



Drinking water savings:  
time for results

2025

# Drinking water under pressure

Netherlands  
Court of Audit

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# 1.

# Executive summary

**The information presented in this report was prepared as part of the Accountability Audit 2024 of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (XII), the Mobility Fund (A) and the Delta Fund (J).**

Drinking water security is an urgent problem in the Netherlands. Dozens of businesses have had their applications for a drinking water connection rejected since 2022. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) warned in 2023 that the Netherlands would need 102 million m<sup>3</sup> more drinking water in 2030 than in 2020 (RIVM, 2023). The Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W) is responsible for drinking water security and has taken several initiatives, including water saving measures, to secure an adequate supply.

The Minister of I&W has set a target for household drinking water consumption of 100 litres per person per day. The target for business consumers is a 20% reduction relative to 2016-2019. Household consumption has fallen in recent years, but business consumption has risen.

The minister's measurable targets are to be applauded but their achievement is uncertain. It cannot be taken for granted that consumers will use water more efficiently and a modest price increase will probably not reduce consumption. The minister is currently studying technical measures but compulsory implementation will be a long process. Efficiency measures are making slow progress. Drinking water savings are difficult to achieve among households and the minister does not know which measures will be effective for business users. Furthermore, no information is available on the consequences of drinking water shortages.

In our opinion, it is doubtful that the minister's targets to reduce household and business drinking water consumption will be met. Given the serious and urgent nature of the problems, the policy results are worrying.

The Court of Audit recommends that the minister facilitate a change in behaviour by making citizens and businesses more aware of the urgency of a drinking water shortage. He should also deepen his understanding of how businesses use drinking water. It would then be clear which measures were effective. The minister should further gain more information on the potential consequences of drinking water shortages and so improve insight into, for instance, the consequences for housebuilding.

# 2.

# Drinking water savings

## 2.1 Supply under pressure

The Netherlands is consuming more and more drinking water. Demand is being driven by economic activity, population growth and climate change. Supply, however, can no longer be taken for granted. Since 2022, dozens of companies have had their applications for a water connection rejected. Several drinking water companies, moreover, do not have the operational capacity necessary to deal with unforeseen fluctuations in demand. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) warned in 2023 that 102 million m<sup>3</sup> more drinking water would be needed in 2030 than in 2020 (RIVM, 2023). Outside the Netherlands, too, climate change is one of the factors forcing other countries to work on drinking water security. The European Commission launched a water resilience strategy in 2025, a key element of which is responsible use of drinking water.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W) is responsible for public drinking water security in the Netherlands. The 10 drinking water companies he has designated to operate in the national distribution regions reported a combined turnover in 2023 of €1.7 billion (Vewin, 2024). The minister has adopted several strategies to secure supplies. They include: (1) increasing the number of sources, (2) reducing consumption, and (3) widening the investment opportunities of drinking water companies.

This audit is concerned with the second strategy: drinking water savings.

## Drinking water savings: targets and results

The Minister of I&W has set a target of reducing household consumption from 119 litres per person per day in 2023 to 100 litres in 2035. By 2035, business consumers must reduce their consumption by 20% relative to the 2016-2019 reference period.

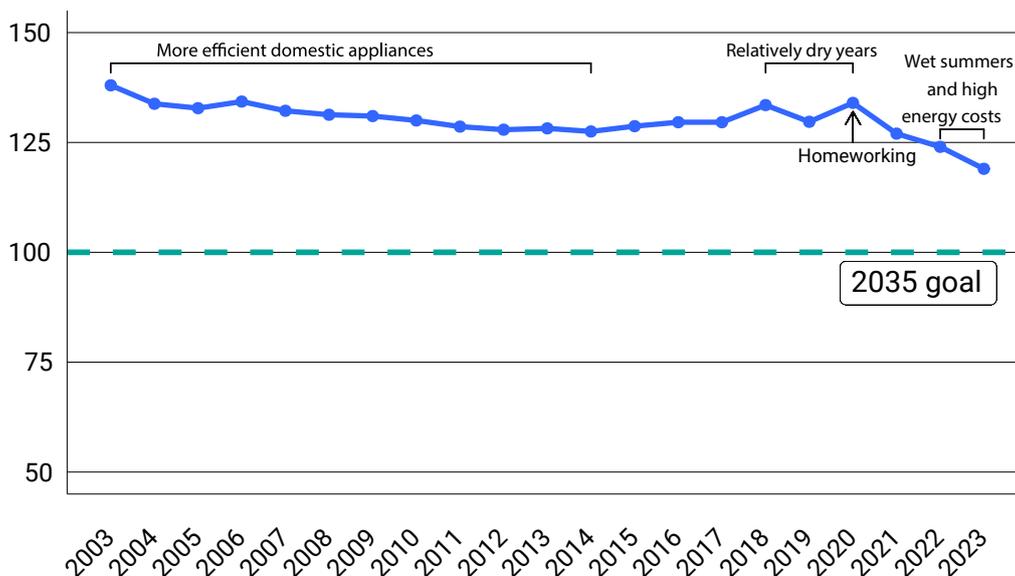
Meeting these targets requires the cooperation of households, businesses and drinking water companies. We investigated the feasibility of the targets, the minister's insight into the results and whether the minister understood the consequences of future drinking water shortages.

