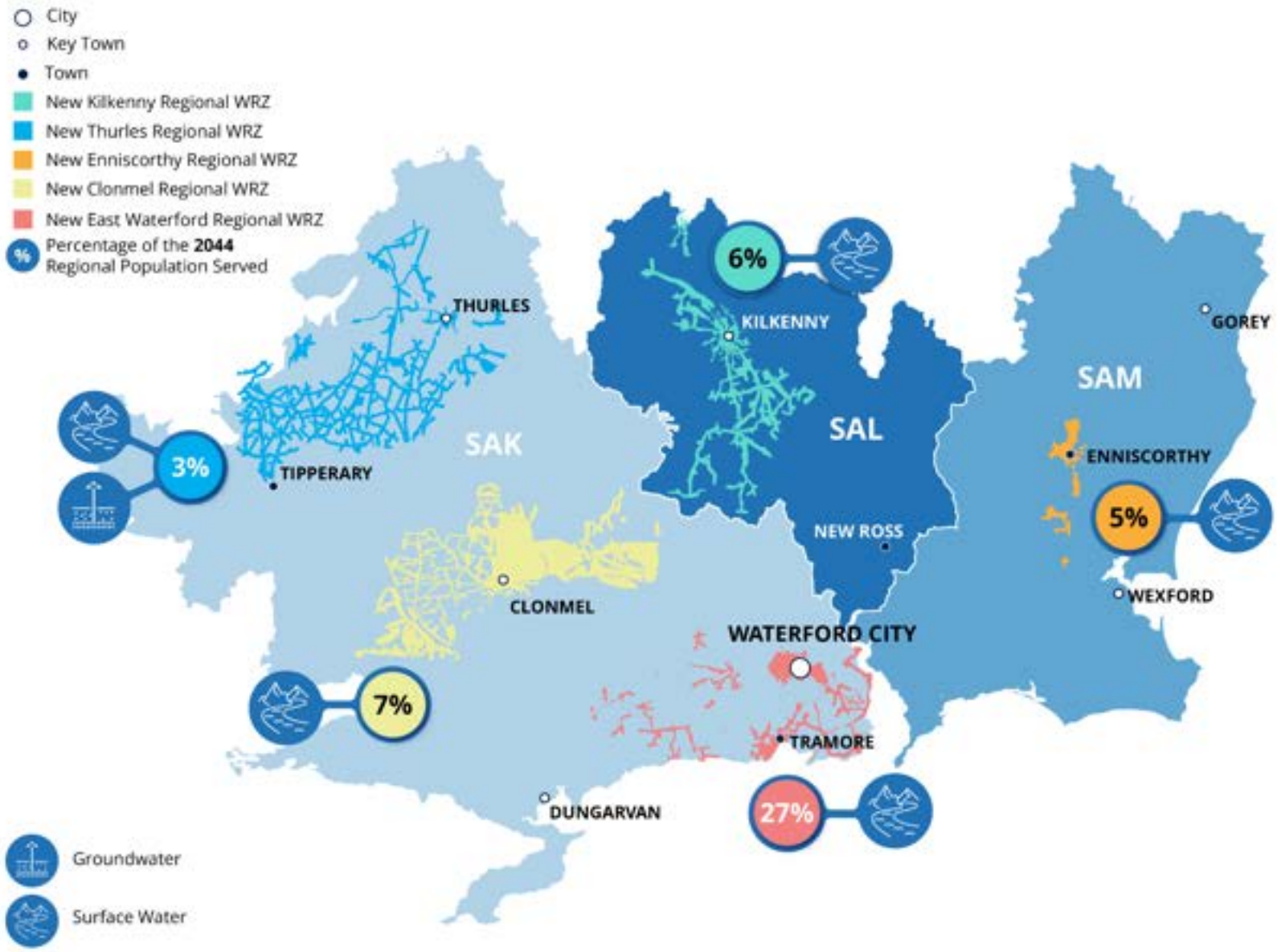

Figure 10.3 Large Interconnected Supplies in the South East Region

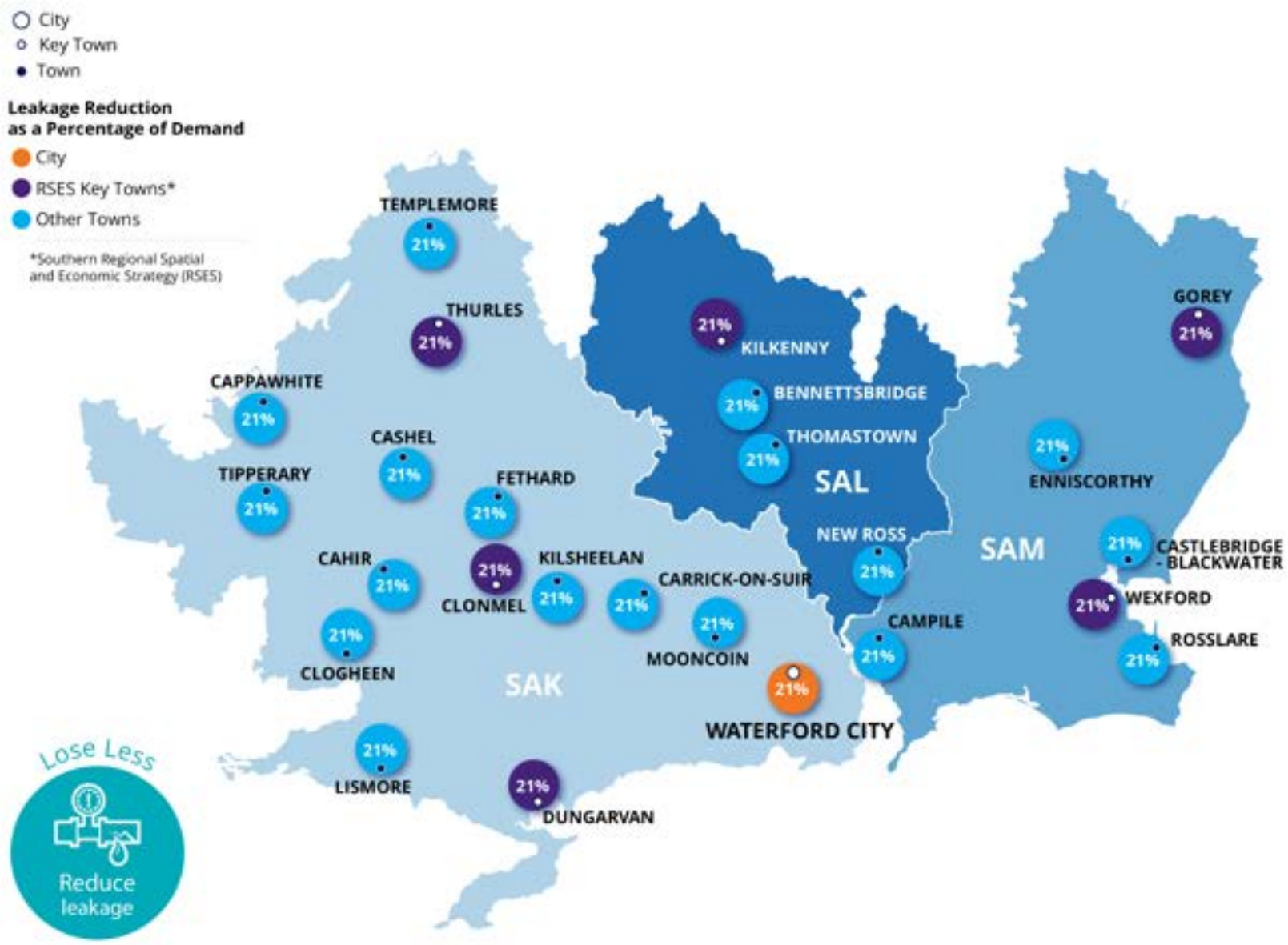

Figure 10.4 Leakage Reduction Targets for the South West Region

10.5.2 Reducing Risk to Water Quality

Although our compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations is over 99%, at present 80% of the 143 WTPs in the South East Region have barrier or alarm deficits when assessed against the risk reduction standards we have set for ourselves as a utility. This means that, in some cases, the treatment assets do not have the capability to fully address quality risks at all times; particularly after very heavy rainfall, where the raw water quality in our sources may deteriorate significantly for short periods of time.

