

**BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
*Local Plan Inquiry*

**Policy 13 437 g**

I did not mean there were currently ‘negative impacts on biodiversity’ within the Park, but that there is potential for that, particularly from downstream overuse.

I accept that the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Water are ‘fulfilling righteousness’ for water use within the Park. But in the wider sense of maintaining levels for one of the main economic and social concerns, i.e. habitat of *Salmo salar*, the figure of 95% return of used water to the River Dee, in the lower and particularly the lowest reaches, does not seem include a full recognition of any need to maintain sufficient volume of water reaching the sea to allow access beyond the two lowest pools to returning fish.

Already Scottish Water has to re-supply Ballater from works near Banchory by truck in droughts. The arithmetic of 95% recurring applied downstream with 20-30 thousand additional housing units under the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire Structure Plan, must call for the CNPA to question the viability of the river in maintaining that biodiversity and lead to more down-river discussion and consideration of treatment of sea-water, before we can increase our recycling water-use.

There does not seem to have been discussion of potential damage to banks by ice or quantification of water-uptake by increasing forest cover.