Household drinking water consumption has fallen in recent years, after previously having risen. This has brought the targets closer. Demand is influenced by both the minister's policies and factors beyond his control, such as drought. Consumption in 2020 might have been boosted, for instance, by the increase in homeworking, and the decline since 2022 might have been prompted by people taking shorter showers (in response to high energy costs) and higher rainfall in the summer months. Changes in household drinking water consumption since 2003 are shown in figure 1.

**Figure 1** Household drinking water consumption relative to the target for 2035

### Household drinking water consumption in litres per person per day 2003-2023

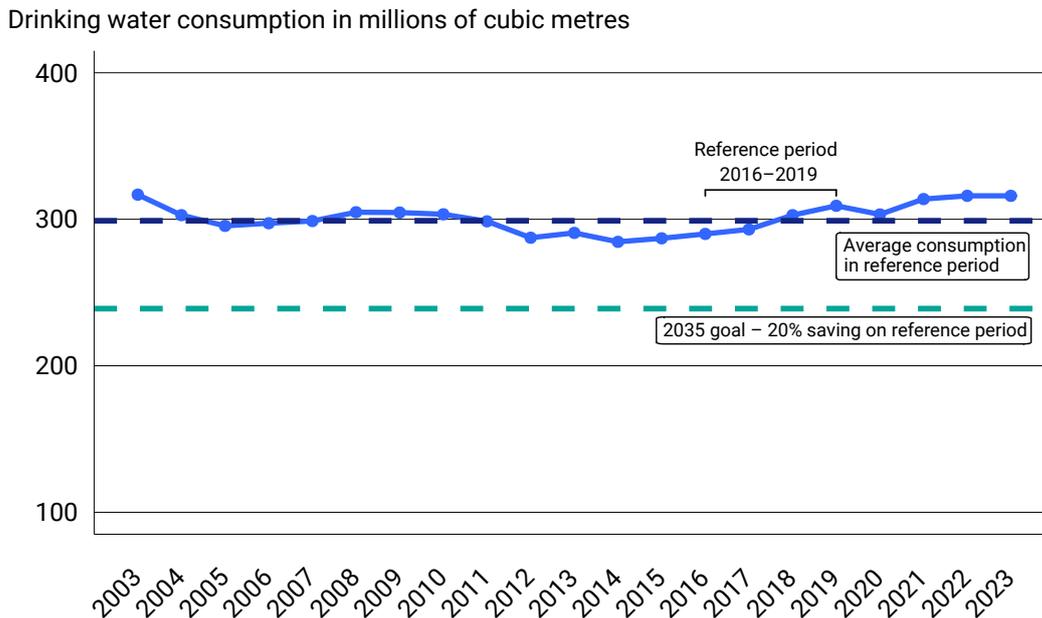
Drinking water consumption in litres per person per day



Business consumption of drinking water has increased in recent years, after previously having fallen. The causes are not entirely clear.

**Figure 2** Business drinking water consumption relative to the goal for 2035

**Business drinking water consumption in millions of cubic metres per annum 2003-2023**



Source: Statistics Netherlands and Vewin

Despite the fall in household consumption, and the uncertainty about its continuation, households still have some way to go to meet the target for 2035. For business users, the gap between consumption in the reference period and the target has actually widened rather than narrowing. Our audit leads to the conclusion that achievement of the desired results by 2035 is doubtful.

**Background: delay in identifying strategic stocks**

In 2022 we concluded in *Focus on strategic stocks* that little progress had been made identifying national groundwater reserves (NGRs) to respond to major, multiyear emergencies and to secure supplies until 2100 (Netherlands Court of Audit, 2022). The Minister of I&W said at the time that he expected NGRs to be designated within 2 years. On completion of this Accountability Audit, they had still not been. Designation is accordingly behind schedule. Our focus investigation also concluded that not all provinces had identified supplementary strategic reserves (SSRs) as potential sources of drinking water. On completion of this Accountability Audit, not all provinces had identified SSRs. Groningen province, for instance, expected to present an SSR plan in 2025 and North Brabant had not identified SSRs because groundwater consumption was at a maximum. Zeeland had not identified SSRs because it had no fresh groundwater reserves and sufficient surface water was available from reservoirs and infiltration.

