

SWW NHH WRMP Research August 2022

Full Colour Thinking from Turquoise for South West Water

September 2022



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Introduction and background.



Water companies are required to prepare and maintain a Water Resources Management Plan on a five yearly cycle. The Plan sets out how they plan to manage supply and demand for the next 25 years. It examines strategic issues that affect available water and demand and details how they intend to maintain the balance between water supply and demand to ensure customers receive a continued reliable supply. The South West Water Plan covers both South West Water and Bournemouth Water following the merger in April 2016. South West Water have started the process of updating their 2019 Plan as part of the 5-year planning cycle to produce their Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24).

In developing their WRMP24 plan South West Water needed to speak with non household customers to better understand their interest and engagement with different demand side options.

Turquoise Thinking Ltd were commissioned to conduct this research and the following document reports the key findings.





Specific research objectives.



The overall objective of the research was to explore non household customer views of demand side options and water efficiency measures. Additional objectives included:-



How do non household customers view water in their business and what do they currently do to be water efficient?



How open are they to the suggested demand side options. What would they engage with? What would work for them?



How open are they to looking at getting demand down given the big Government targets?



Who would they expect to deliver and offer these demand side options? Are they open to being approached by South West Water / Bournemouth Water about this?



Research methodology.



A qualitative methodology was undertaken in order to meet the research objectives.

Four online focus groups were conducted on Wednesday 24th August and Tuesday 31st August 2022 via Teams/Zoom, each lasting 90 minutes in duration. The topic guide utilised was designed in conjunction with the Client. The demand side options shared and tested with respondents were condensed/combined between the first two groups and the second two groups.



A range of business types were represented within the groups – farmers, developers, restaurant owners, café owners, schools, hoteliers, bed and breakfast owners, bar owners and healthcare.



Summary of Key Findings.

South West Water

Summary of Key Findings.

Amongst the NHH customers interviewed there was little knowledge or experience of the business retail market. Most were still with their incumbent suppliers. Those who did know about it largely believed the savings on offer to not be that great.

As such it was perfectly acceptable in their minds to have contact from their wholesaler. South West Water / Bournemouth Water are in charge of / control of the product so it would make sense for water efficiency advice etc to come from them.

Although water is taken for granted by the majority steps have been taken by the NHH customers interviewed to ensure water is not wasted, dual flush toilets, more economical taps etc. Many believe that they are doing all that they can but would welcome help and advice to save more. Money savina would be the biggest motivator to be more efficient but there is a growing sense of social responsibility to be more conscientious and use water sparingly.

Recent drought and water shortage messaging has brought the physical amount of water available more to the forefront of customer's minds. In reality they gave it little thought before (unless they were farmers). They hope that SWW/BW are doing all they can to ensure supply can meet demand in the future and believe if they are being asked to take steps themselves to help get demand down then SWW/BW should be leading by example and doing all they can to preserve supplies / fix leaks themselves.

When introduced to the idea of the WRMP customer's are positive. The key element they are drawn to is the reduction of leakage believing that this would have the biggest impact on supply. They do not initially see themselves as part of the solution with regards to getting their usage/demand down.

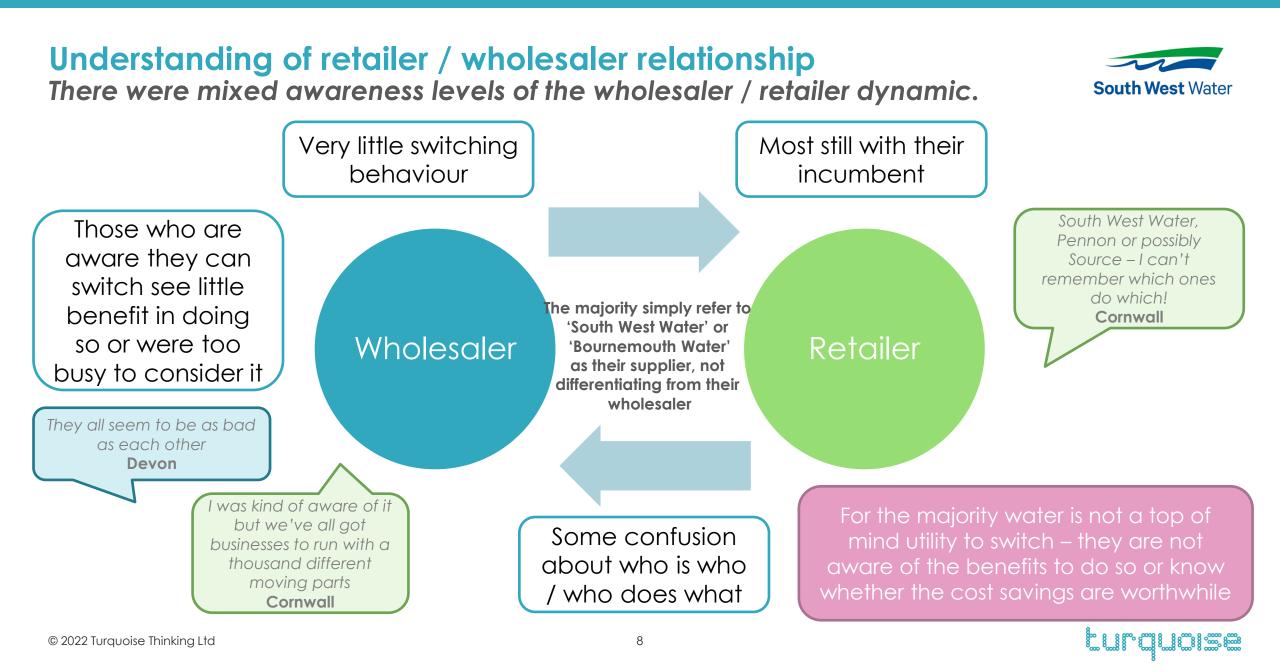
Government targets for water use reduction seem quite steep to most businesses. Many do not know how or where they could save more water without help and guidance.

