

Dáil Éireann debate Wednesday, 15 Oct 2025: Questions on Policy or Legislation



**Deputy
Roderic
O'Gorman**

Yesterday the EPA published the Water Quality in Ireland Report 2019-2024, which shows only half of water bodies are in satisfactory ecological health. I have raised a specific instance of poor water quality with the Taoiseach in the past, namely, Lady's Island Lake in County Wexford. At the time he said he would personally intervene to see if we can get an action plan put together to start the process of reversing this. Senator Noonan and I met the Save Lady's Island Lake campaign group a couple of weeks ago and witnessed the impact of pollution on this lake. I understand an oversight group has been set up, but how do we move from oversight to real action that will improve water quality? The Save Lady's Island Lake campaign group are seeking monthly water quality testing on the lake to see if measures are working and they are seeking confirmed additional funding to help stakeholders, primarily farmers, meet the cost of measures to reduce the volume of nitrates entering the lake. Will the Taoiseach give us an update on the measures being taken to reduce pollution here?



The Taoiseach

I thank the Deputy for raising this issue, as he has previously. Lady's Island Lake is a priority area for action under the Water Action Plan 2024. All scientific, compliance, advisory and regulatory measures will be applied. There is close collaboration between Wexford County Council, the local authority waters programme, agricultural sustainability support and advisory and the farming for water European innovation partnership programme. The Minister of State, Deputy O'Sullivan, has met key stakeholders and an oversight group for Lady's Island Lake has been established with the council chairing and Teagasc also involved. The council has been asked to urgently prepare a specific action plan following the Water Action Plan 2024 framework and the Department of heritage will continue to support from a funding perspective national agricultural inspection programme inspectors to monitor farm compliance with good agricultural practice regulations, free advice and support for farmers and cofunding for supplementary measures under the farming for water European innovation partnership programme. Any additional funding will be considered once Wexford County Council makes and submits a business case.

(Source: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2025-10-15/11/>)

On the same day, Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin, Sinn Féin TD for the Wicklow-Wexford constituency, asked the following questions for written reply:-

- *201. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for information on the terms and the parties involved in the proposed action plan led by Wexford County Council and the time scales for agreed action (details supplied). — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [55708/25]
- *263. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for support with provision of funding and staff resources to adequately monitor and reduce water pollution at Lady's Island lake (details supplied). — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [55709/25]
- *264. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for support for farmers to implement positive environmental changes and assistance to substantially reduce the levels of water pollution in Lady's Island lake (details supplied). — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [55710/25]

(Source: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/parliamentaryBusiness/questionsPaper/dail/2025/2025-10-15_dail-questions-paper-wed_en.pdf)