

Water Resource Management Plan public consultation

We have created this email template to help you respond to the Southern Water consultation on their draft Water Resource Management Plan and Business Plan.

Please take the time to personalise the message and highlight to Southern Water what you think is important.

Alternatively, you can respond via their survey [here](#).

Deadline to respond: **20th February 2023**

Example email template

Send email to both:

Southern Water: wrmp@southernwater.co.uk

DEFRA: water.resources@defra.gov.uk

Subject Line: Southern Water Draft Water Resource Management Plan

Dear Southern Water and DEFRA,

I am writing to you as a customer of Southern Water in response to the public consultation on your draft Water Resource Management Plan 24 (WRMP24).

I care about our precious rivers in the south east of England, especially my local river [**insert river name and any positive memories you have had by the river**].

I have already seen the devastating impacts climate change has had, from flash flooding to drought, which the WRMP24 plan should be looking to improve through better management of our water resource. Locally, [**insert examples of local impacts you have seen**].

I believe acceleration of action is required to protect our rivers and water resource for communities and wildlife now, and for future generations, as rivers are our lifeblood. There are key things that are vital to put in place by Southern Water to ensure this.

As a Southern Water customer, I am urging you to consider my points below in the reviewed plans.

[We have compiled our responses but please personalise and add in anything you would like to highlight]

- It is great to see Southern Water continuing to lead the way on leakage and water efficiency. The ambitious target of people using just 100 litres of water per day by 2040 goes well beyond government targets and would be industry-leading. Southern Water should also commit to its higher target of 62% leakage reduction by 2050
- Measures to reduce customer water use during drought and to phase out drought orders/permits are welcome. Together these measures will ensure precious habitats have sufficient water in drought conditions
- Supply schemes that will reduce unsustainable abstraction from chalk groundwater and meet environmental flow targets are welcome
- It is pleasing to see a significant proportion of water supply coming from reservoirs. Reservoirs, if well-placed and operated, can have minimal impacts on the freshwater environment and are a lower carbon option compared with desalination and water recycling; they can also provide multiple benefits such as biodiversity and recreation. Water recycling involves taking treated wastewater and putting it back into rivers for later abstraction and reuse by homes and businesses. The consequences on river systems at the scale proposed are unknown; Southern Water should closely monitor these systems and develop plans to mitigate any negative outcomes.

- It is good to see that Southern Water wishes to invest in nature across whole river catchments by funding nature-based solutions to enhance water resources resilience and achieve wider environmental improvements. South East Rivers Trust does a lot of work with partners across our region to help identify and deliver nature-based solutions
- Although not the focus of this plan, a rapid reduction in the frequency, duration and impact of sewer spills into the rivers and coastal environment is required. Southern Water has performed very poorly in this area. Significant investment in nature-based solutions, as well as engineered infrastructure such as sewers and treatment works, will be needed to turn this around.

I hope you will help us take the action needed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your full address and postcode]