When introduced to the various demand side options customers were generally positive but believe it must be presented alongside what SWW/BW are doing as well so that the onus doesn't entirely fall on the customer.

They like the suggestions where water is reused e.g. rainwater collection and the recycling of effluent as believe this could have a big impact and signals where more focus should be in the future. Equally smart metering and visits which could help identify leaks would also be beneficial as this has a cost benefit to the customer as well as saving water. To encourage action and behaviour change it is likely to need some form of incentivisation and greater education. © 2022 Turquoise Thinking Ltd 6

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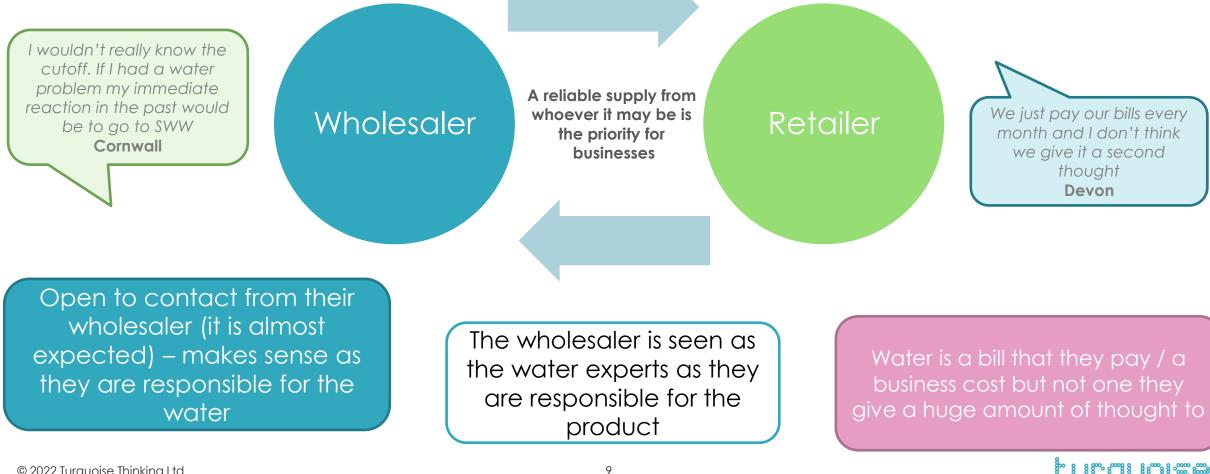
Understanding of Retailer / Wholesaler Relationship.



Understanding of retailer / wholesaler relationship Their expectations of their wholesaler / retailer are quite simplistic



When it comes to who to contact for what or who they would expect to be responsible for what NHH customers find it difficult to separate the two.

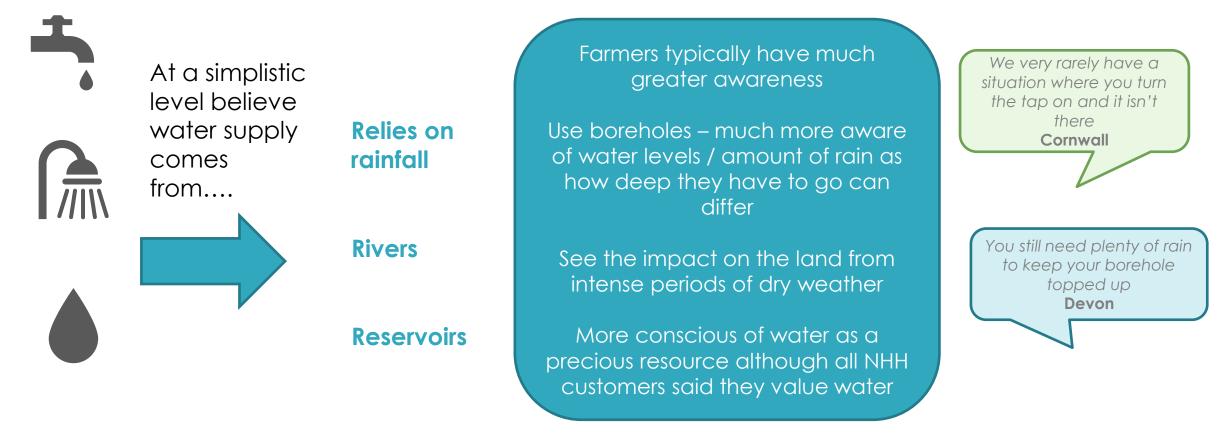


Understanding of the supply / demand impacts of water.

