



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Consultation on developing a National Policy Statement for Water Resources

## **Summary of responses and government response**

**March 2018**



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# Introduction

1. Between 13 and 22 December 2017 the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) held a consultation on the development of a National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resources and proposals to amend the definitions of nationally significant water resources infrastructure in the Planning Act 2008 ('the Planning Act'). The consultation can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/nps-water-supply-planning-act-2008/>.
2. The consultation was held to inform stakeholders why an NPS for water resources is being developed and to receive views on our approach to developing it. We also sought views on the types and scale of infrastructure set out in the Planning Act which the NPS will apply to.
3. The consultation document was set out in three parts. Part 1 focused on the evidence base and setting out the need for an NPS for water resources. Part 2 covered the principles for development of the NPS, the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) and the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). Part 3 reviewed nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) definitions relevant to water resources in the Planning Act 2008<sup>1</sup> and proposed thresholds for the infrastructure types discussed.
4. The consultation received responses from a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of this document is to summarise responses to the questions set out in the consultation and to set out government's response. This summary is a high level overview of the main messages from respondents. It aims to reflect the views offered but, inevitably, it is not possible to describe all the responses in detail.
5. We are grateful to the organisations and individuals who responded to this consultation. These responses will be taken on board when developing the draft NPS. We will be consulting on this draft later, in autumn 2018, following the publication of the National Infrastructure Assessment in the summer, the findings of which the draft NPS will reflect.
6. Any enquiries regarding this document should be directed to [watersupplynps@defra.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:watersupplynps@defra.qsi.gov.uk)

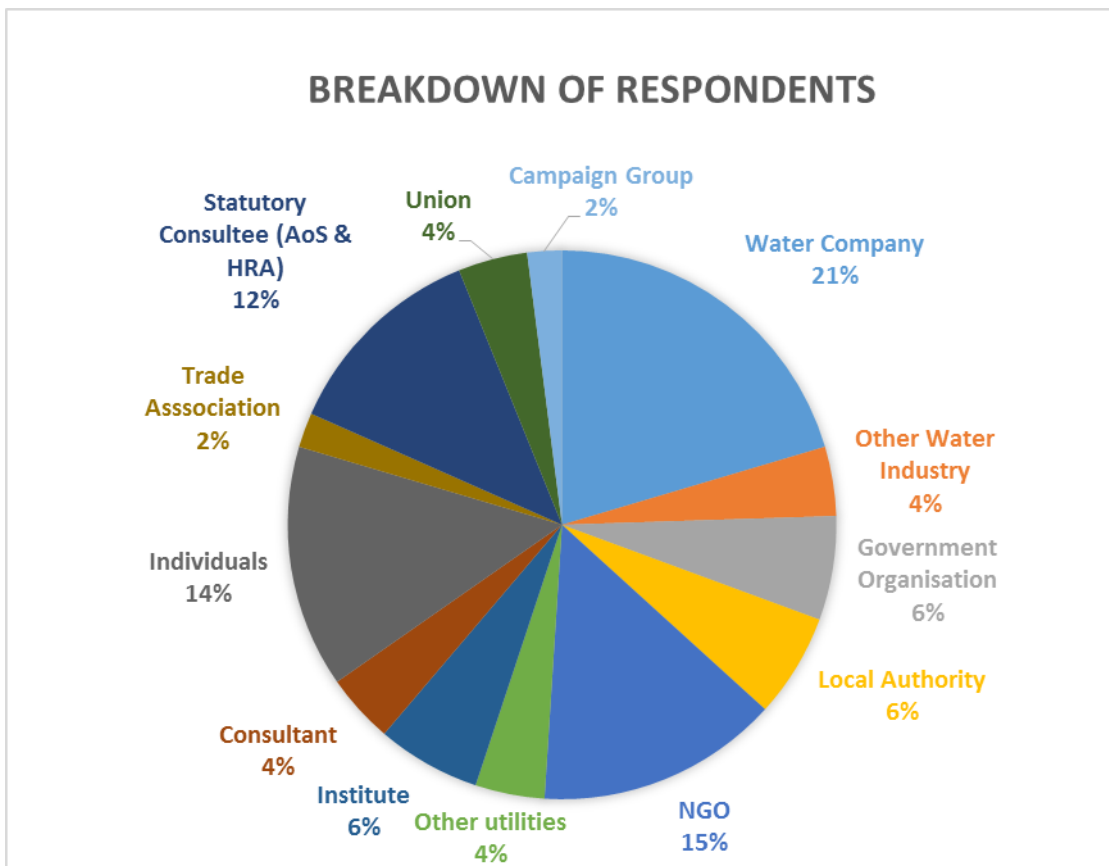
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<sup>1</sup> In sections 27 and 28 of the Planning Act 2008

## Overview of responses

7. The consultation received responses from a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors including water, agriculture and energy. The largest group of respondents were water companies.
8. There were a total of 49 responses submitted online via citizen space, email and post.

**Figure 1: Breakdown of respondents**



### Part 1

9. Part 1 of the consultation sought to provide a clear, early view of the government's intention for the NPS. It set out the role of the NPS in facilitating the development of new water resources infrastructure to improve the resilience of water supplies, and key sources of evidence driving the need for resilience. Respondents were asked for their views on the evidence presented and for any further evidence they were aware of.
10. Respondents provided a wide range of evidence for inclusion in the NPS and gave a spectrum of views on the evidence presented.

