

**Public Question Time**

**Question submitted by Mr T C Harris**

The Broads Authority (BA) is to be commended for commissioning Prof Rushton to prepare an independent Hydrological Review of the Environment Agency's (EA) modelling methodology which forms the cornerstone of its approach in determining water abstraction licences in the Broads, most particularly at Catfield Fen.

Prof Rushton's conclusions can only be described as a comprehensive demolition of the EA's modelling approach for determining licence renewals, to quote "The results from the modelling are not reliable and should not be used for licence determination".

The BA has recently responded formerly to the EA in its role of statutory consultee raising this and other concerns relating to the rapid ecological change that is occurring at Catfield.

Again the BA's robust and evidence based approach is to be commended but what does it envisage as the appropriate next steps to convert these concerns into action, according to the precautionary principle, to protect the long term future of this unique SSSI?