**Request for Research Tender: Optimising Water Quality Returns from the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy**

According to Ireland’s River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, agriculture accounts for 53% of the pressures acting on Ireland’s rivers and lakes and is by far the biggest single pressure on the country’s water quality. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supplies the broad framework of EU agricultural policy and is the mainstay of public subvention to agriculture through direct farm payments and other supports.

Single farm payments paid to farmers within the CAP are a critical component of farm income for many farmers in Ireland and are a major contributor to the ongoing viability of family farms and of the wider rural economy . At a macro-economic level, the continuation of a publicly funded programme of farm subvention in Ireland is critical.

Given the continued decline in the quality of Ireland’s waters, The Water Forum is concerned to extract optimal environmental returns from CAP payments in the context of such supports continuing into the future.  With regard, therefore, to the review of the CAP currently under way in Europe, The Water Forum proposes to commission a body of work to undertake a study of the ways in which a revised  programme of CAP supports could underpin improvements in Ireland’s water quality and reduce the deleterious impact of agriculture on Ireland’s water bodies.

Attached documents:

1. Request for Research Tender Brief
2. Template Application Form.

Key Dates:

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| Publication of tender | 22 January 2020 |
| Deadline for tender submissions | 21 February 2020 |
| Award of tender and start of project | 4 March 2020 |
| Project initiation meeting | On or before 18 March 2020 |
| Draft report submitted | On or before 17 July 2020 |

Submissions must be emailed to alec@nationalwaterforum **no later than 5pm Friday 21 February 2020.**

Queries to: alec@nationalwaterforum.ie