## Part 2

11. Part 2 of the consultation covered the principles for development of the NPS, and the AoS and HRA scoping reports.
12. There was a good level of support for the three principles proposed (Annex A) but in general there was a call for greater clarity. In particular on: the level of ambition required on demand management as part of the twin track approach (principle 1) and the definition of environmental net gain (principle 3). Some respondents also questioned the high level of reliance on water resources management plans (WRMPs) in identifying 'nationally significant' schemes (principle 2).
13. Respondents were asked for their views on the objectives and guide questions of the AoS and proposals for the HRA. Respondents reported that there was a good breadth of areas covered in the scoping reports and a number of suggestions and additions to the guide questions and topics were proposed. We have published the final scoping reports alongside this document.

## Part 3

14. Part 3 of the consultation asked for respondents' views on the type and scale (referred to as definitions) of NSIPs proposed. They were also asked for views on the factors identified for considering if schemes are nationally significant.
15. Responses showed broad support for the factors suggested, which were viewed as sensible. It was generally agreed that size alone should not be used as the determining factor for an NSIP. There was support for extending the definitions to include other infrastructure types, such as desalination and effluent re-use. There were mixed views on what respondents thought were the most appropriate thresholds for each infrastructure type.
16. Respondents were in favour of keeping thresholds simple, and the use of 'section 35'<sup>2</sup> of the Planning Act to direct schemes into the NSIP consenting route that don't meet the criteria.

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<sup>2</sup> The Secretary of State has the power to give a direction under section 35 of Planning Act in relation to projects or proposed projects in the field of water (or in the fields of energy, transport, waste water and waste). So, s/he could direct such a project or proposed project into the NSIP planning process if

# Summary of responses and government response

## Part 1

### Summary of responses

#### Question 1

**Do you have any views or further evidence that could inform the need for resilience in the water sector?**

17. There were 34 responses to this question. Respondents referred to a number of further sources to be considered as part of the evidence base informing the NPS and the need for new water resources infrastructure.
18. Some respondents suggested that the evidence base needs to include wider economic needs, especially across areas with the highest growth in population. Several respondents mentioned that the NPS should take into account wider resilience needs in relation to water resources, including environmental and agricultural resilience, highlighting the need for a multi sector approach. Some respondents thought the evidence base should set out what water supply and sewerage companies are doing to meet demand through smaller scale local initiatives.
19. Respondents asked for greater examination of the role of ecosystems in maintaining water provision and for the NPS to consider the impact on designated landscapes and national parks. The need to consider water quality impacts within the NPS was also stated.

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s/he thinks the project (or proposed project) is of national significance, either by itself or when considered with one or more other projects (or proposed projects) in the same field.

## Government response

### Evidence to inform the NPS

20. The evidence presented in the consultation will be built upon to take into account relevant sources referenced by respondents and this will be reflected in the draft NPS.
21. We will strive to include any new evidence that arises around the need for resilience in the sector within the NPS. For example, we are aware of several developing sources, including work by the National Infrastructure Commission and Water UK. The 25 year environment plan, published after the consultation was launched, will provide a platform for areas of policy development relevant to the NPS, which it will refer to. For example, the concept of environmental net gain.

## Part 2

### Summary of responses

#### Question 2

#### **Do you have any views or comments on these principles for developing the NPS?**

22. There were 36 responses to this question which proposed three principles underpinning the development of the NPS, for which there was a strong level of support. Most respondents agreed with the key themes but wanted more clarification on how principles are going to be delivered, both through the NPS and other policy.

**Principle 1-** We will develop an NPS that sets out the need for water infrastructure as part of a 'twin track' approach to managing water resources.

23. Most respondents were in favour of principle 1, which set out the need for water infrastructure as part of a 'twin track' approach. However, some respondents consider maximum efforts to reduce leakage and increase demand management should come before new supply options, and suggest that the criteria set out in NPS should define the twin track approach, for example, set a clear level of ambition for demand management. Other respondents emphasised that the scale of potential future deficits should not



be underestimated and demand management alone should not be relied upon to meet future supply needs.

**Principle 2** - The NPS will reinforce and make clear the role of water companies' water resource management plans (WRMPs) in identifying the most appropriate water resource schemes, including new water resources infrastructure.

24. Respondents showed a broad level of support for principle 2 and to WRMPs being the correct process for identifying potential projects to be taken forward as NSIP's. A number of respondents expressed the need for further work on a national overview of water resilience needs. A number also included proposals for a more regional and national, multi-sector water resources planning process, building on WRMPs.
25. Respondents asked for more clarification on the distinction between the NPS and the WRMP process, for example whether assessment done for WRMPs can be used in a development consent order (DCO). They also asked how the NPS will incorporate flexibility to accommodate new technology, allowing for inclusion of new sorts of NSIPs in future years.
26. One respondent stated that, given the preparation of WRMPs involves a statutory process with in-built consultation and assessment requirements, water companies should not be compelled to re-visit the need for such developments at the NSIP planning stage.

**Principle 3** - The NPS will reiterate the importance of developing and designing water resources schemes that meet the government's objectives to enhance the environment.