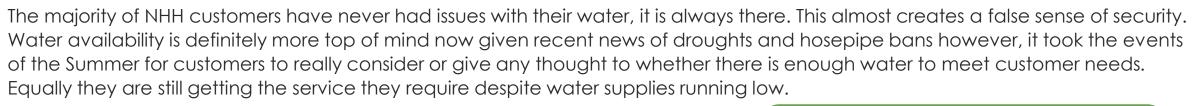
Understanding of the supply / demand impacts of water In reality little thought is given to where water comes from



As we see repeatedly with household customers water is taken for granted and that is also true for non household customers (even amongst businesses where water is required for their business to run). Customers are so used to turning on a tap and it being there that they don't really give much thought beyond that. The only instance where this is potentially different is for farmers.



Understanding of the supply / demand impacts of water Until recently the majority would not have believed water availability was an issue.



If there's really an issue We're all aware of a drought situation at the they should contact moment and I think we all know that leakage is everybody, send a big problem in our Victorian system information and advice Cornwall Cornwall It's not finite, we've noticed how very low the river water has Bournemouth would got Some NHH customers have appear to have enough Devon There is belief that if it really was a witnessed significant leaks water to sustain the big problem there would be more population at the going on for extended direct contact about it – this moment at least period of times which are at Bournemouth highlights a comms opportunity for odds with a saving water / SWW/BW to draw greater attention water shortage message. This to the need to be more water mindset would need to be conscious. addressed.

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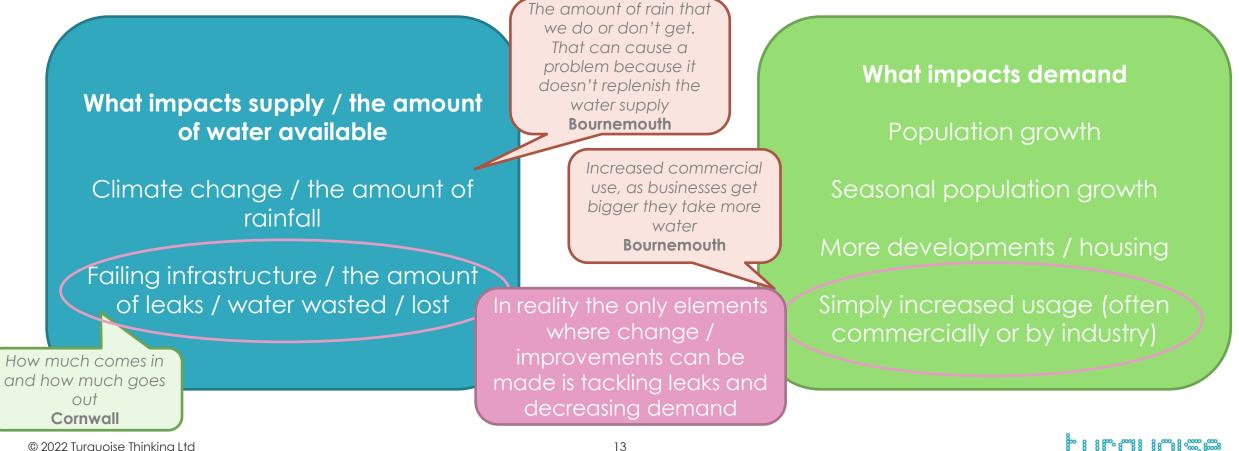


South West Water

Understanding of the supply / demand impacts of water When asked what they believe may impact on future water availability a number of different elements are cited.



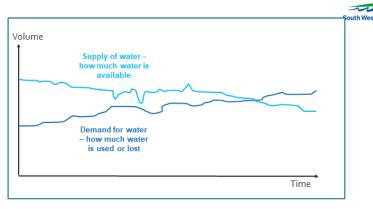
Given the current situation customers see climate change and the amount of rainfall (or lack thereof) as having the biggest impact on supply. With regards demand it is population growth (and in Devon and Cornwall in particular) seasonal population growth that will see demand increase.

