

## **SAVE OUR ISLAND MARCH 2023 SUBMISSION TO THE HAYLING HERALD**

SOUTHERN Water are consulting on their proposal to recycle effluent from Budds Farm Sewage Treatment Works and undertake additional treatment at a new plant at Broadmarsh in Havant, then discharge this recycled water into the Havant Thicket Reservoir to mix with the spring water from the Bedhampton Springs.

With these proposals, the spring-fed water currently running from your taps is AT AN END. This treatment process is not 100% reliable, therefore contamination events will occur, and there will not be a real-time quality monitoring system to prevent cross-contamination. The reliability of our water supply would no longer be guaranteed as the water will be effectively controlled by Southern Water, and stored and distributed across the South in any way they see fit.

We will move to a point where we will almost certainly experience shortages and restrictions in the future. There will be no legal limits on how much water is from the new treatment works is mixed with the spring water or where it is sent.

Both companies have disgracefully excluded from their proposals the fact that Portsmouth Water customers are to be fed water from this new combined system, and that the supply would no longer be guaranteed as it is today.

The siting of the new treatment works at Broadmarsh makes no sense. It is the most expensive option, and requires 40kms of unnecessarily high-cost infrastructure to transport the water from Havant Thicket to Southampton. It would be much cheaper to install effluent treatment systems and infrastructure close to the point of need. The only reason to look at Havant is to suck the Bedhampton Springs dry for use elsewhere.

Havant Borough Council have no power over these proposals – they can only object to Defra in the same way as residents. The best way to gain attention to this unnecessary and unproven project is to present your objections directly to Defra. You can do this via <https://havantmatters.org/water/>

Dave Parham