

**Email received regarding South East Water's draft Dry Weather Plan:**

As a key stakeholder and partner for South East Water we're writing to let you know that our consultation for our draft Dry Weather Plan, previously called the Drought Plan, is now open – and we welcome your feedback over the next eight weeks.

Occasionally droughts can happen, even in the UK. That's why it's important we're all prepared for when they do.

Our dry weather plan sets out the steps we would take during periods of low rainfall to ensure we can deliver a reliable water supply for the essential needs of drinking, washing, cooking and cleaning.

It details what actions we'd take to conserve water and secure customers' supplies, while balancing the needs of the environment.

These actions include:

- Moving water around our network
- Fast-tracking schemes to increase water resources
- Working even harder to fix leaks
- Promoting sensible water use
- The introduction of temporary water use restrictions (commonly known as hosepipe bans)

To ensure our plans are up-to-date we review them every five years and publish a draft document for consultation. Although we published our latest plan in 2019 we are in the process of updating this plan following recent changes to Government drought plan guidance. This guidance encourages us to talk about our plans and ensure they are easy to understand and for everyone to follow.

**Having your say**

All our customers and stakeholders have the opportunity to have their say on all our work, including our dry weather plan. Using our experience from previous heatwaves and droughts, and research into possible future impacts, we have prepared a plan we hope will receive your support.

We know that working together with our customers and stakeholders is vital to the success of our plans as it is only through collaboration that we can make the best plan possible. We have worked with customers, stakeholders and our colleagues to prepare this draft plan.

For a start you'll notice we've changed the name from a drought plan to our '**dry weather plan**'. This is because our customers have told us they don't tend to think of droughts happening in the UK. Thankfully droughts are relatively rare, but being in the water stressed south east we regularly see extended periods of dry weather and heatwaves. That's why ensuring everyone understands what we do at this early stage is important. We've also created some magazine style summaries of our plan that we hope will be more engaging for the communities we serve.

We have taken a traffic light scale approach which reflects that the need to save water is more extreme during periods of prolonged dry weather but that also acknowledges that water, as a precious resource, is worth saving whatever the weather.

It's important for us to create a plan that has had a chance to be considered by as many of our customers and stakeholder groups as possible and so we're keen to engage with you at this draft plan stage. Your thoughts and opinions will help us to shape our final plan.

**Next steps**

We're keen to build further on the engagement we have undertaken with you to date and look forward to hearing your thoughts on our plan. Our consultation period will close on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 and we will then review all the feedback received and prepare a statement of response and a revised plan in the autumn. We will keep you updated throughout.

The draft Dry Weather Plan and consultation forms can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

But if you need any assistance of further information please contact us at [wre@southeastwater.co.uk](mailto:wre@southeastwater.co.uk)

I look forward to working with you as we update our plans and thank you for taking the time to get involved in this important planning process.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Dance

Head of Water Resources