



By email only

December 9th, 2022

**Subject: Veolia Water Projects Limited 2022 Draft Water Resource Management Plan - Consultation**

Following guidance from the Environment Agency and in accordance with section 37B(1) (D) of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended by section 62 of the Water Act 2003), Veolia Water Projects Limited (VWPL) has reviewed its Water Resource Management Plan and produced a 2024 draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP24).

The dWRMP24 sets out how VWPL will balance water supplies with water demand to maintain a secure and sustainable water supply and the actions VWPL will take to conserve the environment for the next 25 years.

DEFRA authorised VWPL to publish its dWRMP24 for public consultation, so you are now invited to review the document and share your comments.

The documents are available on the VWPL website, <http://veolia.co.uk/tidworth-operations>. A summary of the dWRMP24 has also been included below.

If you wish to comment on VWPL's dWRMP24, please make your representations to the Secretary of State by 15th February 2023, either by post or by email:

- Any representations by email should include 'Veolia Water Projects' in the subject title and be sent to the following address: [water.resources@defra.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources@defra.gov.uk) and [uk.veolia.iwe.tidworth-regulatory.mailbox@veolia.com](mailto:uk.veolia.iwe.tidworth-regulatory.mailbox@veolia.com)
- Any representations by post should be sent to the following address and include 'Veolia Water Projects' in the subject title:

Water Resources Management Plan Consultation  
Defra Water Resources  
Seacole, 2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

At the end of the public consultation period, VWPL will prepare a statement of response detailing how all raised representations have been accounted for and VWPL will revise its dWRMP24 accordingly. The revised dWRMP24 will be submitted to DEFRA who will determine whether VWPL can publish the revised plan as a final WRMP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Winters'.

**Fiona Winters**  
*Director*



## **Draft Plan Overview**

VWPL has developed a long-term plan for water resource management that balances available water supplies with water demand to maintain a safe, secure and sustainable water supply. The plan also details how VWPL will conserve and enhance the local environment, including the preservation of chalk streams within the wider Wessex Basin.

The dWRMP has been developed in conjunction with Veolia's Impact 2023 strategy; which outlines Veolia's ambition to become the benchmark company for ecological transformation, leading change and taking actions for sustainability by integrating strategies that both protect the planet and communities. This includes finding innovative ways and solutions to secure a sustainable supply of water, protect and enhance the environment and reduce carbon emissions. To learn more about Veolia's Impact 2023 strategy, please visit: <https://www.veolia.co.uk/acting-and-committing-ecological-transformation>.

VWPL currently supplies 14,380\* customers, including the Ministry of Defence (MoD), within the wider Tidworth area with high quality drinking water and wastewater services. In 2021/22, 5.88 million litres of water\* (Ml/d) were treated and distributed each day to VWPL customers.

VWPL undertook a detailed technical review of the supply/demand balance forecasts to ensure the network has enough water to sustainably meet the demand in each year between 2025 to 2050 and is resilient to a '1 in 500 year drought event'. The review also accounted for:

- future abstraction licence reductions that may be implemented by the Environment Agency during the licence renewal process (due in 2025)
- any potential implications derived from climate change.
- any peak demand events,
- population and property growth within the network,
- any potential changes in MoD activity and development and customer water usage behaviour.

**\*Note:** figures were reported within the regulatory annual return submitted in March 2022 for the reporting period of 2021/22.

The supply/demand balance forecast, with no interventions (the baseline scenario) at VWPL's current abstraction limit of 9.00 Ml/d, predicts a small surplus until 2039/40, declining to a small deficit of -0.01Ml/d over the long term. This is mainly associated with population growth, the uncertainty surrounding MoD activities within the network and a small reduction in available groundwater due to climate change.

During the pre-consultation, VWPL was informed by the Environment Agency that, during the abstraction licence renewal in March 2025, the abstraction licence would be sustainably reduced to prevent deterioration of the chalk streams within the Wessex Basin. As such, VWPL prepared a second supply/demand forecast using a reduced



figure of 7.50 MI/d\*. Under this scenario, and with no interventions, the baseline supply/demand balance predicts a long term deficit from 2025/26.

\*Note: This figure is yet to be agreed with the Environment Agency.

In order to address the deficit within the supply/demand forecast, VWPL investigated a list of options to potentially increase available water supplies and reduce customer demand. These options were reviewed against technical criteria, environmental feasibility and performance (including natural environment and biodiversity), cost and regulatory/governmental expectations of reducing per capita consumption to 110 litres per person per day (l/h/d) and reducing leakage by 50% by 2050. The preferred options selected by VWPL are listed below:

- Update the non-measured household consumption assessment. Where installing meters within a household property is not possible due to building constraints etc, VWPL will issue an annual questionnaire assessment to establish household consumption.
- Improve customer water efficiency and behaviour within the Tidworth Network. VWPL will continue to raise awareness within the community, including customers and the MoD, that more efficient water usage can help to reduce demand, customer bills and can create a positive impact on the local environment surrounding Tidworth.
- Meter the water supply to the MoD Tidworth and Perham Down garrisons and associated Service Family Accommodations (SFA). In March 2023, the MOD garrisons and associated SFAs will become VWPL regulated customers so VWPL needs to be able to accurately measure water consumption.
- Extend the Universal Metering Programme for all non-household and household properties that are able to have water meters installed.

Once the preferred options and potential water saving were applied to the supply-demand forecast, the following predictions were established:

- Under the current abstraction licence of 9.00 MI/d, VWPL forecasts a long term surplus.
- With the reduced abstraction licence of 7.50 MI/d, VWPL predicts a small short term surplus of 0.62 MI/d until 2049/50 when a deficit of -0.22 MI/d is forecast.

As there were still a number of uncertainties around licence capping and demand requirements during the preparation of the draft WRMP, VWPL has developed an action plan to further review and confirm its planning assumptions and options in order to make sure all customers are provided with a safe, secure and sustainable water supply and that the environment is duly protected.