27. A strong level of support was shown for this principle, which states the government's commitment to promote infrastructure schemes that enhance the environment. A number of respondents asked for more clarification on what 'net environmental gain' will mean in practice and there was some concern over it causing confusion when schemes are being assessed if not properly defined.
28. Some respondents raised the need for environmental enhancement measures to be proportionate; if costs become prohibitive then this could affect the ability of water companies to deliver infrastructure. Others stated that requirements in the NPS should be consistent with environmental standards required for WRMPs, or there is a risk of the need case in the NPS contradicting the need in WRMPs.
29. Some respondents stated the importance of linking this NPS to the 25 year environment plan and work done by the Natural Capital Committee. A couple

of respondents raised the need for cross border schemes that rely on sourcing water from Wales, to consider the Welsh Government's objectives for the environment, and relevant planning policies and legislation.

### **Question 3**

**Do you consider there to be any further principles for developing the NPS?  
Please explain your reasoning.**

30. There were 29 responses to this question. Further principles and comments from respondents included a principle that promotes regional, multisector water resource planning and another on emphasising the need for the NSIP route to deliver best value for consumers. There was also a suggestion for the NPS to develop guidelines that integrate water infrastructure planning with local authorities' development plans.

### **Questions 4 – 7**

#### **Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) scoping report**

31. We asked for views on the scoping report produced as part of the AoS for the draft NPS and on level of detail which should be included within the appraisal and subsequent AoS Report.

32. A total of 41 responses were received from a range of bodies and individuals including: statutory consultees; the energy sector; water companies and other water sector representatives; local planning authorities; environmental groups and individuals. Responses related to all aspects of the AoS scoping report but particularly concerned:

- possible 'alternatives' to the NPS, including the need to consider different options for a twin track approach and the role of demand management;
- requests for additional baseline information and inclusion of further plans and programmes in Appendix B to the Scoping Report;
- the identification of additional key issues relevant to the NPS for inclusion in Table 3.3 of the Scoping Report;
- the geographic scope of the AoS (with reference to the marine environment specifically) and the timescales for the appraisal; and
- proposed amendments to the AoS objectives, guidance questions and illustrative guidance including for: biodiversity and nature conservation (AoS objective 1); human health (AoS objective 3); water quantity (AoS objective 6); flood risk and coastal change (AoS objective 7); climatic factors (AoS objective 10); cultural heritage (AoS objective 13); and landscape and townscape (AoS objective 14).

## Questions 8 and 9

### Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) methodology report

33. We asked for views on the HRA methodology report, produced as part of the HRA for the draft NPS. This set out the proposed approach to the assessment and asked whether sufficient information had been included to establish the context for the assessment.
34. A total of 30 responses to the HRA Methodology Report were received from a range of bodies and individuals including: statutory consultees; the energy sector; water companies and other water sector representatives; local planning authorities; environmental groups; and individuals. Responses particularly concerned:
- possible 'alternatives' to the NPS, including the need to consider different options for a twin track approach and the role of demand management;
  - the overall level of detail provided in the report and the proposed approach to the HRA;
  - the need for additional clarity with regard to the geographic scope of the assessment;
  - the consideration of in-combination effects;
  - the need to ensure that mobile species are fully considered in the assessment; and
  - requests to review HRAs undertaken for WRMPs.

## Government response

### Principles for developing the NPS

35. There was a good level of support for the principles set out in the consultation and all three will be used in the development of the NPS. The government fully accepts the need for a twin track approach to secure resilient water supplies and supports infrastructure schemes which will help protect and enhance the environment. The government also considers that the WRMP process is the correct mechanism for identifying the most appropriate schemes for addressing the resilience needs of the public water supply.
36. A number of respondents stated that further clarity was needed around the principles. The draft NPS, when published, will provide this clarity. For example, it will set out how the NPS will deliver in line with the 25 year environment plan. It will also clarify the role of WRMPs in identifying

appropriate water resources schemes, some of which could meet the definitions set out in the Planning Act.

37. Respondents reported on the requirement for more regional and national planning to be embedded into WRMPs. The government acknowledges the need for a regional and national, cross sectoral view of water resources planning to produce optimal solutions to resilience. Defra and the Environment Agency are working closely on the development of this work and how it will feed into the WRMP process. This will build on the work already being done by regional planning groups such as Water Resources South East (WRSE) and Water Resources East (WRE). The scope of this work will be published later in the year.
38. There was concern from industry respondents that the NPS would include environmental standards that contradict the WRMP process. We will ensure when developing the NPS that the expectations set out in the NPS are aligned with the WRMP process.
39. Respondents provided some important considerations for developing the NPS in response to the question on further principles, which we will embed into its development.

## **AoS and HRA scoping reports**

40. Respondents made a number of useful recommendations to improve the baseline analysis, objectives and guide questions of the AoS and strengthen the HRA process. These have been incorporated into the final scoping reports which have been published alongside this document.

## **Part 3**

### **Summary of responses**

#### **Question 10**

**Do you have any evidence on the costs of potential supply schemes especially those other than reservoirs, and potential time and cost savings from NSIP designation to improve economic analysis?**

41. There were 24 responses to this question. Responses showed differences in opinion on the potential benefits of the NSIP route with a few water

companies referring to their WRMPs for additional information on infrastructure costs and timings to support this work.

