

(Supplementary Order Paper)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 12 Eanáir, 2011
Wednesday, 12th January, 2011

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

84. “That Dáil Éireann:

- recognises the social and economic hardship caused by water restrictions and disruptions for families and local businesses;
- recognises that an inefficient, outdated and fragmented water network has contributed to drinking water supply problems across the State;
- notes that the State spends €1 billion every year in current and capital expenditure for water treatment and supply;
- notes the need for significant water capital investment for the next four years and recognises the difficulty for the State in financing such investment through Exchequer funding;
- condemns the vast amount of waste caused by 43% of water supplies lost through unidentified leaks; and
- notes that problems associated with water shortages were discussed in Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann in January 2010 with little action taken since then to avoid a repeat of similar problems;

calls on Government to:

- establish a single publicly owned water utility company to take over responsibility for water investment and mains management on a national basis while allowing local authorities to tender for the provision of services;
- establish a new Utilities Commission to merge existing regulators for utilities and to take responsibility for regulating a new water utility company;
- reallocate future water funding from the Exchequer to prioritise water conservation by investment in water mains weather proofing; and
- examine all engineering resources of the State to ensure a rapid remedy to widespread burst water mains.” — *Phil Hogan, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford,*

P.T.O.

Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D'Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Fergus O'Dowd, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

- “— recognises the difficulties for families and businesses caused by the recent water supply disruptions;
- acknowledges the extensive efforts by county and city councils to prepare for potential water supply disruptions caused by recent extreme weather conditions, to minimise disruptions for households and businesses and to make alternative supplies available where necessary, and to restore water supplies as quickly as possible;
- recognises the importance of the work already carried out by the councils, and funded by the Exchequer, to develop water management systems and active leakage controls in identifying and repairing leaks;
- notes the comprehensive review of the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 completed in 2010 which:
 - provides for ongoing major investment in water services in the 2010 – 2012 period, with €495 million spent in 2010 and €435 million provided for 2011;
 - accords the highest priority to investment in water conservation to address the unacceptably high levels of leakage in water supply systems; and
 - includes contracts to the value of €320 million to commence on water conservation projects, including mains rehabilitation, in that period, which is more than double the investment in water conservation compared to the preceding 7 years;
- notes the proposals in the National Recovery Plan 2011 – 2014, published in November 2010, to:
 - commence a programme of domestic metering to be funded by the National Pensions Reserve Fund; and
 - establish an independent regulator for the water sector; and
- notes the Government’s intention shortly to commence an assessment of the need for a national water authority, which will consider, *inter alia*, the role of such an authority, the costs and benefits of establishing it and its relationship with other actors in the sector including local authorities.” — *An tAire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil.*