

Scottish Water Sector Overview Map

THE QUESTION

What is the scope and the scale of Scotland's water sector, and the interactions and decision making processes therein that are relevant to Scotland's Hydro Nation Strategy?

KEY FINDINGS

- The research presents policy makers with an overview of businesses working within Scotland's water sector and an interactive tool. The tool can be used to identify established linkages within Scotland's water sector and where additional effort may be required to support development of the Hydro Nation Strategy.
- The outputs can interpret and communicate technical, institutional and economic issues supporting capacity development for all water users, operators and decision makers.
- The methodology used can be replicated to measure the impact of policy decisions on Scotland's water sector over time. The data presented provides a baseline that can be updated in the future and used to measure progress in key areas of growth.
- Access to the interactive maps is available at: http://save.abertay.ac.uk/abertay_watermaps/

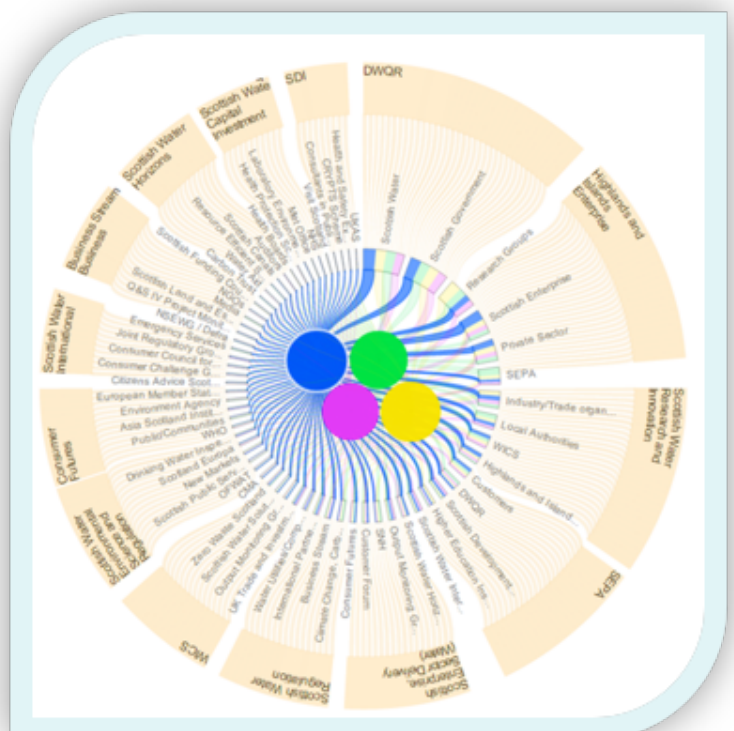
BACKGROUND

The purpose of the research was to produce a map that demonstrates the scope and scale of Scotland's water sector and demonstrates how the different parts of the sector link together. It demonstrates how the decision making processes that influence, manage and control Scotland's water resources are distributed throughout the sector. This research supports the Scottish Government's Hydro Nation Strategy.

RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN

The research presented two key challenges: Firstly, to examine the scope and the scale of Scotland's water sector, and secondly to identify the key interactions occurring in the water sector that impact upon the Hydro Nation agenda.

For the scope and scale, information was collected to identify the number and type of private sector companies working within Scotland's water sector. This was carried out through a combination of desk based analysis of industry sector groups and trade body member lists, and business directories, as well as through an analysis of Scottish Water contractors. A scope and scale map was produced to present the number, type and activity of businesses involved in the water sector on a geographical basis.



For the sector interactions, information was collected through interviews with 14 stakeholders. Interviews identified the number, type and importance of information flows that exist between interviewees and other stakeholders throughout Scotland's water sector. The information flows were scored for the type of information flow (Managing, Influence and Control) and for importance based on four Hydro Nation themes: Economic opportunities, Environmental protection, Research and development, and Governance and international development. An interactive wheel was produced demonstrating the interactions between key actors, and their relative level of influence.

The outputs of the research include an interactive scope and scale map identifying businesses involved in the sector and an interactive wheel detailing interactions between key groups in the sector and their relative importance to the Hydro Nation themes. Access to these interactive maps is available at: http://save.abertay.ac.uk/abertay_watermaps/

RESEARCH TEAM AND CONTACTS

Daniel Gilmour David Blackwood, Juliette O'Keeffe, Ruth Falconer and John Isaacs
School of Science, Engineering and Technology, Abertay University, Dundee, DD1 1HG

Email: enquiries@crew.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 395295

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