Quantity and Quality risks are interrelated, as often Water Quality risks are caused or exacerbated by insufficient capacity in our WTPs. For example, having sufficient treatment capacity to allow us to take filters offline for essential repairs results in lower potential risks to Water Quality. For this reason, peaking and outage allowances are included within the Supply Demand Balance and the design standards for future projects within the capital investment plans.

In addition to this, raw water quality can fluctuate significantly based on weather conditions in the natural environment. Controlling Water Quality risk across a very large number of isolated supplies 24 hours per day, 365 days per year can be challenging. Therefore, larger water supplies, which allow for more focussed operational controls and monitoring, can help address this risk. The effectiveness and efficiency of larger supplies with improved interconnectivity is evidenced in the majority of other EU jurisdictions, many of which have far fewer WRZs despite having larger populations.

Where it is not possible to interconnect systems due to the isolated location of the WRZ or the potential environmental impact of associated construction work or operations, we have developed smaller local supplies. For these smaller systems, we manage operational risk by selecting sources that are less susceptible to large variations in water quality with good source protection.

When the Options identified in the Regional Preferred Approach are delivered there should be no barrier deficit at any of the WTPs in the South East Region. Therefore, the risk of drinking water non-compliance or boil water notices will be significantly reduced.

In the South East Region this will be achieved via delivery of 14 new WTPs, capacity and barrier performance upgrades to 24 existing WTPs and barrier performance upgrades to a further 56 existing WTPs. In addition to the capital works, source protection measures and development of full Drinking Water Safety Plans for each supply will allow for appropriate and continuous risk management in accordance with the requirements of the recast Drinking Water Directive.

Additional Water Quality benefits of the Preferred Approach include:

- The creation of 12 new interconnected systems. This will decommission 63 existing WTPs. The reduced number of WTPs will allow tighter management and operational controls over water quality. This will in turn enable targeted investment in the maintenance of a smaller amount of infrastructure. As an example, the expansion of the Clonmel water supply system will decommission 10 WTPs and create a network of 3 remaining WTPs and 1 new WTP serving approximately 23,000 customers in the South East Region by 2044. The interconnected network will also include five (5) new treated water storages that will enable plant shutdowns and trunk main repairs, while maintaining supplies to customers.
- Small new or upgraded local groundwater sources will supply 27 WRZs that meet approximately 30% of the estimated 2044 regional demand. These sources have been selected based on water availability, sustainability, natural storage and stable raw water quality. The Preferred Approach for these WRZs will also involve appropriate source protection, treatment barriers and treated water storage specific to each WRZ. Therefore, the operational vulnerability of having a larger number of small supplies will be offset by utilising secure and stable sources.

- One (1) WRZ, Galtee Regional, will be supplied by new local surface water sources that will serve 5% of the estimated 2044 regional demand. The Water Quality risk to these systems will be managed using correct treatment barriers within the new and upgraded WTPs, including appropriate plant shut down and strategic storage. The water supply system includes four existing WTPs and two treated water storages that provide flexibility to manage plant shut down for maintenance.

10.5.3 Reliability and Sustainability

In the South East Region, Uisce Éireann currently abstracts from 163 different water sources and has 143 WTPs which collectively serve 369,240 people or 9% of the national population; all of which need to be maintained and operated in a sustainable manner. Surface water abstractions make up 66% of the water delivered to customers, either from rivers or lakes, with the remaining 34% from groundwater sources. These surface water and groundwater interactions are an important consideration when identifying options to support increased water demands and in managing the water quality we supply.