42. Some respondents acknowledged that the NSIP route would be cost effective for complex schemes whilst one respondent agreed that the benefits of the NSIP route are largely related to the time saved. Another respondent stated that they can cite several instances where planning consent for major infrastructure projects has been delayed for many years, thus effectively decimating the economic benefits of such schemes.
43. Alternatively, some respondents were critical of the summary of economic analysis (Annex B of consultation document) particularly because it doesn't take into account the social and environmental benefit/cost.

## Questions 11 & 12

**What are your views on the factors we have set out here for considering if schemes are nationally significant? Are there any further factors that we should take into account?**

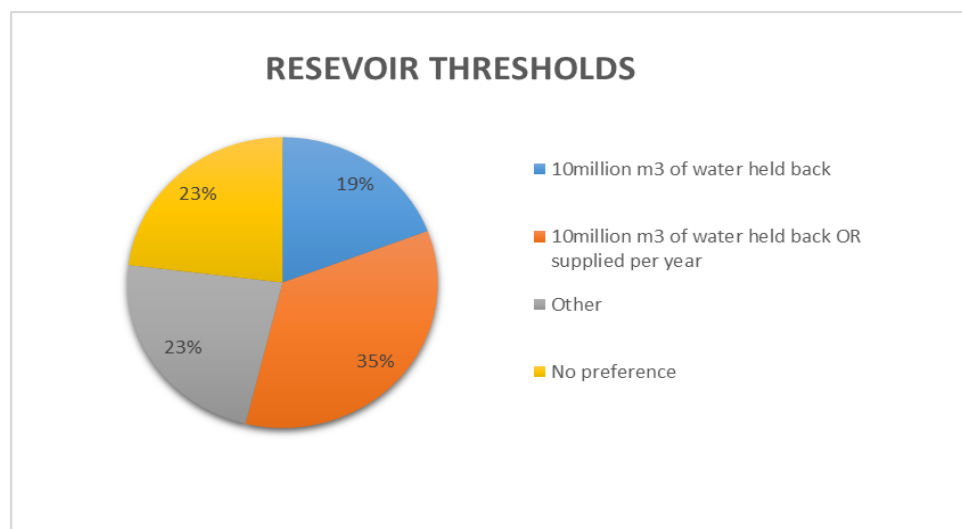
44. There were 32 responses to these questions showing broad support for the factors suggested. Volume supplied, size of population served, and complexity of project based on the number local authorities involved were viewed as important factors.
45. It was generally agreed that size alone should not be used as the only determining factor for an NSIP. However, there was a general consensus that thresholds should be set and factors considered, to avoid smaller schemes going through the NSIP route, as it can be disproportionately costly. A respondent recommended that as much flexibility as possible should be integrated into the NSIP definitions so that decisions can be made, not just on size but on the potential of schemes to improve the resilience of the water sector.
46. Respondents supported the potential use of section 35 of the Planning Act to 'call in' direct schemes that don't fit the criteria set out in the Planning Act, where appropriate.
47. There was a suggestion to consider length of project as a determining factor. A respondent recommended that as much flexibility as possible should be integrated into the NPS and Planning Act definitions, so that decisions can be made not just on size but on the drive to improving resilience of the water sector.

## Question 13

### Which of the two options is your preferred threshold for new nationally significant reservoir schemes?

48. There were 26 responses to this question. The consultation proposed two thresholds for reservoirs and dams (see Annex A, paragraph 2).

**Figure 2: Reservoir thresholds**



49. The largest percentage of respondents were in favour of the 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of water held back OR supplied definition. This threshold was widely supported because it includes a wider range of schemes, for example those which are relatively small in size but could play a large role in meeting resilience needs. The inclusion within the definition of 'water supplied' also makes comparisons with other nationally significant infrastructure types more relevant.

50. 19% of respondents preferred the current threshold definition of 10 million m<sup>3</sup> water held back as they consider it allows for significant infrastructure development and is already understood by stakeholders.

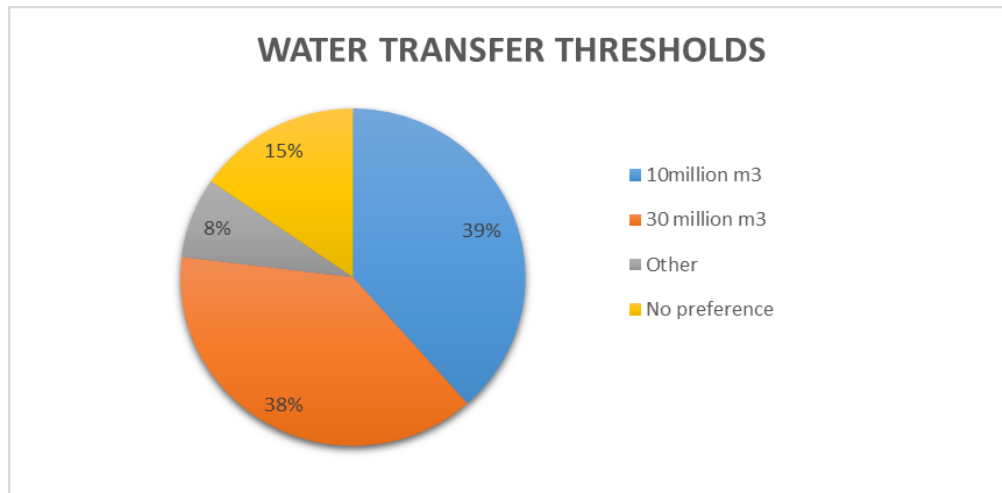
51. 20% of respondents were in favour of thresholds not proposed in the consultation. There were suggestions to lower the threshold to help meet the needs of water stressed regions. Other suggestions were to raise the threshold, two respondents preferred 30 million m<sup>3</sup> water supplied as they felt this represented 'nationally significant' infrastructure in terms of people served and planning complexity.

