Draft River Basin Management Plan 2018-21

4,832 water bodies

Situation today

Percentage OK

- **55%** Rivers
- **46%** Lakes
- **44%** Estuary and coastal waters
- **91%** Groundwater

Decline in proportion of rivers with excellent water quality

- **13%** 2007-2009
- **10%** 2013-2015

Understanding risk to good water quality for all water bodies

- **At risk** — **32%** New actions needed
- **Not at risk** — **41%** Continue existing actions
- **Review** — **27%** Further analysis needed

Causes of reduced water quality

- **Agriculture:** Nutrients, sediments, pollution from farms.
- **Urban waste water:** Sewage and storm water pollution.
- **Changes to the aquatic environment:** Physical changes or damage to aquatic habitats.
- **Forestry:** Clearfelling. Draining land for forestry. Planting and establishing forests.
- **Peat extraction:** Particles in water bodies that change the aquatic environment. Possible release of ammonia.
- **Domestic waste water:** Pollution from septic tanks.
- **Urban run-off:** Contaminated run-off from paved and unpaved surfaces.
- **Invasive alien species:** Non-native plants and shellfish.

Main actions in draft plan

- Improved waste water treatment
- Improved drinking water protection
- Farming initiatives to help improve water quality
- National Dairy Sustainability Forum
- Blue Dot Catchments Programme (a network of rivers and lakes targeted for excellent water quality)
- National Water Forum
- Greater public participation

Expected results of plan

- Increased waste water treatment in urban areas
- Increased focus in agriculture on efficient use of nutrients and on water quality
- Improved protection of public drinking water sources
- New water quality measures in 600-700 water bodies
- Improved water quality in 150 additional water bodies
- Increased public engagement through the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office

Plain English Approved by NALA