Some of the lowest areas of rainfall across Ireland occur in the South East Region. The South East Region is typically characterised by rainfall levels of less than 1,200 mm. The far east of the region including the Wexford coast, and Waterford City experience the driest conditions across both the region and Ireland with an average annual rainfall of less than 1000 mm. The west of the region around the Knockmealdown mountain range experiences rainfall levels of 1,200 mm to 2,000 mm. Waterford City, Tramore and Kilkenny are the areas which have the greatest population density, are situated in areas of lower rainfall meaning that the most populated areas are at risk of becoming water stressed. Water supply reliability is further impacted by adverse weather conditions including storms, cold weather conditions and dry periods. Due to climate change it is likely that over time in Ireland we will encounter wetter and stormier conditions at certain times of the year, and prolonged dry periods at other times of the year. Therefore, the reliability and sustainability of our sources will become more reliant on appropriate storage in the natural environment over time.

Sustainability issues are also not just a result of climatic conditions. In Ireland, many of our water supplies were developed in a piecemeal manner over time, with water sources based on proximity to the populations they served. As towns and villages have grown in size over time, it has meant that some of these supply sources now have sustainability issues, particularly in dry weather.

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Ireland must ensure that all waterbodies achieve ‘Good’ status by 2027. As outlined in Section 2.3.7, the Government is currently developing new legislation that will introduce abstraction licensing to align with the WFD. This legislation will set the amount Uisce Éireann can take from the water supplies that it abstracts water from. Uisce Éireann lacks comprehensive data to fully understand the impact of the pending legislation on many of its abstractions. Uisce Éireann is building a telemetry system that will aid bringing all this data together (as it was historically collected by individual local authorities), but this will take time. Therefore, improved monitoring and gathering better data is a priority. On an interim basis, Uisce Éireann has developed an initial desktop assessment based on available information. This conservative assessment is used to identify existing surface water sites where abstractions may exceed sustainable abstraction thresholds and to identify sustainable future sources. This assessment was used in developing our Preferred Approach for the South East Region.

In addition to this, the assessment criteria used in our approach appraisal process has been developed using the objectives of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. This means environmental sustainability is built into the core of our plans and that all Feasible Options and Preferred Approaches have been assessed as being sustainable at plan level. This will be further assessed at project level, as the projects identified within the Preferred Approach progress.

The Preferred Approach for the South East Region is reliable, sustainable and resilient to climate change, based on the following:

- The process of assessing performance of existing and future abstractions is based on conservative standards on water availability.
- The Feasible Options must be assessed to be sustainable at a plan level.
- The approach appraisal process utilises a multi criteria assessment where the assessment criteria are based on the objectives of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- With the Preferred Approach in place, approximately 60% of the 2044 demand will be supplied by interconnected systems (including existing schemes). This will provide operational flexibility and increased resilience. Most of the remaining 2044 demand will be supplied from local groundwater systems.
- Sixty-six sources will be decommissioned through supply rationalisation. This provides the benefit of abandoning seven potentially unsustainable surface water abstractions.

The reliability of our water supplies is also dependent on the standard of our network infrastructure. The Study Area Technical Reports (Appendices 1-3) outline a number of vulnerable critical assets within each Study Area. These critical assets will be replaced or rehabilitated as part of the development of the Preferred Approach, reducing the risk of outage across our supplies.

10.5.4 Transformation

The development of the RWRP-SE allows Uisce Éireann for the first time to review water supply needs collectively across the South East Region and across the entire spectrum of risk including Quality, Quantity, Reliability and Sustainability. It allows us to consider local options to resolve these Needs and larger Study Area and Regional options that can address multiple supplies.