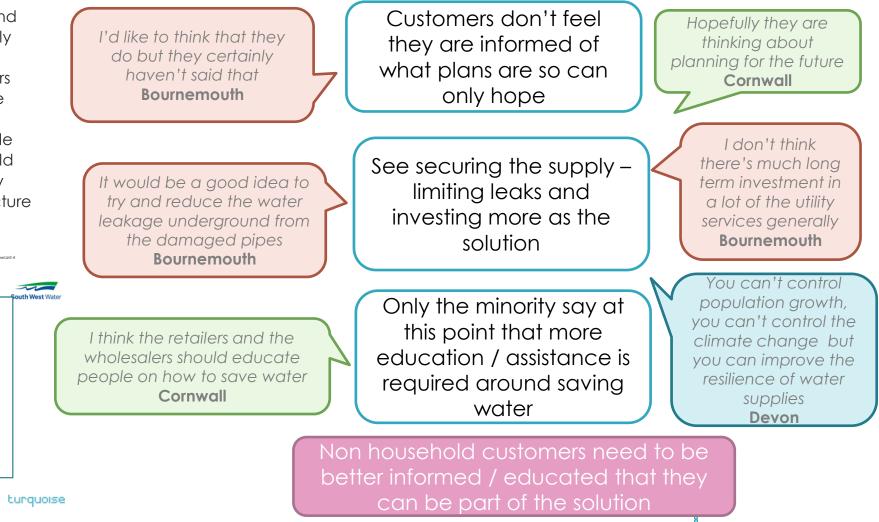


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Understanding of the supply / demand impacts of water The majority hope that water companies are making plans to ensure future supply can meet demand.

When shown the slide detailing the supply and demand balance and seeing how potentially the balance could be tipped with demand outweighing supply non household customers were all in agreement that they hoped there are plans in place to ensure supplies are secured. Interestingly at this stage there is little consideration on their part for how they could decrease their demand, instead the majority believe the solution is investment in infrastructure and sorting out leaks.

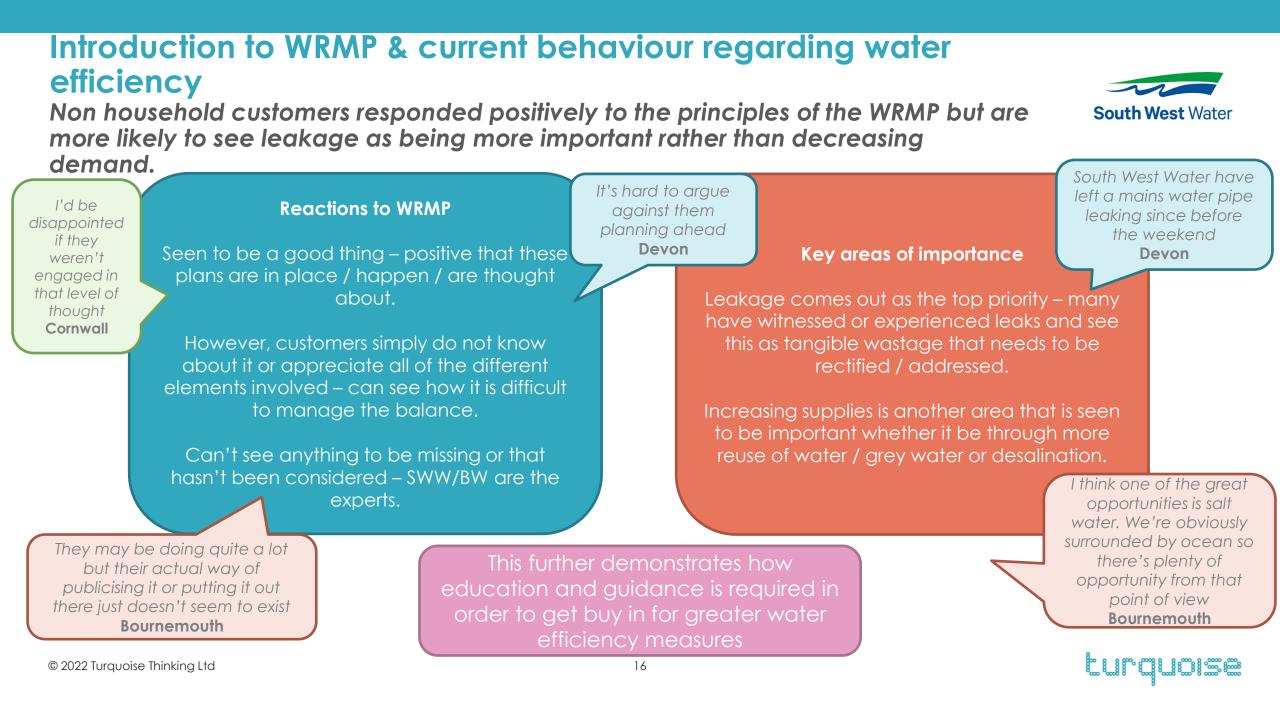




South West Water

Supply Demand balance

Introduction to WRMP & current behaviour regarding water efficiency.