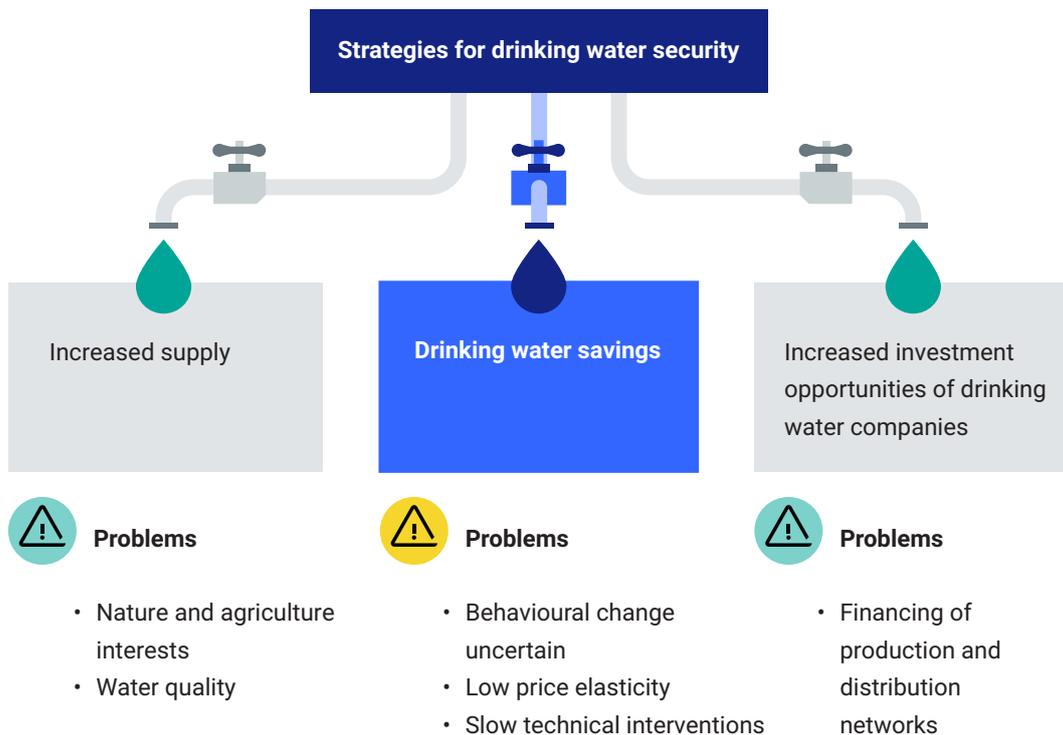
## 2.2 Tangible policy targets, but interventions making slow progress

### Drinking water savings are one way to tackle the problems

The Minister of I&W applied 3 strategies in the past year to secure drinking water supplies, as shown in figure 3.

**Figure 3** Three strategies for drinking water security

We investigated 1 of the 3 strategies: drinking water savings



Many problems influence drinking water security. The minister is simultaneously working on 3 strategies to ensure availability, one being drinking water savings. In June 2024, he presented a *National Drinking Water Action Plan* (I&W, 2024a). In November of the same year he increased the weighted average cost of capital in order to help drinking water companies invest in, for instance, production capacity and the replacement and renovation of outdated infrastructure.

In conjunction with the Association of Provincial Authorities and the Association of Water Companies in the Netherlands (Vewin), the Minister of I&W presented the *Water Availability Action Programme 2023-2030* in January 2025 (I&W, 2025b). Besides regional action plans, it includes 6 national actions, including options to accelerate environmental and planning procedures. The programme was prompted

by an RIVM report warning of an estimated 102 million m<sup>3</sup> drinking water shortfall in 2030. Increasing the number of water sources is not always feasible or realistic as the plans sometimes conflict with agriculture or nature interests and there is always the risk of legal proceedings. Taking a new drinking water source into production can take many years. Poor water quality is a further problem facing drinking water companies. The Monitor of Well-being compiled by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) states that in 2024 not a single surface water body (such as a river or canal) in the Netherlands met chemical quality standards. It should be noted here that water quality is determined by means of the 'one out, all out' principle: if just 1 of the criteria is not met, the water is deemed to be below standard.

#### **What is drinking water?**

There are many definitions of what is commonly known as drinking water. For the purposes of our audit, we use the definition provided in the Drinking Water Act. It is relevant to the scope of the 'duty of care'. Under the Drinking Water Act, water companies are obliged to supply water for household use.

Businesses are accordingly not formally entitled to drinking water if it is used for non-household purposes.

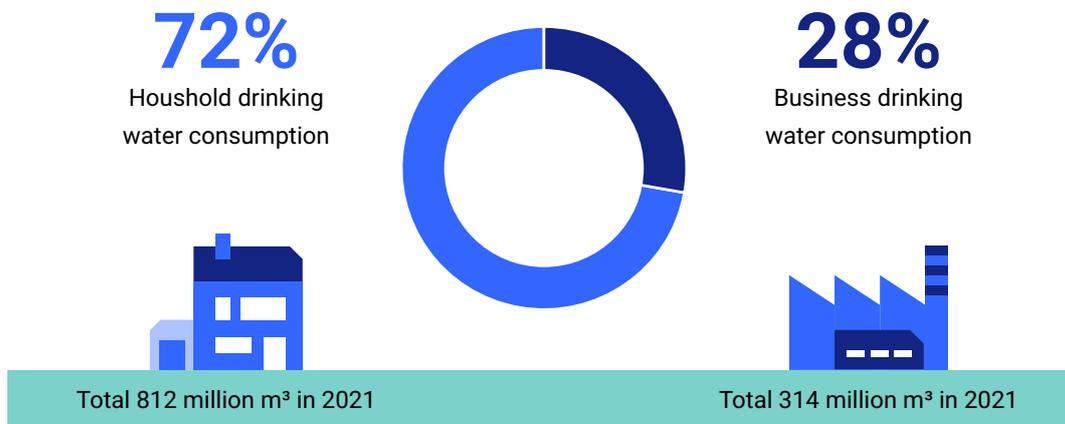
#### **The minister has set clear targets**

