

MATTER 6
IPSR39 STATEMENT
Housing Allocations

Inspector's question 6.20 Whether the capacity of housing allocation HA020, former Somerton Reservoir, Cowes. Is justified.....?

An information sheet dated 23 January 2025 from Southern Water ref: PRN710023 Has informed Isle of Wight residents, that Southern Water is now reducing the reliance on mainland water, particularly in times of drought. The advice informs that currently, around one third of the Isle of Wight's water supply comes from the River Test in Hampshire and is pumped across to the Island via the Cross Solent Main. The advice informs that "We need to take less water from the river Test and its associated aquifer...a growing population and changing climate means this is becoming more urgent"...

The advice goes onto explain that Southern Water are developing the Isle of Wight Water Recycling Project at Sandown and that there also needs to be built a pipeline to move this recycled water from Sandown to the River Yar at Alverstone." This indicates that water supply on the Island is not secure in the near future, There are considerable threats to sufficient continued supply of water, due to time for pre construction issues of pipeline, construction time, and time issues in constructing wastewater treatment plant, untested nature of wastewater treatment plant, Southern Water's history regarding sewage disposal and water supply in Hampshire. Therefore building on a reservoir on the Island, is lessening the means of available water supply at an inappropriate time.

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