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### Water Forum Panel Discussion on Putting water management at the centre of climate action

At the COP27 last week the Stockholm International Water Institute presented a report titled ['Unpacking freshwater's role in climate change mitigation'](#). This report highlighted that fact that climate change is impacting on the global water cycle and this is apparent in changing global precipitation patterns resulting in drought conditions of varying severities and more intense storms and rainfall events causing flooding. The report states that, because of the intricate relationship between climate and water, the transformations required in the global food and energy systems to mitigate climate impacts and keep emission levels to below 1.5°C warming, must be accompanied by detailed analyses of water availability and impacts at local, regional and global levels.

The Water Forum was set up as a national stakeholder body to inform Government policy on water management. With representation from a wide spectrum of society this advice takes on board the perspectives of varying and sometimes competing interests. The Forum seeks the most recent scientific data and expert input to inform these policy positions. To ensure that Ireland's water supplies are resilient to the impacts of climate change, the Forum has commissioned researchers to evaluate the potential impact of climate change on water quality and water quantity.

The researchers are presented some of their findings in a panel discussion prepared for the Science Foundation Ireland, National Science Week and a video and podcast of the discussion will be launched on 15<sup>th</sup> November. In Professor Conor Murphy's contribution, he states that *Water is critical to the resilience of the economy, society, public health and wellbeing and we need sustainable policies with water at the centre of climate action.*

Dr Triona McGrath, Research Lead with the Water Forum discusses the potential impacts for water quality with Dr Michelle McKeown of University College Cork and the impacts on water quantity with Dr Fiachra O'Loughlin from University College Dublin. The researchers highlight that more strategic responses and planning for drought is needed, as drought will be particularly impactful in the east and south and more urgent action is needed to reduce pollutants on land as these are highly susceptible to mobilisation during extreme rainfall events causing pollution in our waterways.

The discussion is available as a video on: [https://youtu.be/kSmZUs\\_Z8ig](https://youtu.be/kSmZUs_Z8ig)

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The Podcast is available at: <https://pod.fo/e/14f0fe>

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### *Note to the Editor*

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in 2018 to provide a platform for public engagement on all matters relating to water management in Ireland and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It consists of 25 members including representatives from a wide range of organisations and sectors with an interest in water issues that includes the environmental sector, the rural and agricultural sector, consumers including customers of Irish Water, the rural water sector, rivers trusts, angling, business sector, trade unions, the community and voluntary sector, fisheries, forestry, education, social housing and tourism. In accordance with the Water Services Act, 2017, the Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Irish Water (IW), the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC). The Forum is chaired by Dr Matt Crowe.

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