The minister has set measurable targets that have the backing of many parties, including local authorities, industry associations and drinking water companies, which is to be applauded. A minister's targets are not always measurable and do not always enjoy such support. The minister wants to reduce household consumption to 100 litres a day by 2035 and business consumption by 20%. The greatest gains are to be made by reducing household consumption, which accounts for nearly three-quarters of all drinking water consumption in the Netherlands.

In their offices and industrial processes, business customers use about a quarter of total drinking water. Water of drinking water quality that is not used for household purposes does not fall under the Drinking Water Act's definition of drinking water. Besides mains water, business customers also use surface water and groundwater.

**Figure 4 Household and business drinking water consumption**

**Most drinking water consumed by households**

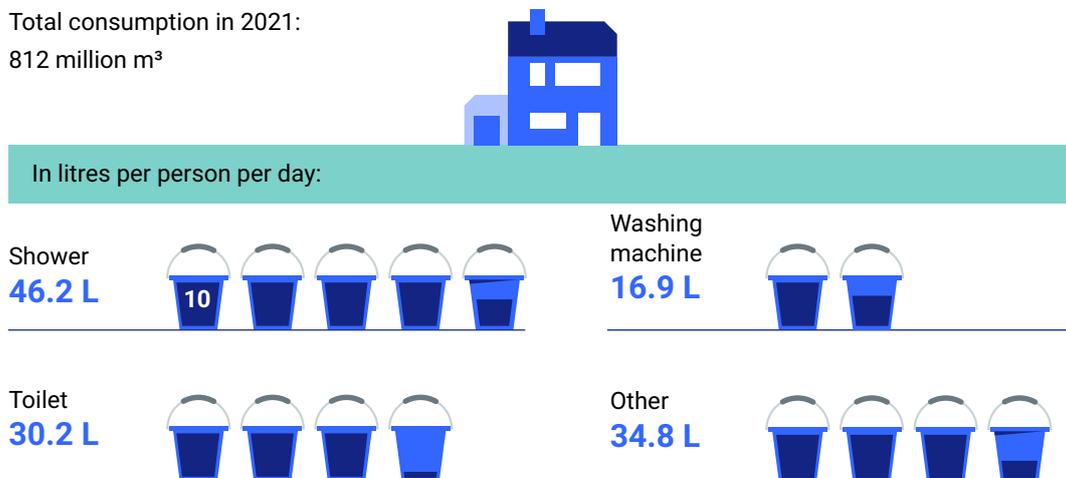


Showers and toilets account for most household use of drinking water (together more than 76 litres per person per day).

**Figure 5 Main components of household drinking water consumption**

**Showers and toilets account for most household drinking water consumption**

Total consumption in 2021:  
812 million m³



**Initiatives slow to take form**

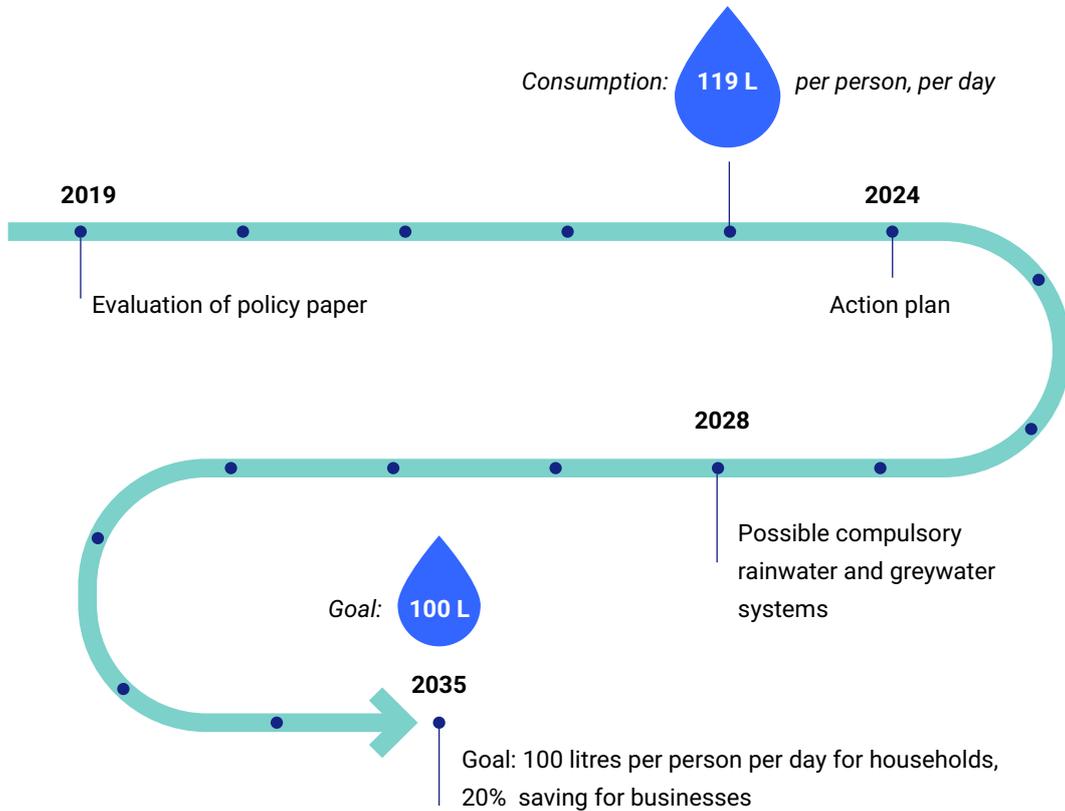
Drinking water security has become an urgent problem. Developing new policy to reduce drinking water use, however, is time consuming. Many policy-making processes are under way but few concrete initiatives have been taken to meet the 2035 targets. Evaluation of the previous policy paper in 2019 recommended the prioritisation of drinking water savings. It took the government 3 years, not until 2022, before it set out its first savings targets in a letter to parliament entitled *Water and Soil as Guiding Principles* (I&W, 2022). In June 2024, the Minister of I&W submitted the *National Drinking Water Action Plan* to the House of Representatives.

