

*Blueprint for Water is a unique coalition of environmental, water efficiency, fisheries and recreational organisations, part of the wider environmental NGO coalition, Wildlife and Countryside Link. Blueprint members come together to form a powerful joint voice across a range of water-based issues.*

**16 July 2020**

To: [pubaccom@parliament.uk](mailto:pubaccom@parliament.uk)

Dear Public Accounts Committee,

### **Report: Water supply & demand management**

We read with interest your report on water supply and demand management, published last week.

We would like to draw your attention to Blueprint for Water, a coalition of 20-plus non-governmental organisations representing over 6 million members who come together to speak with a common voice on water policy issues. We have been working collaboratively for over 15 years to develop and advocate for solutions to the water issues facing England. We bring together the expertise of our member organisations, and the backing and local knowledge of our members and supporters, to identify how the problems we face can be resolved to ensure a vibrant future for water, people and nature.

We have recently published the attached document, [Changing Course](#), setting out strategic actions that we believe the government should take in order to secure future water supplies and to halt the decline in the health of our water environment.

We have long urged Government and its agencies to adopt a series of recommendations to this end; these can be found at <https://www.wcl.org.uk/water.asp>. However few of our proposals have been acted upon, and over the same period, many of the agencies and initiatives working to protect the water environment and water supplies have seen their budgets dramatically cut, and numerous decisions have been taken that have deepened, rather than resolved the crisis we face.

Our report puts forward 8 strategic actions that would help to deliver a better water environment in line with, or exceeding, the ambitions in Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment. We recommend that:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies integrate water priorities into their development and delivery.
- Funding for the Catchment Based Approach is trebled and provided on a multi-year basis.
- The forthcoming Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme provides incentives for land managers to deliver multiple public goods relating to water.
- Water companies are mandated to spend much of their £1bn annual National Environment Programme funding on nature-based solutions.
- Sufficient funding is committed for the enforcement of regulatory standards relating to agriculture.
- Water security is improved via the faster delivery of abstraction reform, water efficiency targets and requirements for water efficient development.

# Blueprint for Water

WATER PEOPLE NATURE

Wildlife and  
Countryside



- Greater coherence and integration of monitoring and evidence across environmental functions within Defra and throughout Government is achieved, to deliver the 25 Year Environment Plan.
- A national campaign is funded to change consumer behaviour with regard to water and wastewater, delivered by NGOs.

We would be grateful if you could draw the contents of our report, and the Blueprint for Water webpage, to the attention of the Committee as we believe they could be useful to inform discussions about how to implement the recommendations in your report.

We would be pleased to meet with the committee to discuss the contents of our report and wider policy issues; if this would be of interest please contact [Jodie Le Marquand](#) to arrange.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Morse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a trailing flourish.

Ali Morse, Acting Chair, Blueprint for Water.  
Water Policy Manager, The Wildlife Trusts.

**This letter is supported by:**

A Rocha UK  
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation  
Angling Trust  
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