Introduction to WRMP & current behaviour regarding water efficiency

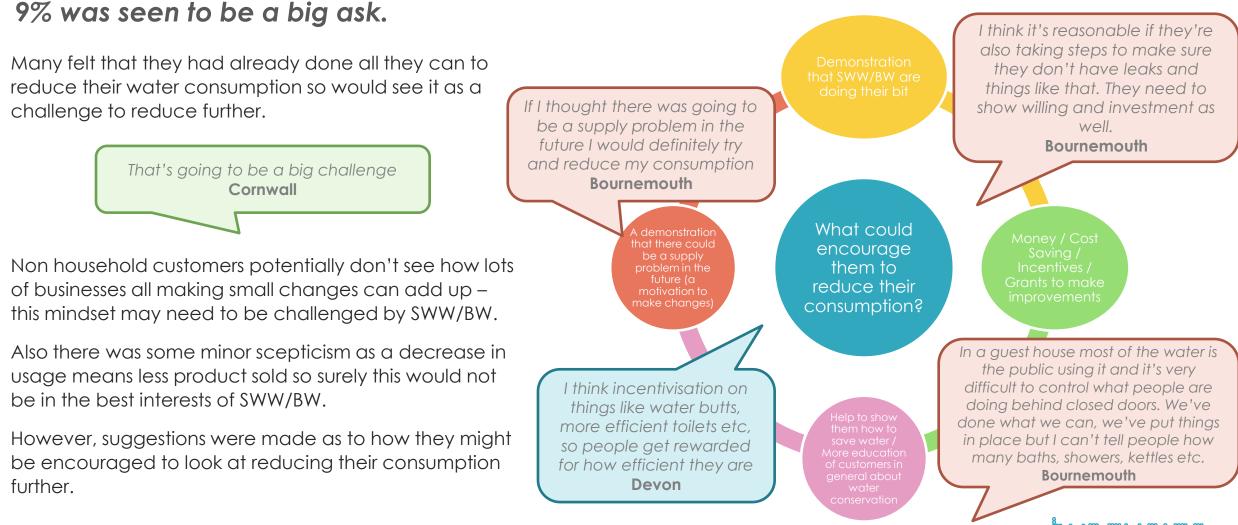
When questioned most thought they were doing all they could to be water efficient.

As customers value water and it is something they pay for (it is a cost to the business) they do give thought to how much they are using. All were of the opinion that they certainly were not wasteful with water. A variety of different water saving or water efficiency devices have already been utilised and implemented by customers. Developers also indicated how they are always interested in new ways to be more water efficient.

However, you can make positive changes and Water efficiency measures currently utilised improvements to technology and the devices you are using but you can't impact how people / customers behave / use the water (highlighted by those in the hospitality industry in particular). Examples being long We looked at showers when staying in hotels, leaving the tap making sure running because they're not paying for it themselves we had no leaks, making etc. sure all of the fixtures and If people like having a long fittings are shower they won't probably do it You can't change modern at home because they're saving people's habits. You Bournemouth but they think oh I've paid for a can put in all of this hotel so might as well enjoy it really efficient stuff Cornwall but some people are just going to use Dual flush toilets, shower heads Demonstrates a desire amongst NHH customers to more water by their that put more air in the water we habits be more efficient with their water however, can do all of that – give me Devon universal behaviour change is required to fully something better and I'll use it **Devon Developer** drive down water usage in some sectors.

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South West Water

Introduction to WRMP & current behaviour regarding water efficiency

The Government bringing in a target to reduce NHH water consumption by 9% was seen to be a big ask.

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Reactions to demand side options.

Demand options

Option 1 - Smart metering for all NHH customers or targeted at specific sectors



This option would see existing dumb meters exchanged for a smart meters, which can offer increased visibility of usage from more frequent reading.

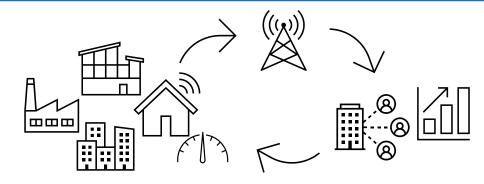
Readings are taken either as 'drive-by' automated readings or by connecting to a wireless network to transmit regular meter readings back to SWW.

Smart metering is unlikely to deliver large reductions in usage but will act as an enabler for other options to reduce wasted water and help to promote water efficiency, such as:

- Quick identification of continuous high flows (minimising waste due to leakage)
- Improved data for companies and increased engagement with water use to highlight benefits of water saving technology such as water recycling or rainwater harvesting
- Can also be a pre-requisite for incentives and tariff changes in the future

This can be offered to:

- all NHH customers above a set usage level (>600l/day), or
- targeted at the top 50% of highest users from specific sectors with sites containing large underground networks, such as education, sports and recreation grounds, and farms.





Reactions to demand side options

Smart meters are a familiar concept with many noting that their electricity meters have made them more conscious of their consumption.



For the highest users it's making them more **Initial Reactions to Smart Metering** accountable and perhaps with the I am more conscious of it incentives for them to look at ways they when I see a smart meter can perhaps reduce or recycle some of Open to the idea, seems like a sensible move to Bournemouth their water help people understand their usage. **Bournemouth** Can see how it would be good for the highest users Good for spotting and those in particular industries - lower volume leaks users showed interest in it too as many are cost Cornwall conscious and keen to save money. I think it's a good idea because I do my water Most business users are Experience with other smart meters indicates they pump readings every inherently conscious of month and if it's above would be more conscious of their usage. cost in any form average I know I have a Cornwall problem somewhere Good that it could help identify anomalies / leaks Devon quicker.