The time line is shown in figure 6 below.

**Figure 6** Timeline for drinking water saving measures

### Drinking water saving initiatives slow to take form

Saving initiatives since 2019 but policy-making takes years



## 2.3 Achievement of household target doubtful

Households currently account for most drinking water consumption. To meet the household saving target, the Minister of I&W is seeking a change in behaviour and greater water-awareness in construction projects. He is working on a national water awareness campaign. It is difficult to predict how effective measures to change behaviour will be. A study carried out for Ons Water concluded that the public had only a limited sense of urgency regarding drinking water shortages (Market Response, 2024). Another study for I&W found that drinking water had very low price elasticity, which means a modest price increase would have little effect on consumption (I&W, 2024b).

A considerable proportion of household drinking water is used to flush toilets. The use of rainwater or greywater could potentially save a lot of drinking water. The

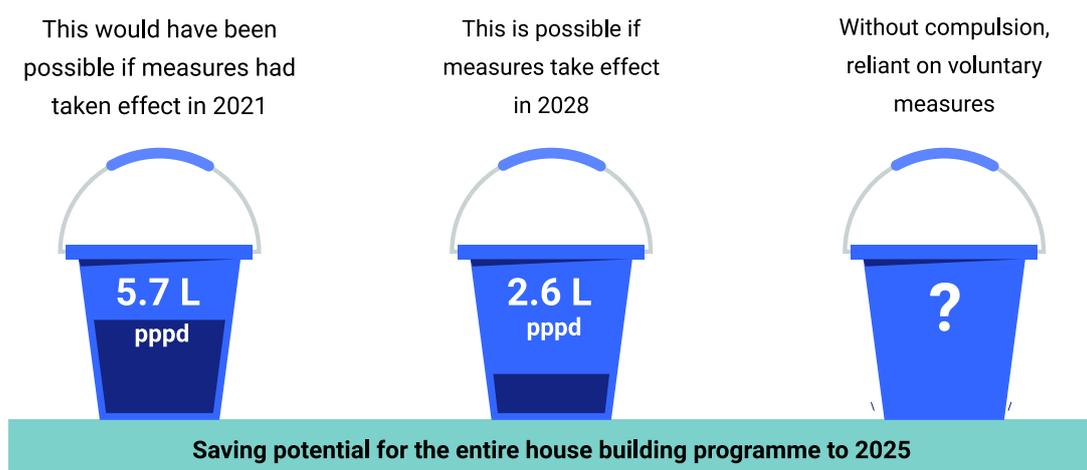
Minister of I&W therefore regards housebuilding as an opportunity to save drinking water. Fitting the many houses that have to be built with a rainwater or greywater system would make a significant contribution to the saving targets. It is uncertain, however, whether such systems will be made compulsory. They might come with detrimental effects to public health. It is also uncertain whether they would be the most efficient solution; a study for the minister found that rainwater and greywater systems were very expensive (Witteveen+Bos, 2023). To determine whether they could be made compulsory under the decree on construction works in the living environment (BBL), I&W has commissioned several studies into health risks (by the RIVM) and into the cost and benefits.

Many houses will already have been built if and when such systems become compulsory. The housebuilding programme commenced in 2021 and it will take many years, until 2028 at the earliest, before all studies are completed and the regulations (the BBL) are amended. The Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning, moreover, has introduced the STOER programme to scrap conflicting and unnecessary rules and so reduce the regulatory burden on housebuilding. It is thus far from certain whether a new compulsory measure will be introduced. Legal amendments may therefore contribute less to the goals, as shown in figure 7. The assumptions made for this analysis are explained in the appendix.

