

Future Homes Hub

*By email*

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Call for Evidence: Water Efficiency**

[Blueprint for Water](#), part of Wildlife and Countryside Link<sup>1</sup>, is a unique coalition of environmental, water efficiency, fisheries and recreational organisations that come together to form a powerful joint voice across a range of water-based issues. We welcome this opportunity to share our views, in order to inform the creation of a roadmap towards greater water efficiency in new developments.

We write in support of [Waterwise's submission](#) of information and evidence to the Future Homes Hub to inform engagement with the government's 2022 Roadmap. Waterwise are a member of Blueprint for Water, and we wish to echo and add to the information they have submitted.

In particular, we support the consideration of ambitious levels of reduction in Per Capita Consumption, noting that in [many other European nations](#) (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Denmark & Malta), PCC is already below 100l pppd. In our [Environmental Manifesto for PR24](#) published last year we called for companies to reduce the amount of water taken from the environment, through adopting a long-term target of 100 l/p/d or less by 2050. Subsequently a water demand reduction target will be set under the Environment Act 2021.

To achieve the scale of abstraction reduction required to deliver sustainability will require water companies to take action on domestic water efficiency, business use and leakage, and will demand accompanying action from Government on stricter Building Regulations, retrofitting, and water neutrality. With Temporary Use Bans and Drought Permits in use this year, we have seen the lack of resilience in our water supply systems, reinforcing the need for greater demand management to secure resilience for both the environment and customers.

To support this, Blueprint for Water have consistently called for the removal of restrictions upon universal water metering. Waterwise's submission highlights the value of smart meters in detecting leakage and this alone forms a strong case for the introduction of meters (noting that these provide valuable information whether or not this information is then used to determine charges to customers). Where meters *are* then used to determine bills, additional cost savings can be achieved by customers as a result of direct water savings, related energy savings, and the avoidance of bill

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<sup>1</sup> [Wildlife and Countryside Link](#) is a coalition of 65 organisations working for the protection of nature. Together we have the support of over eight million people in the UK and directly protect over 750,000 hectares of land and 800 miles of coastline.

increases triggered by the need for companies to invest in large capital water resources schemes. Cost impacts on vulnerable customers can be managed by both targeted water efficiency advice, and protective tariffs.

Finally, it should be noted that with the advent of Regional Water Resources Planning, all of these measures become more important even where there is a supply surplus, since any additional water savings can be shared within and beyond regions to secure a reduction in damaging abstraction elsewhere. We would hope to see all of these points reflected in Government's 2022 Roadmap.

Many thanks, and kind regards,



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

*On behalf of Blueprint for Water.*