The Plan allows us to move away from reactive management of risk at a single source or for a single Need (e.g., Quality risk alone), to a more holistic view of the transformation required across all of our supplies to meet the objectives set out in the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) and the Water Services Policy Statement (WSPS). The WSSP is Uisce Éireann ’s Strategic Plan which is a plan required under statute and sets out Uisce Éireann ’s business objectives in terms of water and wastewater services. The WSPS 2018-2025, is the Governments policy document on water services.

The Regional Preferred Approach for the South East Region will result in almost 60% of the population being served by interconnected WRZs. The six largest expanded networks will serve almost half of the regional population and meet approximately 44% of the forecast Demand by 2044.

The RWRP-SE provides:

- An understanding of, *inter alia,* the current state of our infrastructure, the potential Sustainability of our supplies, potential Water Quality issues, the location and Quantity of potential new sources and the settlements they can supply, the additional settlements that existing abstractions can supply and where investment is needed and its priority.
- A high degree of flexibility in our plans, particularly in terms of domestic and non-domestic growth. Having an interconnected network allows us to facilitate and support higher growth in connected settlements within the South East Region, including small settlements if Need manifests itself in that way over time.
- More balance across the South East Region, with the abstractions for regional supplies balanced across the major catchments of the region. Water abstraction to support public water supply will become more sustainable and resilient to future shocks such as drought and climate change.
- Improved risk management achieved by interconnecting supplies and reducing the number of water supply systems to operate and maintain. Where it is not possible to merge WRZs through

interconnected supplies, we will manage risk by selecting secure protected water sources and appropriate treatment barriers.

- An understanding of the transformation required across our water supplies, to ensure that we can have reliable and sustainable supplies into the future.
- An understanding of the scale and asset type we require to ensure quality and that our customers receive the required Quality and Quantity.
- A combination of solutions - Use Less, Use Less and Supply Smarter.
- The investment required over the short, medium and long term to transform our supplies.
- A sensitivity assessment that allows us to test the Preferred Approach against a range of future scenarios.

10.5.5 Alignment with Policy

The Framework Plan was designed to align with all relevant government policy, including policy on water services, growth and economic development, the environment, climate change adaptation and public spending. The Preferred Approach identified within the RWRP-SE therefore aligns with the government policy framework and Uisce Éireann ’s own internal policies and standards for our water supplies.

10.5.6 Alignment with Investment Planning

The adoption of the RWRP-SE, along with the RWRP-EM, RWRP-SW and RWRP-NW, will identify the Preferred Approach to address Quality, Quantity, Reliability and Sustainability issues for every WRZ in Ireland. Therefore, the NWRP will provide the foundation for understanding the strategic investment requirement to transform our water supplies and will drive our future investment plans for water services. Uisce Éireann will prioritise this capital need utilising a Value Framework to ensure the projects that offer the most value to our customers is progressed first. The future forecast for capital investment will be built on that basis. This will result in a 40-year Investment Plan that includes accurately scoped and appropriately prioritised capital projects.

10.6 Alternatives to the Plan

During the Study Area Level assessment process outlined in Section 7, the Feasible Options were compared to see whether any Study Area or Regional Options were available to meet the Need across multiple WRZs. For some Study Areas this led to the identification of Preferred Approaches which involve a cross study area transfer.

For the Regional Level assessment, the potential Preferred Approach has been reviewed further to consider potential for any additional alternative combinations at this level. The potential for large feasible options with the capability to provide regional interconnectivity is limited by the volume of water we can sustainably abstract from water sources; and the cost and challenge of transporting small volumes of water across long distances.The Preferred Approach for each Study Area does however comprise some large, interconnected supplies and in this way provides the benefit of resilience and improved environmental outcomes, through the decommissioning of unsustainable sources.

Across the Wexford and Wicklow study area (SAM), many solutions rely on increased or new groundwater abstractions where the aquifer yield is calculated using plan level assessments. If project level investigations determine the yield is not sufficient to meet the full extent of forecast growth over the planning period, the groundwater supplies may need to be supplemented by interconnecting to the

Greater Dublin Area supply system via the Rathvilly WTP. This supply option was identified as the next best feasible solution.

