



## National Policy Statement for Water Resources

In March 2017 Defra announced it would develop a National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resources. This briefing note gives an introduction to this work and explains what is happening next.

### What is a national policy statement?

The Planning Act 2008 created a streamlined process for assessing and providing consent for “nationally significant infrastructure projects”. It will present the evidence base and identify how new strategic infrastructure contributes towards meeting government objectives. It also provides planning policy guidance for assessing applications. The types and sizes of infrastructure that are defined as nationally significant are set out in the Planning Act 2008.

### Why do we need a national policy statement for water resources infrastructure?

The future demand for water will increase due to population and economic growth and the impacts of climate change and drought are likely to reduce water availability. The government expects water companies to consider options to manage down demand and increase supplies in order to meet these needs. The NPS will support the delivery of future large supply projects identified in water company water resource management plans. These statutory plans are produced in consultation with customers and regulators and are subject to detailed social, economic and environmental appraisal.

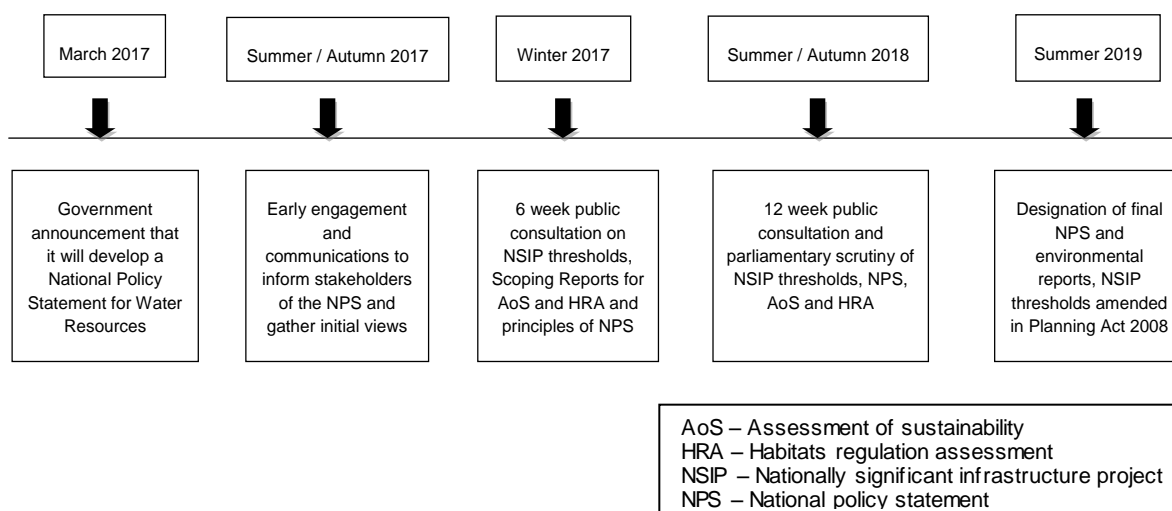
### How will we develop the national policy statement?

There are three main areas of work:

- We are reviewing the Planning Act 2008 definitions of the types of water supply infrastructure that are classed as ‘nationally significant’ to make sure that the right type and scale of projects are included. We intend to consult on options to amend these thresholds in winter 2017.
- We are beginning to develop the national policy statement and we intend to consult on the draft high level principles in winter 2017.
- An Assessment of Sustainability and Habitats Regulations Assessment have been commissioned. These assessments influence the content and policy guidance of the national policy statement by incorporating environmental, social and economic aspects.

## When can you get involved?

Below is a guide to the main stages of the project including formal consultation periods.



## How can you be involved?

We are committed to engaging widely during the development of the NPS and we welcome views from all stakeholders. As well as the formal consultation phases we will be seeking views from interested parties as we develop the policy. We will be communicating through a number of channels but if you would like to be added to our mailing list or have a question for the project team please email us [WaterSupplyNPS@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WaterSupplyNPS@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

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## Water Infrastructure Team

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