## Question 14

### Which of the two options is your preferred threshold for new nationally significant water transfer schemes?

52. There were 26 responses to this question. The consultation proposed two thresholds for transfers (see Annex A, paragraph 3).

**Figure 3: Water transfer thresholds**



53. The consultation responses showed no consensus for proposed threshold levels however, there was general support for lowering the current threshold of 100 million m<sup>3</sup>. Responses highlighted the need to take account of the complexity of transfer schemes and whether they are supporting other infrastructure types such as reservoirs.

54. Respondents that were in favour of the 10 million m<sup>3</sup> threshold, supported it because it would capture low volume, but complex and strategically important water transfers. It would also ensure a level playing field with reservoirs and based on previous WRMPs it was considered an appropriate threshold.

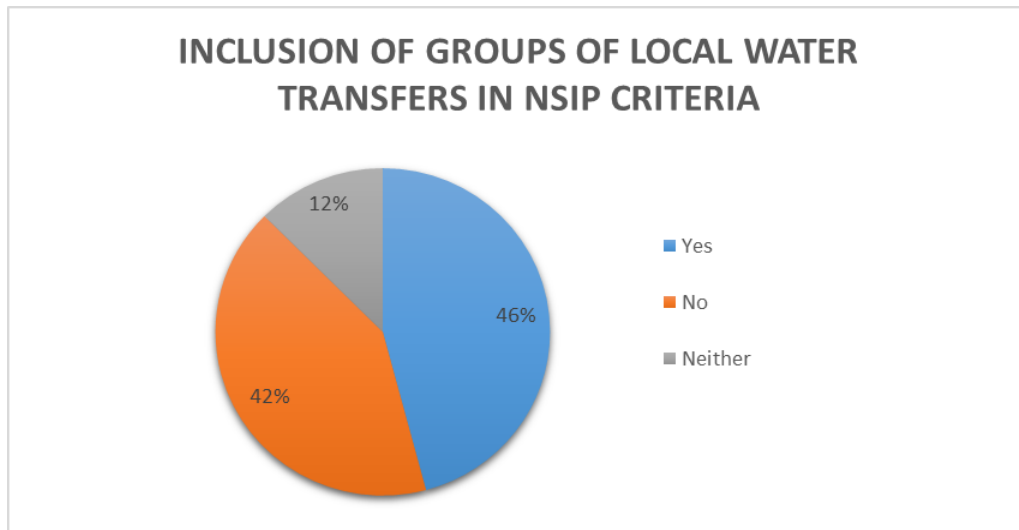
55. Alternatively, respondents that were in favour of 30 million m<sup>3</sup> supported it because a higher threshold better represents 'national significance'. It was reported that a lower threshold would lead to the inclusion of transfers that, while locally important, are not nationally significant. Bringing too many routine transfer pipelines into the NSIP consenting route would bypass local decision making unnecessarily. Respondents preferred the potential use of section 35 of the Planning Act as a means for projects that do not meet the thresholds in the Planning Act but are nonetheless, considered to be nationally significant. This is to be determined through the NSIP consenting route.

## Question 15

**Do you have any views on whether there would be benefit in including groups of smaller transfer schemes within the threshold?**

56. There were 25 responses to this question. The consultation responses showed no consensus on whether groups of smaller water transfers should be considered nationally significant.

**Figure 4: Inclusion of groups of local water transfers in NSIP criteria**



57. Some respondents view smaller schemes as essential to distributing additional water throughout the network and in some cases to support other regionally important developments. One respondent stated that the NPS should support as far as possible, multifunctional water transfers and storage and facilitate collaborative solutions to meet future water resource needs. This would include cases where smaller schemes combined, produce the same or improved supply benefits as a single larger scheme, but at reduced cost to both the customer and to the environment.

58. 42% of respondents preferred that groups of smaller transfers should not be considered nationally significant because it would lead to ambiguity when defining national significance. Respondents thought the local decision making route was more appropriate for schemes of this nature. Respondents preferred the use of section 35 of the Planning Act to include schemes with considerable merit to meet resilience and supply needs and considered to be nationally significant. This is to be determined through the NSIP consenting route.

