

## CIWEM: The Global Environment 2007

# A Sustainable Water Industry?

*How might a more sustainable water industry deliver public drinking water supplies?*

*Milo Purcell*

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## Presentation Summary

- What matters?
- DWI expectations for SDS
- Challenges or distractions?
- A shared objective?

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# What matters?

Primary duties and core values:

- Vigilance on public health matters
- Stewardship of assets

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# What matters?

- Meeting statutory obligations
- Meeting changing consumer expectations
- Managing uncertainty, especially climate change
- By risk management behaviour and culture
- Delivered through drinking water safety plans

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# DWI expectations for SDS

Meet primary duties by providing a clean safe drinking water to all consumers by:

- A commitment to an integrated source to tap risk management approach to water supply;
- using critical control strategies for actual and potential hazards arising at source, during treatment, during distribution, and within consumer premises;
- establishing the appropriate level of sustainable activity for operating and maintaining water supply assets to secure public confidence

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# DWI expectations for SDS

Contd

- Set out strategic objectives, and how outcomes might be assessed
- Address all PR09 targets and activities within context of strategic objectives
- Address local drinking water quality issues through Actions Plans agreed with key stakeholders

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# Challenges or Distractions?

## Perceptions of risk:

- Extrapolating from our current experience with spurious certainty
  - Risk assessments
  - Consumer confidence
  - Climate change

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# Challenges or Distractions?

## Governance:

- Enabling water companies to manage
  - SDS = ownership = incentive
  - SDS = pace = cost
- Competition?
  - Retail/combined
  - Take efficiencies within reach
  - Contract out
  - Asset redistribution

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## Challenges or Distractions?

Sustainable solutions balance social and environmental pressures, e.g:

- Catchment management
- Resource use
- Metering

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## A shared objective?

Sustainable resource and asset  
stewardship using water safety plans  
to promote public confidence in the  
supply of safe clean drinking water

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**guardians of drinking water  
quality**

**dwi website  
<http://www.dwi.gov.uk>**

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