10.7 Interim Options

Given the significant issues with the baseline supplies in terms of Quality, Quantity, Reliability and Sustainability, the “do nothing” approach is not feasible. Need will also get worse over time due to growth in demand and reduction in supply availability and resilience due to climate change.

It may take a considerable period of time to deliver the Preferred Approach across all supplies within the South East Region due factors such as:

- Scale of Need across all WRZs;
- Likely minimum project lead-in times; and
- Uisce Éireann ’s current capital funding arrangements.

Therefore, Uisce Éireann also recognises the need for localised, shorter-term interventions within existing supplies to address critical water Quality risk and supply Reliability issues before the Preferred Approach can be implemented in full. Accordingly, within the RWRP-SE we have also developed an “interim solution” approach, which allows such interventions to be identified and prioritised. As a general principle, this interim approach envisages shorter term improvements to existing infrastructure and equipment. These interventions are not intended to deliver a long-term solution to supply and water quality issues. They are generally smaller in scale and rely on making best use of existing infrastructure to meet urgent or priority need to address water Quality risk or supply Reliability. The interim solutions are determined in line with the Preferred Approach and as such, they are considered “no regrets” infrastructure investment. The Interim Options are outlined in Technical Appendices 1 to 7 and summarised in Section 7.6.

10.8 Conclusions

The existing public water supply in the South East Region serves a population of 369,240 people, and 29,700 businesses. The Region is split into 111 WRZs. The water supplies in the South East Region require significant transformation and investment to meet the requirements of safe, secure, reliable and sustainable water supply.

The Framework Plan set the standards we must achieve to meet Uisce Éireann ’s objectives as set out in the WSSP. It also developed the methodology we would use to identify the Preferred Approach to resolve Needs across our water supplies.

Within the RWRP-SE we summarised the Need across the 111 supplies and identified the Preferred Approach at Regional Level to address these Needs. Delivery of the Preferred Approach will provide the best overall outcome for the region in relation to environmental, ecological and resilience outcomes and will result in:

- Transformation of water services in the region from a fragmented supply system with large variation in levels of service, to an interconnected supply with uniform and improved level of service.
- Customer benefits in terms of increased Reliability and reduced occurrence of outages across our supplies.
- Customer benefits in terms reduced water Quality risk and instances of boil water notices.
- Improved resilience, through interconnected sources that will provide operational flexibility, allowing us to manage seasonal variation in water availability and drought events.

- Sources that are more environmentally sustainable and allow us to adapt to climate change and align with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.
- Improved operational control across our water supplies, and ability to react to adverse events.
- Improved efficiency of our distribution networks in terms of leakage, pressure and strategic storage.
- Ability to facilitate growth and economic development.
- Alignment of our services with Ireland's key policy documents.

10.9 Next steps

The Regional Water Resources Plan – South East (RWRP-SE) adoption marks the completion of the second and final development phase of the National Water Resources Plan development. The RWRP-SE has been finalised after considering SEA requirements, NIS recommendations and consultation comments. The RWRP-SE Public Consultation Report presents a summary of the 30 consultation responses received and reviewed.

The outputs of the RWRP-SE and the three previously adopted regional plans (the RWRP for the Eastern and Midlands region, the RWRP for the South West region and the RWRP for the North West) will be combined for prioritisation and progression through the future cycles of capital investment planning. Together, the four RWRPs and the Phase one NWRP-Framework Plan, which outlines the methodologies applied to develop Preferred Approaches (solutions to the identified need), constitute Uisce Éireann's first national water resources plan for the public water supply in the Republic of Ireland. The implementation of the plan will ensure secure, safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water supplies across Ireland for the next 25 years.

Uisce Éireann will continue to review and update the NWRP. As emerging data and information becomes available, they will be incorporated into the NWRP through the feedback and monitoring process set out in section 8.3.8 of the Framework Plan.