



Notification concerning the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027

From Monday 22 March 2021 to Tuesday 21 September 2021, you can submit your views on the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 and its annexes – the draft texts of the river basin management plans, the flood risk management plan and the North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027. You can also submit your views on the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and the appropriate assessment of these plans. How you can do this is set out below.

The National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 describes the main elements of national water policy and its implementation with regard to national waters. The ministries of Infrastructure & Water Management, the Interior & Kingdom Relations, and Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality are responsible for this programme. There is water everywhere in the Netherlands. We live with, near and even on water. Water presents the Netherlands with major challenges: we need to adapt to the effects of climate change, maintain our flood defences, and ensure climate-resilient freshwater supplies in the face of more frequent and more severe droughts. Water quality, biodiversity and the sustainability of drinking water supplies also demand our constant efforts. Water is also essential for economic sectors like shipping and agriculture, and for the natural world. In the North Sea, many different interests need to be balanced, such as offshore wind power, nature development, sustainable fisheries, shipping and sand extraction.

Every six years, central government drafts a National Water Plan and a Management and Development Plan for National Waters. For the 2022 – 2027 period, in anticipation of the entry into force of the new Environment and Planning Act, these two plans will be combined in a single programme.

COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL WATER PROGRAMME 2022 – 2027

The following draft documents are available for inspection:

- Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 and the following annexes;
- Draft river basin management plans 2022 – 2027 for the Dutch parts of the Rhine, Maas, Scheldt and Eems river basins (EU Water Framework Directive);
- Draft flood risk management plans 2022 – 2027 for the Dutch parts of the Rhine, Maas, Scheldt and Eems river basins (EU Floods Directive);
- Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027, including Part 3 of the Marine Strategy for the Dutch part of the North Sea (MSFD programme of measures).

A strategic environmental assessment (Environmental Management Act/Wet Milieubeheer) and an appropriate assessment (Nature Conservancy Act/Wet Natuurbescherming) have been drawn up for the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027.

You can present your views on all these documents. Additional documentation is provided for information purposes.

PRECEDING PARTICIPATION PROCESS

By means of a participation process, subnational authorities and stakeholders from across society have been involved in the development of the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 and its annexes from an early stage. At the end of 2019, there was a public consultation on the proposal to draft a National Water Programme 2022 – 2027, together with the plan for a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). People were also invited to comment on the participation plan. Area-based and theme-based sessions were organised to collect input on specific issues that stakeholders from across society and subnational authorities would like to see addressed. The Physical Environment Consultative Council (Overlegorgaan Fysieke Leefomgeving) also organised a consultation for stakeholders in the water domain and the resulting recommendations have been incorporated in the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027.

YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOME

You can submit your views in three ways. You will always be sent confirmation of receipt. Please indicate what part of the plans or documents you are responding to.



BY EMAIL

This is the preferred option.

Send your views to PostbusNationaalWaterProgramma@minienw.nl.



IN PERSON

Give your views by phone. Call +31 (0)70 456 89 99 during office hours.



BY POST

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Participation Department
attn. National Water Programme
PO Box 20901, 2500 EX The Hague



READ THE DOCUMENTS

All documents will be available online from Monday 22 March 2021 to Tuesday 21 September 2021 at:
www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma.

Paper copies of the documents will be available for inspection from Monday 22 March 2021 to Tuesday 21 September 2021 at:

- **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management**, Rijnstraat 8, The Hague (by appointment only, tel. +31 (0)70 456 89 99).
- **Rijkswaterstaat**, Griffioenlaan 2, 3526 LA Utrecht, tel. +31 (0)88 797 11 11.

The documents are also available for public inspection at the offices of every province in the Netherlands. The addresses of all locations where the documents can be inspected are listed on:
www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma.

NB: You may need to make an appointment to inspect the documents in person and opening hours may be limited due to COVID-19-related measures. It is therefore a good idea to telephone the location before you go.



FOLLOW-UP

After the period for collecting views starts, the ministries involved will ask the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment for its opinion on the strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment. When the period for collecting views has ended, the views submitted and the advice of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment will be taken on board when the ministers concerned draw up the final National Water Programme 2022 – 2027.

Everyone who submits their views will receive feedback on how their views have been used. The government's responses to the views submitted will be collated in a memorandum of response that will be published at the end of March 2022 on www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma together with the final National Water Programme 2022 – 2027, including annexes. It is not possible to lodge an objection against the final programme or apply to the courts for review.



INFORMATION

More information on:

www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma and
www.helpdeskwater.nl/nwp.

Questions regarding the procedure? If you have any questions about the procedure, please phone +31 (0)70 456 89 99.

Questions regarding the content? If you have any questions about the content of the National Water Programme 2022 – 2027, please email:
PostbusNationaalWaterProgramma@minienw.nl.