

15 July 2007

On behalf of the Blueprint for Water coalition
www.blueprintforwater.org.uk

Sir,

The Consumer Council for Water's assertion that revoking environmentally damaging abstraction licences could see domestic supplies dry up (Water bills to rise £450 million to save wildlife, July 12) is both alarmist and inaccurate.

Ensuring that the water industry does not damage the environment is a fundamental test of its sustainability - water company resource plans suggest it can certainly do this without any threat to the public water supply.

There are many pressures on future water supplies, not least the threat pollution poses to up to 12% of our water sources, and continued leakage from old infrastructure.

The Blueprint for Water coalition estimates that, in England alone, some 500 rivers, lakes and wetlands are at risk from excessive water withdrawals.

For the Consumer Council for Water to try and link attempts to rectify this situation with drought orders, hosepipe bans and price rises is unhelpful and undermines their own duty to promote sustainability.

We can only conclude that the supposed customer champions care little for the views of the millions of people who care passionately about the health of the water environment.

Decisions on water company investment will be subject to much debate and amendment over the next 12 months and we would urge both water companies and Ofwat to consider schemes that work with the natural environment to improve both water quality and quantity to benefit both consumers and wildlife.

Yours faithfully,

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