

# Have Your Say About the Future of Water Quality Management

Your Involvement/Participation

Who should participate?

The Western River Basin District has a rich heritage of rivers lakes and coastal waters which are not only of vast socio-economic importance to the region but also defines its cultural heritage, its uniqueness and great natural beauty.

With increases in population and economic activity these water resources are facing increased pressures.

The Water Framework Directives encourages the participation of all citizens, organisations and industries within the Western River Basin District to successfully develop the management plan for the district.

The Water Policy Regulations require the establishment by the local authorities in the Western River Basin District of a River Basin District Advisory Council (RBDAC) as a permanent forum for direct dialogue and interaction between interested parties and the relevant public authorities.

The terms of reference of the councils are to consider matters relating to the preparation of river basin management plans and other matters relevant to the preparation and use of the aquatic environment and water resources in the district and to advise and make recommendations on these matters to the relevant public authorities.

You can participate whether you are involved in agriculture, waste disposal activities, forestry, quarrying, peat harvesting, general industry, fishing or as a citizen using water every day.

How and when to participate.

Under the Water Framework Directive it is an obligation that you must be consulted and supplied with information at three specific stages leading to the development of the Western River Basin District management plan.

By **June 2006** a timetable and work programme for the production of the river basin management plan must be in place.

By **June 2007** at the latest an interim overview of the water management issues identified in the river basin will be published.

By **June 2008** at the latest draft copies of the river basin management plan will be published for consultation.

You will be informed about the publication date for each of these documents through the press, public meetings and direct communication and at each stage you will have an opportunity to comment orally and/or in writing as part of the consultation process.

Timetable and locations for public meetings - (Under Construction).

## **WATER MATTERS**

*Date Issued: 22nd June 2007*

Two booklets with the title 'Water Matters' have been published in order to consult with you. One refers to the Shannon River Basin District, which includes 95% of the area of Clare. The other refers to the Western River Basin District, which includes the remaining 5% - comprising Ballyvaughan, Belharbour, Finavarra, New Quay, Aughinish, Boston, and a small area north of Flagmount.

The booklets are the first stage on getting your input to making plans for managing the waters in your area.

We are talking about rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal water and groundwater. In the booklets we say what we think the main issues affecting those waters are.

We think we have a good idea of what the problems facing them are. **YOU** may not agree. You may have better local knowledge and insights than us. So we would like you to consider the issues we list in this booklets and see if you agree with us. If you don't, we would really like to hear from you. Details of how to reply are contained in the booklets.

To make it possible to manage water in Ireland the whole island has been divided into eight districts. These districts are not based on traditional county boundaries, but are based on the natural flow of water in river catchments or basins. They are called River Basin Districts (or RBDs for short)

Because of this we have two versions of the **WATER MATTERS** booklet; a different version each for the Shannon International RBD and the Western RBD. The first of these is called an International RBD (IRBD for short) because it crosses the border with Northern Ireland.

To make sure you get the correct version of the booklet you should identify which River Basin District you live in. County Clare has a black border and the RBD borders are shown in red.

For example if you live in Ballyvaughan you are in the Western RBD, or if you live in Ennis, Shannon or Ennistymon you are in the Shannon IRBD. Some people may of course be interested in more than one RBD. With the exception of Ballyvaughan, most of Clare is in the Shannon IRBD.

Once you know the booklet version you want you can download a copy from

**[http://www.clare.ie/Environment/River\\_Basin.html](http://www.clare.ie/Environment/River_Basin.html)**

Shannon International River Basin Districts version [PDF, 1.68MB]

**<http://www.clare.ie/Environment/Docs/ShannonRBD.pdf>**

Western River Basin Districts version of Water Matters [PDF, 1.43MB]

**<http://www.clare.ie/Environment/Docs/WesternRBD.pdf>**

*You can also request a copy through the post by contacting:-*

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We know we need your input to produce a good water management plan and we know that no plan can succeed without your support. The next step is up to you.

**[http://www.clare.ie/Environment/River\\_Basin.html](http://www.clare.ie/Environment/River_Basin.html)**