Unsure how much impact it could have on supply / water saving in reality.



Appealing and a useful tool to understand water usage / behaviour. Potentially harder to make savings like you can with electricity but seen to be good to help identify leaks which is a positive.

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Demand options

Option 2 - Business Efficiency Visits



This option would target water efficiency savings for non-household customers within certain sectors.

Customers would be offered a Business Efficiency Visit (BEV), either in-person or virtually, during which they will be given water efficiency advice on ways to save water and reduce waste.

During in-person visits, water efficiency devices will be retro-fitted to bathrooms and kitchens and simple wastage fixes will take place where feasible to fix leaky loos and taps.

Leak detection services will be offered for large sites with large underground networks as well as advice on options for water recycling or using alternative water sources.

Virtual visits will take a similar approach but the customer would be responsible for installing efficiency devices and will be given advice on how to check for and fix minor leaks on toilets and taps.







Reactions to demand side options Guidance offered through Business Efficiency Visits could help non household customers identify new ways to save water



Initial Reactions to Business Efficiency Visits (BEV)

This could almost be like a collaborative partnership between the water company and businesses – reiterates a team effort / approach to saving water.

A minority saw the offering as condescending insinuating that they wouldn't be able to identify leaky toilets – would potentially be more appealing if it made less obvious suggestions / things they hadn't thought of before

Potentially seen to have greater value to more large scale users where greater savings could be made

However there is interest amongst small users too who could potentially access this help / guidance online rather than requiring a virtual visit

Farmers may need incentivising / grant support to take forward some of the recommendations.



Appealing and if free and offered in a convenient format could see high take-up.

I think you could probably standardise a lot of businesses. You could do a lot of it online **Bournemouth**

> I think that would be really, really worthwhile **Devon**

I think it sounds really smart but the only way that I think farmers will actually take some of the initiatives forward is some sort of shared grant support **Devon**

It wouldn't make a lot of difference in my business but I see that in big scale it would make quite a big difference **Cornwall**

Would value expert / advice guidance as many feel they are already doing all they can to save water.



Demand options

Option 3 – Sector specific water efficiency advice



This option seeks to increase water efficiency within an element of the tourist sector that remains a component of household demand. The initiative assumes that South West Water will work in partnership with Airbnb, or similar accommodation providers to reduce water use amongst their members.

This option follows a tiered approach to engaging with this element of the customer base:

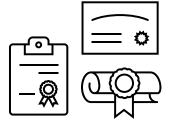
 All home owners/hosts will be offered "social norms feedback" and seasonal messaging through billing mailshots.

Properties are offered the opportunity to apply for a water efficiency certification (Bronze, Silver, Gold), which can be used in marketing and displayed at the property:

- Bronze Receipt of targeted advice, a self-install water efficient device pack, and water efficiency materials to display at the property to encourage water saving behaviours amongst guests.
- Silver Pre-arranged professional home visit with retrofit and advice (including leaky loo find and fix), along with water efficiency materials to display at the property.
- Gold To be decided, but could include a more challenging water calculator-based targets for fixtures and fittings (akin to new-build targets), in additional to water efficiency materials for display.





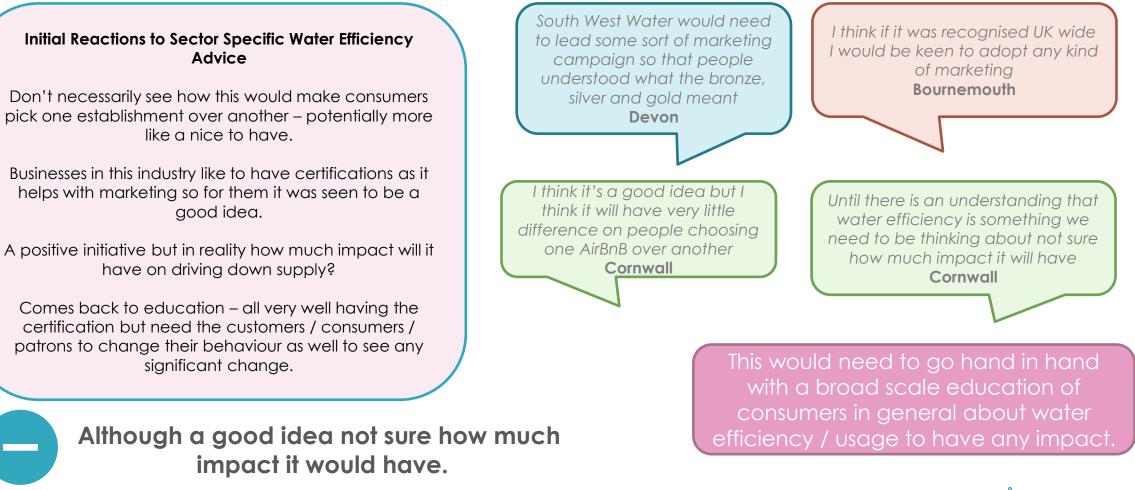




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Reactions to demand side options

As certification is already commonplace in the hospitality industry it was seen to be feasible that this could be a good addition.