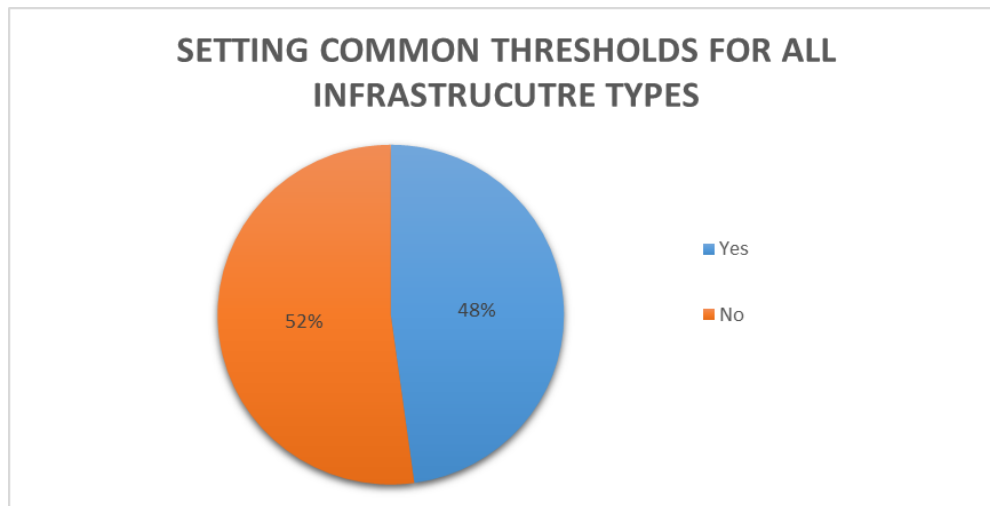


## Question 16

**What are the main benefits and risks of setting the same threshold for all infrastructure types? For example, do you see any reasons that the thresholds for reservoirs and transfers should be/ not be the same?**

59. There were 23 responses to this question. A small majority of respondents were not in favour of setting common thresholds for all infrastructure.

**Figure 5: Setting common thresholds for all infrastructure types**



60. Some respondents not in favour of a common threshold considered that it would place additional emphasis on defining national significance. Concerns were raised around 'over categorising' and 'over simplifying' of schemes as a result of common thresholds.

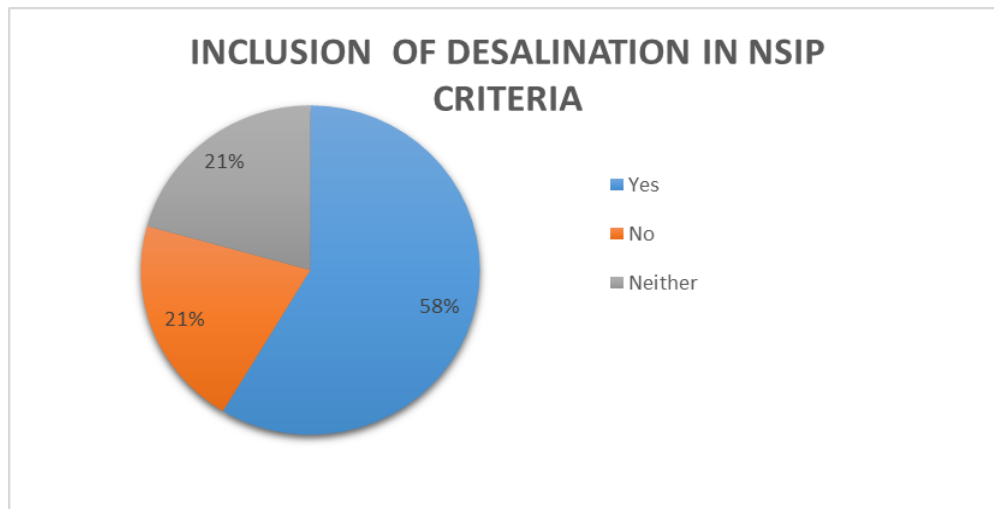
61. Some respondents were in favour of setting common thresholds because it would create consistency across infrastructure types and avoid any bias. It would also lead to a simple transparent process allowing for direct comparison between infrastructure types.

## Question 17

**What are your views on the inclusion of desalination schemes in the definition of nationally significant infrastructure?**

62. There were 28 responses to this question. The majority of respondents were in favour of considering desalination as a nationally significant infrastructure type.

**Figure 6: Inclusion of desalination in NSIP criteria**



63. Respondents stated a wide range of factors for supporting the inclusion of desalination, such as the likely reliance on such schemes in the future for addressing resilience needs during drought. It was stated that under drought conditions, water made available by desalination would protect against water shortages for customers and businesses. It was also stated that the exclusion of desalination could lead to bias towards other infrastructure types.

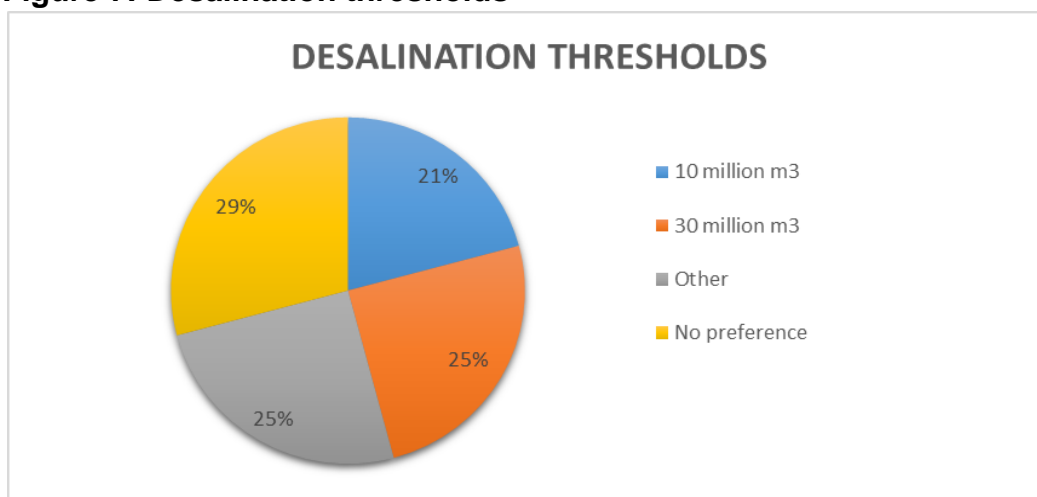
64. Those not in favour of desalination being included raised concerns about the high costs, energy intensity and potential environmental impact, which may outweigh the benefits.