**Figure 7** Possible effect of compulsory water saving measures

**Minister’s water saving initiatives are uncertain**

Minister counting on major savings from compulsory water saving measures in house building programme



It is doubtful whether the minister will achieve his household water saving target. Furthermore, he has not set milestones to gauge progress towards the target.

The minister has also failed to explain whether he expects drinking water consumption to fall gradually or abruptly. The savings expected by, say, 2030 in order to meet the 2035 target are therefore not known. This should have been thought through in advance in order to adapt policy where necessary.

The Minister of I&W has commissioned studies of the potential benefits of compulsory rainwater or greywater systems and of the pricing system for drinking water. But he has not used the results to check whether he is on course to achieve the targets. The studies' implications for the targets are accordingly uncertain.

## 2.4 Little insight into savings by business consumers

Drinking water companies supply both households and business customers. A study by the KWR research institute found that companies use water of drinking water quality in processes that do not require drinking water (KWR, 2023). Manufacturing companies use mains water of drinking water quality the most, especially those in the food and chemical sectors.

### Ceiling on mains water tax has never been evaluated

Both households and business customers pay tax on their first 300 m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water. Use above 300 m<sup>3</sup> is not taxed. In practice, business customers do not pay tax on the water they use in excess of the ceiling. The difference in household and business taxation was underpinned in 2000 with the introduction of mains water tax to replace the higher rate of VAT on water (Fin, 1999). The tax was targeted chiefly at households. The increased tax burden on households was offset by changes in salaries and income tax.

In late 2024, the Minister of I&W submitted a report by Witteveen+Bos to the House of Representatives that concluded that an increase in mains water tax or the tax ceiling would probably have little or no effect on water savings (I&W, 2024b). The minister nevertheless said that he was considering raising the ceiling to prevent waste and for budgetary reasons.

In effect, the upper limit of 300 m<sup>3</sup> is a tax scheme for businesses. The Ministry of Finance estimated the tax loss in 2025 at €110 million. In the past 25 years, the mains water tax ceiling has never been evaluated, even though evaluation is compulsory. The Minister of I&W therefore has no insight into its efficiency and effectiveness.

The Minister of I&W has no information on the possible effectiveness of incentives offered to business customers to save water. As too little is known nationally about what businesses in diverse sectors are using drinking water for, effective incentives cannot be identified and the feasibility of the 20% reduction target is uncertain. With low price elasticity, increasing the cost of drinking water will probably make only a limited contribution to the target.

## 2.5 Consequences of drinking water shortages not entirely clear

In 2022, business customers in several parts of the Netherlands were refused new drinking water connections. An evaluation carried out in 2019 of the previous policy period qualified the rising demand for drinking water as being of 'limited urgency'. The Minister of I&W did not foresee the drinking water shortages in the intervening 3 years. It is remarkable that the minister makes long-term water security plans but does not anticipate fluctuations in demand in the relatively short term.

We also found that the minister does not know how often drinking water companies refuse to connect business customers. Nor does he know which and how many housebuilding projects might be cancelled or delayed because they cannot be connected to the water mains. The minister does not have a comprehensive understanding of the consequences of regional drinking water shortages for national ambitions such as the housebuilding programme. Vewin compiled a map in 2022 visualising the housebuilding programme and drinking water security weaknesses. Housebuilding is planned chiefly in areas where security is already under pressure. The Ministry of I&W admits that it does not collect information on the consequences of drinking water shortages, even though it would strengthen the minister's ability to anticipate the societal consequences of shortages and inform parliament about them. The Minister of I&W is responsible for drinking water security. As future availability appears precarious, he should gain a better understanding of the societal consequences of a shortage and plan his response accordingly.

## 2.6 Conclusions

The Minister of I&W is responsible for drinking water security in the Netherlands. The success of his policy depends in part on other authorities, drinking water companies, businesses and the public. For many years the Netherlands has been able to take drinking water security for granted but it no longer can. Drinking water scarcity might

be a relative novelty in the Netherlands, but it is not unknown internationally. Perhaps the minister could learn from countries that have more experience.

The minister has launched several strategies in recent years to secure the supply of drinking water. One of them involves drinking water savings to reduce demand. To this end, he has set concrete targets: a 20% reduction in business consumption by 2035 and household consumption of 100 litres per person per day by the same year. Whether these targets will be met will depend largely on how the strategy is implemented.

The minister's water saving strategy is facing a range of problems; behavioural change cannot be taken for granted, drinking water has low price elasticity, and the compulsory technical measures being studied are making slow progress.

Measures to save drinking water are slowly taking form. As milestones have not been set, it is uncertain whether the minister is on course to meet his targets. Households have difficulty reducing water consumption. Furthermore, the minister has no insight into the potential effectiveness of water saving measures for business customers or information on the consequences of drinking water shortages.

We therefore doubt whether the minister will meet his targets of reducing household and business drinking water consumption.

