

Water Resources South East – Havant Thicket Reservoir – Raw Water Transfer

When the Havant Thicket Reservoir was given planning permission by the two local planning authorities it was on the understanding that the reservoir would be used to store fresh water pumped from the Bedhampton Springs down in Havant. In all of the pre-planning discussions and local public consultation there was never any mention that in due course the reservoir would also receive recycled waste water from Southern Water's treatment plants.

The reservoir scheme was developed as both a water storage as security against future drought conditions, as well as an ecological and environmental benefit to the area providing, amongst others, a wetland for wild life and areas for recreational benefits for visitors.

This new proposal to consider the additional storage of treated effluent would render those concepts referred to above as unviable due to the pollution that would be introduced into the water.

Given Southern Water's recent history in the way it manages its water treatment plants and the state of the water that then enters the environment afterwards, gives cause for much concern when considering this approach as part of a new area water resources management plan as outlined in this consultation document.

I strongly oppose the ideas put forward in Option B.4 and D2 of this consultation and I would urge Ofwat to approve the Option B.5 as the only realistic way forward in safeguarding future water resources in this region as a more acceptable option in environmental and future costs terms if recycled water has to be used in this manner.

I therefore consider the addition of treated water into the Havant Reservoir aspect of the overall proposals as not acceptable and should be dropped from the proposal before it generates more antagonism in the local community.

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East Hampshire District Councillor, Rowlands Castle Ward

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