



Water Resources Act 1963

1963 CHAPTER 38

PART I

FUNCTIONS OF MINISTERS IN RELATION TO WATER RESOURCES

1 Functions of Ministers

- (1) The duty of the Minister of Housing and Local Government (in this Act referred to as "the Minister") under section 1 of the Water Act 1945 (which requires him to promote the conservation and proper use of water resources and the provision of water supplies in England and Wales, and to secure the effective execution by water undertakers, under his control and direction, of a national policy relating to water) shall be extended so as to require the Minister—
 - (a) in formulating a national policy relating to water, to include such measures as he may consider necessary or expedient for augmenting the water resources of areas in England and Wales, for re-distributing water resources in any such area or for transferring water resources from one such area to another, and
 - (b) to secure that, under his control and direction, that policy will be effectively executed by the river authorities and the Water Resources Board to be established under this Act, as well as by statutory water undertakers, in so far as that policy relates to matters falling within the functions of those bodies respectively.
- (2) In this Act, subject to any express provision for including the Minister of Transport, "the Ministers" means the Minister and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and, in the case of anything falling to be done by the Ministers, means those Ministers acting jointly.

2 Meaning of "water resources"

- (1) In this Act "water resources", in relation to any area, means water for the time being contained in any source of supply in that area, and "source of supply", in relation to any area, means either of the following, that is to say—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) so much of any inland water, other than any inland water falling within subsection (3) of this section, as is situated in that area, and
 - (b) any underground strata in that area.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act water for the time being contained in—
- (a) a well, borehole or similar work, including any adit or passage constructed in connection with it for facilitating the collection of water in the well, borehole or work, or
 - (b) any excavation into underground strata, where the level of water in the excavation depends wholly or mainly on water entering it from those strata,
- shall be treated as water contained in the underground strata into which the well, borehole or work was sunk, or the excavation was made, as the case may be.
- (3) Except as provided by the last preceding subsection, an inland water which either—
- (a) is a lake, pond or reservoir which does not discharge to any other inland water, or
 - (b) is one of a group of two or more lakes, ponds or reservoirs (whether near to or distant from each other) and of watercourses or mains connecting them, where none of the inland waters in the group discharges to any inland water outside the group,
- does not constitute a source of supply for the purposes of this Act.