

Part 2 – Clause 36 Water use: temporary bans

Issue

The Bill proposes an enabling power to update the hosepipe ban legislation

This would extend water company powers to restrict non-essential uses of water during a drought, for example from washing private cars, operating ornamental fountains, cleaning patios and filling paddling pools.

Essential uses of water are not affected. Measures that may significantly impact social or economic activity will still require the water company to obtain a drought order from the Secretary of State.

Water UK's view

Water UK supports the proposals. We have recognised the need to update the legislation for many years. The situation came to a head in the 2004-06 drought, when there was some confusion over which water uses and appliances were subject to restrictions

In recognition of the need to address this issue, the water industry has not been waiting for the legislation to change. We have already completed a major piece of work to develop a Code of Practice for implementing restrictions. This helps to clarify definitions and the water uses that should be restricted and is applicable to both the existing legislation and to the new proposals.

We are currently examining the wording of the Bill to ensure that the provisions are clear and will deliver the legislative framework required.

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Water UK represents all water and wastewater service suppliers at national and European level. The water industry has invested £85 billion since privatisation in 1989-90.