## Question 18

### What should the threshold for desalination schemes be?

65. There were 24 responses to this question. The consultation proposed two thresholds for desalination (see Annex A, paragraph 4).

**Figure 7: Desalination thresholds**



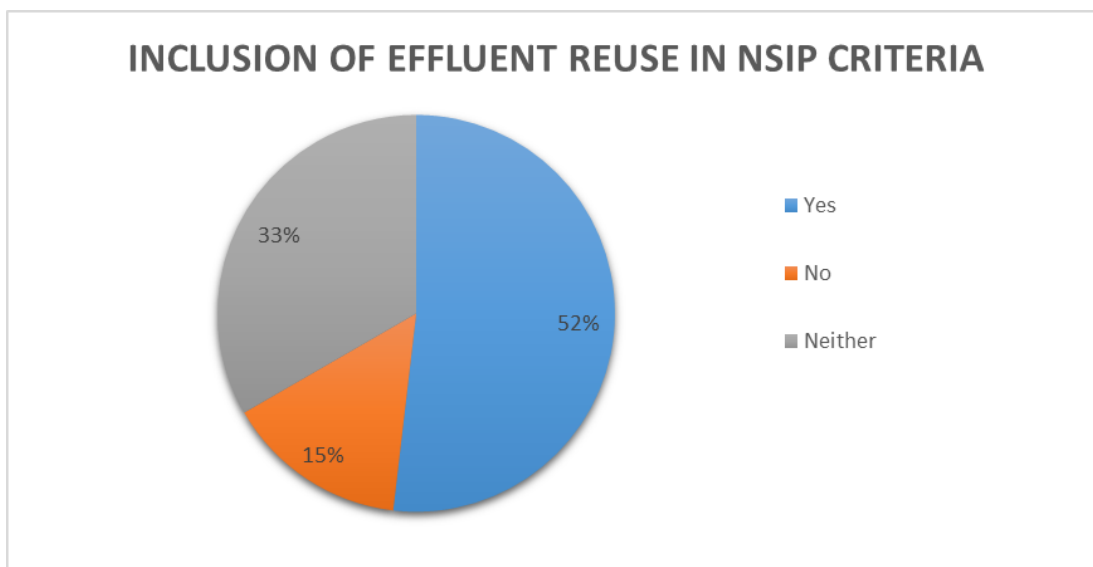
66. Of the respondents who preferred the 10 million m<sup>3</sup>, one respondent stated that this threshold would be more appropriate based on schemes that are likely to come forward in water companies WRMPs. Other respondents preferred 10 million m<sup>3</sup> to keep thresholds in line with current reservoir thresholds. 25% of respondents were in favour of other thresholds not proposed in the consultation ranging from 20 MI/d to 100 MI/d.

## Question 19

### What are your views on whether effluent reuse schemes should be considered national significant?

67. There were 26 responses to this question. The majority of respondents were in favour of considering effluent re-use schemes as a nationally significant infrastructure type.

**Figure 8: The inclusion of effluent re use scheme in NSIP criteria**



68. The majority of respondents viewed effluent re-use schemes as important in addressing future increases in demand and therefore considered this should be reflected in the NSIP definition. The exclusion of effluent re-use could lead to bias towards other infrastructure types.

69. Those not in favour had concerns about potential adverse effects on customers and the environment. One respondent stated that direct effluent re-use schemes are still unlikely to be seen as acceptable by customers therefore limiting development potential.

## Question 20

### **Do you have any further comments on what water resources infrastructure should or should not be considered nationally significant?**

70. There were 19 responses to this question. Respondents submitted a wide range of responses with no common themes, including:

- suggestions for an 'other' category in the NSIP definitions that would include schemes such as new surface water abstractions or new pumped storage connections;
- A request for the NPS to provide sufficient consideration for how adaptive planning will fit with the national planning and development consent process; and
- The need for early engagement, particularly with landowners and for compulsory purchase issues.

## Government response

### **Review of NSIP definitions**

71. We acknowledge that the economic analysis demonstrated in the consultation can be developed, for example to include social and environmental costs, and we will take responses into account as we do so. We also understand the importance of ensuring the thresholds are set optimally, to achieve best value for money for the development of water resources projects.

72. In light of the consultation and further discussion with the water industry, we have developed our thinking on NSIP thresholds beyond that set out in the consultation. We have launched a further informal consultation on these proposals together with the publication of this document. The consultation can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/nps-infrastructure-types-and-sizes/>.

