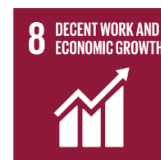




**Chambers
Ireland**
Advancing business together



Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region

Reply to request for additional observations

July 2026

Case reference: ACP-323980-25

Name: Chambers Ireland

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About Chambers Ireland

Chambers Ireland is an all-island business organisation with a unique geographical reach. Our members are the Chambers of Commerce in the cities and towns throughout the country – active in every constituency. Each of our member Chambers is central to their local business community and all seek to promote thriving local economies that can support sustainable cities and communities.

Our Observations

We note the request for further observations and submissions regarding the proposed Water Supply Project Eastern & Midlands Region (WSP). Our observations are submitted considering the project's strategic importance to the long-term competitiveness of the State.

Access to reliable water infrastructure is a critical enabler of development and underpins housing delivery, economic growth, and the provision of essential public services that are all central to our towns and cities. As the State seeks to accommodate continued population growth and support regional and national development objectives, it is essential that critical infrastructure projects such as the WSP progress through the planning system in a timely manner.

Given this context, the WSP represents a key investment in the resilience and capacity of the State's infrastructure network and will provide benefits extending well beyond the immediate area served by the project.

In addition, multiannual funding is essential to ensure water and wastewater infrastructure is capable of being provided. While the Revenue Control 4 (RC4) framework represents an important move towards a longer-term funding model, continued commitment to multiannual investment will be critical to provide certainty for project delivery and infrastructure planning.

Our additional observations to our original observation are below:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála should determine the application as soon as practicable, having regard to the strategic importance of the project and the significant public interest in securing a resilient long-term water supply.
- We fully support the WSP and consider it essential infrastructure for delivering housing and economic growth in a large area of the State, with a significant population size that stands to benefit from successful implementation of the project. Failure to deliver the WSP would represent a critical risk to the State's water security, with catastrophic consequences for continuity of supply across the Eastern and Midlands region.

- The WSP is required to address a well-documented deficit between future water demand and available supply across the Greater Dublin Area and wider Eastern and Midlands Region. Without additional capacity, water supply constraints will increasingly act as a barrier to housing delivery, security of supply for both domestic and non-domestic users, and investment.
- The importance of securing additional water supply capacity has been reinforced by recent Water Conservation Orders affecting Dublin and several counties in the Eastern and Midlands Region. These measures highlight the vulnerability of existing supplies during periods of sustained demand and increasingly reflect the types of conditions that are expected to become more frequent as climate change drives longer and more severe periods of dry weather.
- A secure and reliable water supply is a fundamental requirement for the delivery of the State's housing targets, economic development of strategic locations, and the ongoing operation of key public services and critical infrastructure.
- Capacity constraints in Uisce Éireann's network remain a key limitation on the delivery of the National Development Plan. The WSP will help to address those pressures, particularly in high-demand regions like the Greater Dublin Area
- Given the strategic importance of the project, it is imperative that all parties involved in the planning and consenting process work within the statutory timelines established by the Planning and Development Act 2024.
- The WSP has been identified as critical national infrastructure and should be progressed with urgency. Any delay in the planning process risks creating further pressure on an already constrained water supply system.

- Certainty and predictability within the planning system are essential. Delays or uncertainty regarding decision timelines will exacerbate additional inflationary pressures and have broader negative implications for investment, procurement planning, contractor availability and confidence throughout supply chains.
- Prolonged delays to the determination of the application will undermine confidence in the State's ability to deliver major infrastructure projects within established legislative timelines.
- Deferral of planning decisions carries significant cost implications through construction inflation, increased financing costs and programme disruption. This in turn results in additional costs for the State and consumers. Any deferral of key decisions affecting the WSP should take this into account.
- The timely delivery of the project, including the objective of bringing the new water source into operation by 2032, should remain a national priority.