Demand options



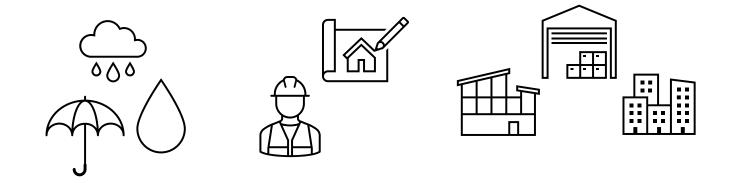


This option is work with developers to provide rainwater harvesting systems to provide a nonpotable supply for use within the new commercial properties.

Water is collected from roof runoff and a sustainable drainage system is created. The collected water goes through a basic level of treatment. Rainwater harvesting is included in the development to meet planning conditions.

SWW have already implemented small scale pilots through our WaterShed schemes, including installing rainwater harvesting tanks at a primary school in Exmouth to be used to flush toilets.

Funding for these would either be fully or part funded by water companies, with remaining setup costs and ongoing costs covered by the individual owner of each building.





It's a no brainer, it's a way It makes a Initial Reactions to Rainwater harvesting for of being efficient with lot of sense what's already there new developments We should have much more Cornwall **Bournemouth** emphasis on going forward Positively received – would like to see more with these sustainable systems rainwater harvesting in general so this is seen that harvest water and make it more reusable as a positive step in the right direction. Devon Can see how this would have a large scale It's a brilliant use of recycling water impact on supply and demand. that would otherwise just go into the sewers, I think it's a great idea All behind this but particularly developers who Bournemouth Absolutely bana on want to use more innovative and sustainable Devon technologies and initiatives in their developments. Currently limited to new commercial developments non household customers Appealing and moving more in the direction would like to see more rainwater harvesting customers would like water companies and usage in the future

Reactions to demand side options

to go in the future

Rainwater harvesting for new developments was very warmly received by all.

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South West Water

Demand options





This option would see treated wastewater effluent from industrial customers being reused for supply to industrial customers.

This reclaimed water could be used for industrial/commercial use for:

- Cooling
- Heating
- Washing and cleaning areas
- Greywater

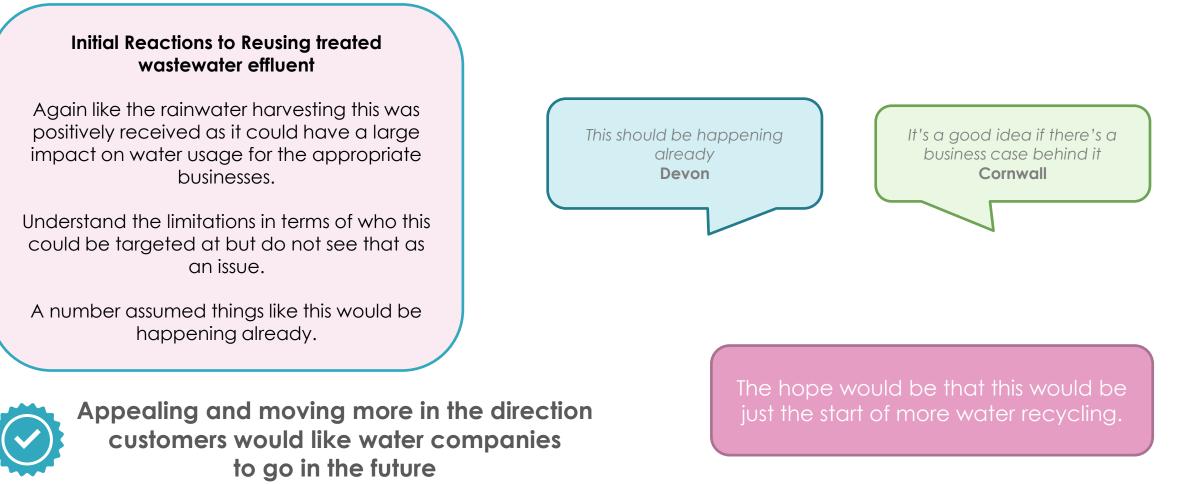
This would not be used for potable water.





Reactions to demand side options The idea of reusing treated wastewater effluent was also received very positively.





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Reactions to demand side options

There is the immediate assumption that any offering/initiative from South West Water to get demand down would come at a cost.



Overall non household customers were positive about the demand side options suggested and the fact that it would be South West Water offering them. The fact that South West Water / Bournemouth Water is the wholesaler was not seen to be a problem.

Maybe it's up to the water companies to lift water saving up the environmental agenda **Cornwall**

More than open to looking at getting consumption down particularly if they were told why they need to do it

But believe that there would be a charge for any of the demand side options

Would need to be directed / guided by the experts as to what they need to do

There is a will and openness to change but there needs to be a motivating factor to help encourage them to do it.