### **Recommendations**

We recommend that the Minister of I&W:

- set milestones and gain an insight into the effectiveness of measures to achieve the targets (e.g. campaigns and technical interventions);
- increase insight into business consumption of drinking water so as to identify effective measures;
- evaluate the mains water tax break (the ceiling) available to business customers;
- collect information on the potential societal impact of drinking water shortages so that he is better able to anticipate shortages and inform parliament about them;
- continue his efforts to increase citizens and businesses' sense of urgency about drinking water shortages in order to bring about behavioural change;
- learn from other countries' responses to drinking water shortages.

### Opinion on policy results

This audit tested the minister's policy results against the applicable criteria. We express an opinion on the results based on a five-point scale: very worrying, worrying, poor, acceptable, good.

Drinking water savings can play an important role in drinking water security now and in the future. Given the urgency and seriousness of the challenge, in our opinion the policy results are worrying.

### Opinion



# 3.

## Response of the minister and the Court of Audit's afterword

The Minister of I&W responded to our draft report on 28 April 2025. His response is presented below. We close this chapter with our afterword.

### 3.1 Response of the Minister of I&W

The minister writes, 'The Ministry of I&W thanks the Court of Audit for its analysis of the policy on public drinking water security with regard to drinking water savings. I&W agrees that we must do our best to maintain the supply of Dutch drinking water at the same high level. In view of the pressure on drinking water, the contribution savings can make and the societal impact of drinking water shortages, the ministry understands the Court of Audit's opinion on current policy results.

At the same time, good steps are being taken. The National Drinking Water Action Plan was submitted to the House of Representatives in June 2024 and the Water Availability Action Programme 2023-2030 in January this year. Increasing the total production capacity of drinking water is at least as important as making savings. This is a complex issue and its feasibility is largely in the hands of drinking water companies, their municipal and provincial shareholders and other public bodies. It will take shape by means of the Water Availability Action Programme 2023-2030. In the longer term I&W will lay down the contours of a vision and strategy for public drinking water security after 2030 in the National Water Programme. The Court of Audit's investigation confirms that we are on the right track.

I&W will implement policy along these lines with the aid of the Court's recommendations. The ministry will improve its insight into drinking water

consumption by having Statistics Netherlands study usage by type of household and business. It is also holding talks with Vewin to update understanding of household water usage. The ministry expects a great deal from the drinking water companies' scans of the water used in business processes and the potential savings. The ministry will also consult the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate in order to make better use of the information obtained from water company inspections.

The National Drinking Water Action Plan comprises several measures and instruments for communication, incentivisation and regulation of households, housebuilding and renovation, and business customers. Progress is reported each year and the plan is updated and refined every two years, with a review of the balance between communication, incentivisation and regulation where necessary. The first progress report concludes that implementation is largely on course. A lot of energy has been invested and the parties concerned are doing their utmost. For instance, a study of pricing options was recently submitted to the House of Representatives, the updated water website will soon be online and sectors and drinking water companies are seeking contact with each other to analyse and reduce business drinking water consumption.

A letter on water pricing submitted to the House of Representatives last autumn (parliamentary paper 27 625, no. 691) considered the taxation of mains water and the tax break for wholesale customers. It suggested that raising the tax ceiling as a means to prevent wholesale consumers wasting water could be a logical next step. Your recommendation will be taken into account in the future taxation of mains water.

The Ministry of I&W agrees with the Court of Audit that it is important to work on water awareness. As the minister with overall responsibility for the system, I have to rely on the support of everyone in the Netherlands. People will not change their behaviour if they are not convinced of the benefits and necessity. Through the new water website and campaigns, the ministry is seeking to increase the sense of urgency and awareness of citizens and businesses. Based on a behavioural study, we want to offer them meaningful and acceptable perspectives for action. I&W will accordingly consider solutions that other countries have applied to deal with shortages.

Finally, I&W accepts the Court's recommendation to set milestones in order to monitor progress towards the targets effectively. We will include them in the update

of the National Drinking Water Action Plan in mid-2026. The National Water Programme will be used to clarify the societal consequences of drinking water shortage. With this approach, the Ministry of I&W will carefully and purposefully develop drinking water policy further.'

### 3.2 The Court of Audit's afterword

The Court of Audit thanks the minister for his response. We appreciate his adoption of our recommendations to set milestones, to increase the sense of urgency regarding drinking water shortages and to learn from other countries. We look forward to the results of the minister's undertakings and to his strategy on drinking water security also after 2030.

The minister's pursuit of awareness and behavioural change is welcome. However, our audit found that savings through behavioural change are uncertain. We urge the minister to continue the studies of technical measures, such as rainwater and greywater systems, and base compulsory measures on the findings.

The minister expects a great deal from the drinking water companies' water scans. The scans can identify where individual businesses can make savings. In itself, this is positive but it is uncertain whether promising measures will be identified for specific sectors at national level.

The Court of Audit observes that periodic evaluation of tax regulations is required under the Government Accounts Act and the Order on Periodic Policy Evaluations 2022. The mains water tax ceiling is no exception but it has not been evaluated since its introduction. After we had completed this audit, the State Secretary for Finance shared the provisional outlines of the Tax Plan 2026 with the House. In it, he announced a bill to abolish the tax ceiling on mains water. If it no longer exists, of course, neither will the obligation to evaluate it.

We note that the minister recognises the importance of clarifying the societal consequences of drinking water shortages. He indicates that he will use the *National Water Programme* to this end. In this regard, the minister could collect information on the number of business users that were refused a connection and on the consequences of drinking water shortages for housebuilding projects.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 About this audit

### Policy results

Our audits of policy results are concerned principally with whether citizens and businesses receive value for money and whether ministers inform parliament correctly. We select policy fields on the basis of risk analysis and social relevance.

We audit:

- the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy pursued (Government Accounts Act 2016, section 7.16);
- whether non-financial information meets the standards for reliable preparation and does not conflict with the financial reporting information (Government Accounts Act 2016, section 3.9).

Our audits check whether the policy pursued by the minister meets applicable criteria. We then express an opinion (very worrying, worrying, poor, acceptable or good) on policy effectiveness and efficiency and the outcomes for citizens and businesses in the given context. The opinion can be based on how serious the societal impact will be, but also on whether the government was overwhelmed by an unexpected crisis. Where relevant, we state the criteria we apply.

This present audit's ambition was to contribute to drinking water security and the importance of drinking water savings. Our key audit question was, To what extent is the minister able to underpin his policy on drinking water savings and achieve his targets? We answered this question by means of 4 secondary questions.

The criteria for each question were as follows:

Audit question	Criteria
What responsibilities and instruments are available to the minister with regard to drinking water savings and what targets has he set for 2035?	No criteria tested.
Has the minister underpinned his targets and the effectiveness of policy measures for drinking water savings?	Policy targets are formulated in SMART-C terms. Policy underpinning is based on the best information available.
Is the minister on course to achieve his targets and does he have an insight into the results of policy on drinking water savings?	Policy targets are realistic. If they are in danger of not being met, the minister reconsiders his ambitions or the use of people, resources, money or time. Policy information is complete. In other words, all information relevant to manage, learn from and account for the policy is available. Policy information is up to date. Necessary policy information is available in a timely manner.
Does the minister have sufficient information on the possible consequences of drinking water shortages?	The minister has sufficient insight into the consequences of drinking water shortages.

### Audit method

Our audit was based on document analysis and interviews. We held talks with policy officers at the Ministry of I&W and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate. We also consulted staff at several drinking water companies, Dutch Water Authorities, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, the Association of Provincial Authorities and the Southern Audit Office.

### Note on figure 1

This figure presents data on household drinking water consumption in 2003-2023 compiled by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) (The Netherlands in Figures) and Vewin (Dutch Drinking Water Fact Sheet). The explanation of increases and decreases in household drinking water consumption is based on information in CBS reports and interviews with Vewin.

### Note on figure 2

This figure uses data from the CBS (Environmental Accounts) and Vewin (Dutch Drinking Water Fact Sheet). The *National Drinking Water Action Plan* requires

businesses to reduce their drinking water consumption by 20% by 2035 relative to the 2016-2019 reference period. Based on this information, we calculated the reference amount as average annual drinking water consumption during the reference period: 299 million m<sup>3</sup>. The dashed line representing the 2035 target is calculated as the 20% reduction on the reference period: 239 million m<sup>3</sup>.

### **Note on figure 7**

This figure presents 3 scenarios. The first shows drinking water consumption in 2035 due to the savings that would have been made if the Buildings Decree had been amended in 2021. The potential savings of rainwater and greywater systems between 2021 and 2030 are based on a report by Witteveen+Bos (*Rainwater and greywater use in buildings. Possible obligation of the decree on construction works in the living environment*). The report concludes that two-thirds of the 950,000 new homes in the Housebuilding Programme are suitable for a rainwater system and all new homes for a greywater system. Based on this assumption, rainwater systems would save 15 million m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water per annum and combined rainwater and greywater systems 35 million m<sup>3</sup>. We converted these savings to litres per person per day based on the population in 2030. We also assumed that 60,000 homes would be built each year between 2030 and 2035. This is consistent with a report issued by the Economic Institute for Construction and Housing (*Housebuilding Programme to 2035 and housing association investment capacity*). We calculated the additional saving between 2030 and 2035 in the same way as the Witteveen+Bos report had done. The total saving between 2021 and 2035 was calculated based on a linear development of drinking water savings.

The second scenario shows the saving that would have been made if the decree on construction works in the living environment were to be amended in 2028. We chose the year 2028 due to the time required to complete studies of health risks and financing issues. The potential saving between 2028 and 2030 assumes that 100,000 homes will be built per annum in those years, as projected in the Housebuilding Programme. As in the first scenario, we assumed that 60,000 houses would be built each year between 2030 and 2035 and the development of savings in 2028-2035 would again be linear.

The third scenario shows that it is not known how much water will be saved by 2035 if there is no obligation to use rainwater and greywater systems.

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**Netherlands Court of Audit**

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