73. We agree that size should not be the only factor for identifying nationally significant infrastructure projects. The volume a scheme can supply is a key indicator of its ability to deliver resilience benefits and is an indicator of the size of population it can serve.

74. The government is keen to create a level playing field for different infrastructure types and is therefore proposing to set the same threshold for

the volume of water a scheme can output, for all infrastructure types included in the NSIP definitions. We propose to use an output volume that is broadly equivalent to the larger 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per year considered in the consultation, as the starting point for thresholds.

75. We considered including just one threshold that would apply to all water resources infrastructure without defining infrastructure types it would be applicable. However, to avoid ambiguity in the definitions we plan to set out each type of infrastructure to be included.
76. Recognising that some schemes are unlikely to operate all year round, we plan to base the output volume threshold on a daily figure. This will be representative of the daily output of a scheme that would deliver 30 million m<sup>3</sup> annually. We also propose to change the unit used to define infrastructure types in the relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008 from cubic metres to megalitres. This will align with metrics more commonly used by the water industry. We consider that a deployable output of 80 megalitres is broadly equivalent to an annual output of 30 million m<sup>3</sup>.

## Recognising the potential resilience benefits of smaller schemes

77. We acknowledge that not all schemes vital for increasing resilience are large in size or will deliver a 'nationally significant' volume of water and understand their benefits may be unique. In general, large schemes will benefit from the NSIP planning route whereas the local planning route is more appropriate for smaller schemes. In order to develop thresholds that are simple and comprehensible, we will not account for potentially small but significant schemes in the NSIP definition. However, if a smaller scheme can demonstrate it is nationally significant, it can be considered under section 35.

## Infrastructure specific definitions

### Reservoirs

78. Recognising respondents concerns that a threshold of 10 million m<sup>3</sup> held back is too low (capturing smaller schemes that should be determined locally) **we propose to increase the volume held back to 30 million m<sup>3</sup> (30,000 megalitres)**. We also **propose to include a figure of 80 megalitres per day deployable output** in the future definition of reservoirs.
79. This definition aims to include reservoirs with large volumes which are likely to be more resilient to longer drought periods and smaller reservoirs with a high

daily output, which could be vital in maintaining supplies during short term drought or supply interruption.

## Transfers

80. For water transfers, **we propose to reduce the threshold from the current 100 million m<sup>3</sup> to the larger of the two thresholds included in the consultation; 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per year.** This will be articulated as a deployable output of 80 megalitres per day which is broadly equivalent to 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per year.

## Desalination

81. Following the majority outcome of the consultation **we are proposing to include a specific definition for desalination within the Planning Act.** Desalination schemes can be large complex schemes that offer unique resilience benefits to some of the most drought prone areas of the country. Although these schemes are energy intensive, it is anticipated that they will be used rarely during periods of drought or high demand, to ensure water supply needs can be met. The inclusion of desalination prevents bias towards only one or two infrastructure types. We propose a threshold of 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. As with other infrastructure types, this will be articulated as a deployable output of 80 megalitres per day.

## Effluent reuse

82. The case to include effluent re-use in the NSIP definition remains weak. The government recognises the important role of these schemes in providing resilience and protecting the environment. However, **we do not consider that the infrastructure required for these schemes needs, or will benefit from, a separate definition in the Planning Act 2008.** Effluent re-use schemes that are considered to be nationally significant, could be directed into the NSIP regime.

# Annex A: List of key proposals in consultation document

## A) Principles for development

1. The consultation sought views on our approach to developing the NPS, including a set of 'principles' that will underpin this approach.
  - **Principle 1:** We will develop an NPS that sets out the need for water infrastructure as part of a 'twin track' approach to managing water resources.
  - **Principle 2:** The NPS will reinforce and make clear the role of water companies' water resource management plans (WRMPs) in identifying the most appropriate water resource schemes, including new water resources infrastructure.
  - **Principle 3:** The NPS will reiterate the importance of developing and designing water resources schemes that meet the government's objectives to enhance the environment.

## B) Nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) definitions

2. The thresholds proposed for reservoirs and dams were;
  - I. To retain the current thresholds of 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of water held back or stored; or
  - II. To amend the threshold to: reservoirs that store or dams that hold a volume greater than 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of water held back OR supply at least 10 million m<sup>3</sup> per year of water.
3. The thresholds proposed for transfers were;
  - I. 10 million m<sup>3</sup> per year.
  - II. 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per year.
4. The thresholds proposed for desalination were;
  - I. 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of water.
  - II. 30 million m<sup>3</sup> of water.

## Annex B: List of respondents

Affinity Water	Clean Rivers Trust	Hampshire County Council
Anglian Water	Canals and Rivers Trust	Energy UK
Northumbrian Water	Woodland Trust	EDF
Severn Trent Water	ADEPT	NIPA
South East Water	ADA (Assoc. of Drainage Authorities)	RTPI
South West Water	Blueprint for Water	ICE
Southern Water	Campaign for National Parks	CIWEM
Thames Water	Friends of the Lake District	NFU
United Utilities	CLA	CH2M
Wessex Water	Thames Blue Green Economy	Jacobs
Water UK Water	GARD	WSP
CC Water		Six individual responses
Lake District National Park Authority		