

SWAN's 10 key recommendations for the public consultation on the Significant Water Management Issues for the fourth cycle Water Action Plan 2028-2033

1. The fourth Water Action Plan must move from activity-tracking to delivery of measurable water-quality outcomes.
2. Each at-risk water body should have clear measures, responsible bodies, timelines, funding and escalation routes.
3. Stronger enforcement is needed where voluntary measures, advice or existing controls are not delivering WFD objectives.
4. Agricultural measures must be targeted to the catchments and critical source areas where nutrient, sediment and organic pollution pressures are greatest.
5. Hydromorphological pressures, including drainage, barriers, channel modification and loss of natural river function, need stronger assessment, control and restoration measures.
6. Urban wastewater investment and licensing must be linked to receiving-water impacts and ecological recovery, not only infrastructure compliance.
7. Forestry, peat extraction and wider land-use policy must be assessed against WFD objectives, cumulative impacts and sensitive catchments.
8. High-status waters and protected areas need early, precautionary protection before deterioration occurs.
9. Public participation must be meaningful, with Catchment Community Fora rolled out across all catchments and communities given clear information on local water status, pressures and actions.
10. The Plan must include clearer accountability: where measures fail, are delayed or are insufficient, stronger measures must follow.

[Link to public consultation page.](#)