You need to be convinced there is a problem. Until I was on this call my perception was we've never had a restriction in water therefore there's not a problem so we don't need to change **Bournemouth** There would be greater inclination to engage with demand side options if they were offered for free. Learning that the majority would be fully funded makes them more appealing but similarly the current climate may make people more inclined to make adjustments as there is a clear need to make changes (this just needs to be highlighted further). There is quite a big focus on sustainability and that sort of thing. I know of one restaurant on the little high street here that reuses all of their water **Bournemouth**

I think incentivising to encourage good behaviour would be really worthwhile **Devon**



Reactions to demand side options Non household customers were most positive about the demand side options where big gains could be made. South West Water • Seen to be the most engaging and appealing The last one • Limited to who it is available / open to but could see a lot of water saved / reused Could have because of the high usage the most Cornwall impact on supply Again seen to be highly engaging and appealing • Limited to who it is available / open to but could see a lot of water saved / reused It's something that we need direction with. We need auidance. We all • If the BEV could identify areas that have not already been considered then this would be want to help positive and appealing More broadly because water is Could be utilised by a variety of different business types such a precious targeted / resource Gets more Devon businesses • Helps customers better understand their usage and the leakage identification is appealing involved Could be utilised by a variety of different business types I would say the smart meter would give me a better idea of what we are using • Seen to be a good idea but unsure of how this would actually get demand down when you and then we can can't influence end customer behaviour. work from there efficiency Cornwall

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Conclusions & Recommendations.





The conversation has already started about water conservation and efficiency with the news over the Summer about water levels, droughts and hosepipe bans. It is therefore important to keep the momentum going. It is more top of mind than it has ever been so is the perfect opportunity to engage with non household customers about what they could be doing. The challenge is getting them to see how they can be part of the solution.

When considering supply and demand non household customers are more inclined to lean towards increasing supply through fixing leaks as being the best option or a key area of focus rather than considering the part they play in decreasing demand. They perhaps do not fully appreciate the impact lots of people making small changes can have. Equally with many seeing significant leaks at various points they need to see or feel effort is being put in by SWW/BW to conserve water too to make them more inclined to do their bit as well (large scale visible leaks is viewed as tangible waste, customers do not understand the inner workings and financial implications instead taking the black and white view of water is being wasted). This way the challenge of supply and demand becomes a team effort rather than customers feeling they are being asked to make changes and not seeing behaviour change from above.

At a simplistic level many believe that they are already doing all they can to save water. They are mindful of what they use, are certainly not wasteful and have often taken steps to install measures, devices or change staff behaviour. More education and guidance is required to help them better see and understand what they could be doing further to help save water and why it is required.





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The Government targets presented seem like a big ask for many when they consider how they currently use water in their business. However, there is willingness to make change and to look at ways to save more water, they just need someone to help them do it.

For the majority SWW / BW are viewed as their supplier – there is little differentiation between wholesaler and retailer so they would be happy to receive water efficiency advice and initiatives from SWW/BW (who are seen as the experts in charge of the product).

Many are time poor and cost sensitive. Easy, cheap or free fixes would be welcomed. They are much more likely to engage with something if there is no cost or if there is an incentive to do so. Compliance and engagement can be bought however, there is an increased sense of needing to be more conscious about water usage as we look to the future and this could also be capitalised on.

Smart Metering and Business Efficiency Visits were all viewed favourably and could be utilised by a variety of different businesses in a variety of different sectors.

A key positive about smart metering was about helping to identify leaks (which as we have noted is important to customers) but equally helping businesses to better understand their water usage and thus perhaps be able to see how they could make changes was also seen as a plus.





Business Efficiency Visits could help businesses consider things they might not have thought about previously in terms of saving water. Delivering this online or virtually would certainly be welcomed where it is appropriate.

All non household customers can very easily get behind and support reusing water and rainwater harvesting. This is an area where they want to see more focus and improvements and where they believe large savings could be made. They also see technology improvements and advancements as being important for the future with regards water supply and demand.

Developers are keen to make use of any new technology or initiatives to use in their properties so welcome SWW/BW looking at areas like this.

Mentioned by many but more commonly by those in the hospitality industry is how there needs to be a behaviour and attitude change across the board with regards water use. Pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels etc can only do so much in terms of installing water saving devices to drive demand down. What they need to support their efforts is a global attitude and behaviour change in how people think about and use water in general. The view is that people may have longer showers in a hotel because they are not paying directly for it. If this mindset could be shifted then this could have a significant impact on demand.







So what does this mean?

- Non household customers are open and willing to consider decreasing demand but need support to do so.
- Education and guidance is needed to help businesses reduce their water consumption but education is also required to change consumer attitudes and behaviour towards water usage in general.
- Non household customers welcome plans to increase rainwater harvesting and recycling and are pleased that SWW/BW are looking at doing more things like this. Greater communications about plans such as this and also work and plans relating to leakage will help get non household customers on board and engaged with the cause.



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