

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Priorities for water security and resilience in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12th January 2027

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing water security in the UK - preparedness, climate risks and long-term resource pressures**
Baroness Brown, Chair, Adaptation Committee, Climate Change Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Implementing the National Framework for Water Resources 2025 - priorities for securing future supplies**
Richard Thompson, Deputy Director, Water Resources, Environment Agency
- 9.40 **Future water security policy - managing scarcity, strengthening resilience and balancing competing demands**
implications of the CCC's Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk | approaches to improving drought preparedness and emergency planning | drought prioritisation, restrictions and continuity during periods of water stress | assessing projections for drought, extreme heat and water stress | impact on public supply, agriculture, industry and energy generation | competing requirements for households, food production, energy, housing and economic growth alongside environmental needs | support for vulnerable and high-dependency users and preparedness for businesses and essential services | abstraction flexibility and priorities for agricultural water storage | the role of regional water resource groups in long-term planning and coordination | balancing water security objectives with environmental protection and river health
Mark Lloyd, CEO, The Rivers Trust
Senior representative, water resources group
Senior representative, water company
Senior representative, local authority
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Regulatory transition, water resource planning and strategic investment - priorities for resilient, sustainable and affordable supplies**
Paul Hickey, Senior Director, RAPID and Environmental Planning, Ofwat
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Practicalities for improving water efficiency and safeguarding drinking water - priorities for households, businesses and agriculture**
role of demand management and reduction | statutory and interim targets for reducing water use and leakage | implementing water efficiency design and retrofitting buildings | mandatory water efficiency labelling and future building standards | consumer engagement and behaviour change | barriers and opportunities to achieving water efficiency gains across industry, energy generation and agriculture | smart technologies, metering and data-driven approaches | approaches to reducing leakage and preventing water loss across networks | water reuse, recycling and rainwater harvesting | balancing affordability, sustainability and resilience | nature-based solutions and catchment approaches to resilience
Chris Gooderham, Environment Director, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Senior representative, water industry
Senior representative, consumers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Delivering efficiency improvements - targets, planning and implementation**
Senior representative, water industry
- 12.00 **Infrastructure delivery, investment and system resilience - priorities for secure water supplies**
delivery of AMP8 investment programmes and implications of the CMA's redeterminations | balancing investment with affordability and public confidence | asset health, maintenance and reducing single points of failure | delivery of new supply infrastructure, including reservoirs, transfers and recycling schemes | consenting, construction capacity, supply chains and skills | role of infrastructure planning in supporting housing and economic growth | aligning infrastructure planning with future demand | resilience to flooding, contamination and other physical disruption | cybersecurity and resilience of operational technology | critical supplier and third-party dependencies, contingency planning and recovery | implications of regulatory reform and emerging policy on stronger public control for investment and accountability | innovation, digitalisation and asset management strategies
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior commentator
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Next steps for water sector reform and long-term resource planning - regulatory transition, infrastructure and resilience**
Martin Woolhead, Deputy Director, Water Infrastructure Delivery, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum