

## Tekst 10

WATER THREAT MINISTER BACKS PLAN TO EXTRACT MILLIONS OF GALLONS FROM UNDER CAPITAL

# Move to stop London flooding

By George Parker,  
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The government gave its backing yesterday to an ambitious plan to extract millions of gallons of water from underneath London to stop the capital flooding.

Nick Raynsford, minister for London, is supporting a proposal by Thames Water to pump out about 15m gallons of groundwater a day, from 50 new boreholes.

The water table under London is rising by up to 10 feet a year, and is already seeping into deep-level Underground rail stations.

Geologists warn that Londoners could be using gondolas as their regular form of transport if nothing is done soon to

reverse the situation.

Thames Water will formally announce its plan to tackle the problem at a meeting attended by those with the most to fear from London being submerged.

Insurers and London Transport are among those who may be asked to help pay for the pumping operation, which could cost about £10m initially, and about £2m a year thereafter.

Mr Raynsford has not commented on whether the government will help to meet the bill, but the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions said yesterday he supported the Thames solution.

Thames Water believes that it can use some of the water collected from the

new boreholes for drinking or industrial use, and says it would pay for that part of the operation.

Other water might also be used for watering parks or cleaning streets. Some of the dirtier water would be put into the sewerage system and discharged out into the River Thames in east London.

The rising water table has been attributed to brewers and other industrial users having stopped taking large amounts of ground water through their own boreholes since the 1960s.

Thames Water says deep structures and the foundations of buildings in London will be affected within five years, causing lift shafts to shift – making

lifts inoperable.

The company is proposing a five-stage strategy, including developing existing boreholes and opening up three new sites in central London.

New wells would then be sunk in the heart of the city, with extended pumping at boreholes already owned by London Underground and London & Continental Railways, which is building the rail link to the Channel tunnel. Finally, new boreholes would be built in outer London.

The problem has been getting worse for about 30 years. The Corporation of London has brought those with vested interests together to hammer out a solution on March 17.

*'Financial Times'*

*Lees bij de volgende vragen steeds eerst de opgave voordat je de bijbehorende tekst raadpleegt.*

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“Move to stop London flooding” (titel)

- 1p 42  Noemt de tekst een oorzaak van het stijgende waterpeil in Londen? Zo nee, antwoord “nee”. Zo ja, welke?