



## **Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure 2018**

### **Debate on 11 April 2019**

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Gardiner of Kimble to move that this House takes note of the draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure 2018.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

#### **Key Information**

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, [Letter from Thérèse Coffey, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DEFRA, to Neil Parish, Chair of the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee](#), 29 November 2018; and [National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure: Briefing for Parliamentary Scrutiny 2018](#), 29 November 2018

*Letter and government briefing providing background information on the draft National Policy Statement (NPS), currently undergoing parliamentary scrutiny. The briefing describes the draft NPS as outlining a “national need for new water resources infrastructure and the evidence that underpins this need”. It adds that the draft NPS provides “detailed planning policy guidance for assessing reservoir, water transfer and desalination projects in England”, but “will not promote any specific projects or locations”.*

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, [Consultation on the Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure](#), November 2018; and [Summary of Responses: Consultation on the Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure](#), February 2019

*Consultation document and summary of responses. The consultation document explains that the Planning Act 2008 requires NPSs to “undergo a period of public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny before being designated by the relevant Secretary of State”. The summary of responses states that the parliamentary scrutiny period for the draft NPS expires on 16 May 2019.*

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, [Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure](#), November 2018

*Copy of the draft NPS, which “sets out the need for, and government policies for, development of nationally significant infrastructure projects for water resources in England”.*

## Parliamentary Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Water: National Policy Statements](#)', 20 June 2018, HL8413
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Desalination](#)', 6 September 2018, 169345
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Water: Shortages](#)', 2 April 2019, HL14677

## Comment

- Sir James Bevan, '[Speech: Escaping the Jaws of Death—Ensuring Enough Water in 2050](#)', Environment Agency, 19 March 2019

## Further Information

- House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, '[Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure Inquiry](#)', accessed 4 April 2019
- National Infrastructure Commission, '[Preparing for a Drier Future: England's Water Infrastructure Needs](#)', April 2018
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, '[Consultation on Developing a National Policy Statement for Water Resources and Proposals to Amend the Definition of Nationally Significant Water Infrastructure in the Planning Act 2008](#)', 13 November 2017; and '[Summary of Responses and Government Response](#)', March 2018
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, '[National Policy Statement for Water Resources—Infrastructure Types and Sizes](#)', 5 April 2018; and '[Summary of Responses and Government Response](#)', August 2018
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, '[Letter from Thérèse Coffey, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DEFRA, to Neil Parish, Chair of the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee](#)', 21 August 2018
- House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, '[Regulation of the Water Industry](#)', 9 October 2018, HC 1041 of session 2017–19; and '[Government Response](#)', 21 December 2018, HC 1856 of session 2017–19
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, '[Appraisal of Sustainability Report](#)', November 2018; '[Appraisal of Sustainability Report: Appendix B](#)', November 2018; and '[Habitats Regulations Assessment](#)', November 2018
- '[Debate on the 'Infrastructure Planning \(Water Resources\) \(England\) Order 2018'](#)', HL *Hansard*, 21 November 2018, cols 37–52GC
- '[Debate on the 'Water Industry'](#)', HC *Hansard*, 22 January 2019, cols 51–76WH

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