Suffolks Water Challenge

- securing a sustainable and reliable supply to support homes, businesses and our environment long term

A National Framework for Water Resources – the key driver:

brings together two of the government's pledges that were set out in its **25-year Environment Plan**:

- to leave the environment in a better state than we found it; and
- to improve the nation's resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to water supplies.

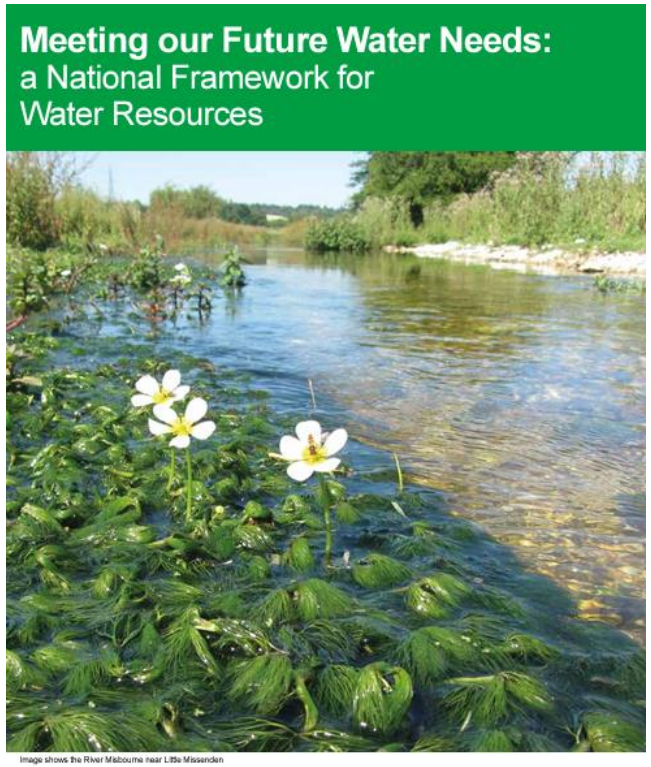


Image shows the River Misbourne near Little Missenden

Environment Agency

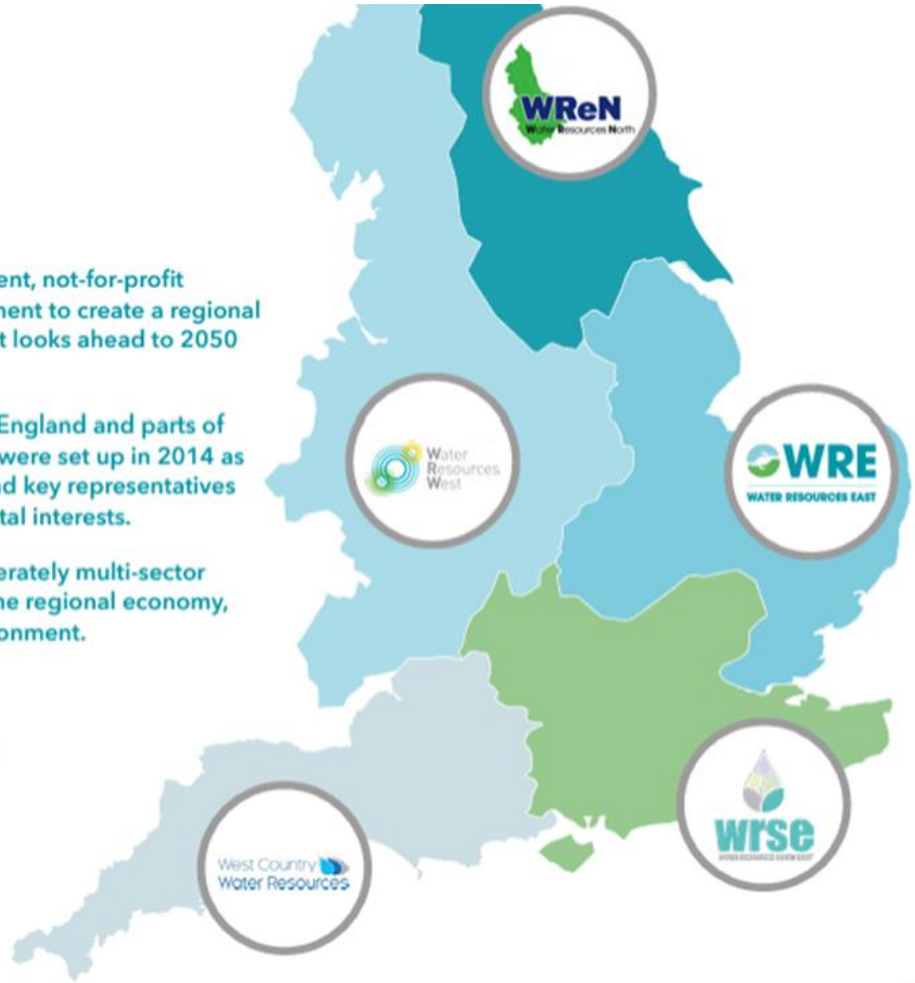
About Water Resources East

Water Resources East (WRE) is the independent, not-for-profit membership organisation tasked by government to create a regional water resources plan for Eastern England that looks ahead to 2050 and beyond.

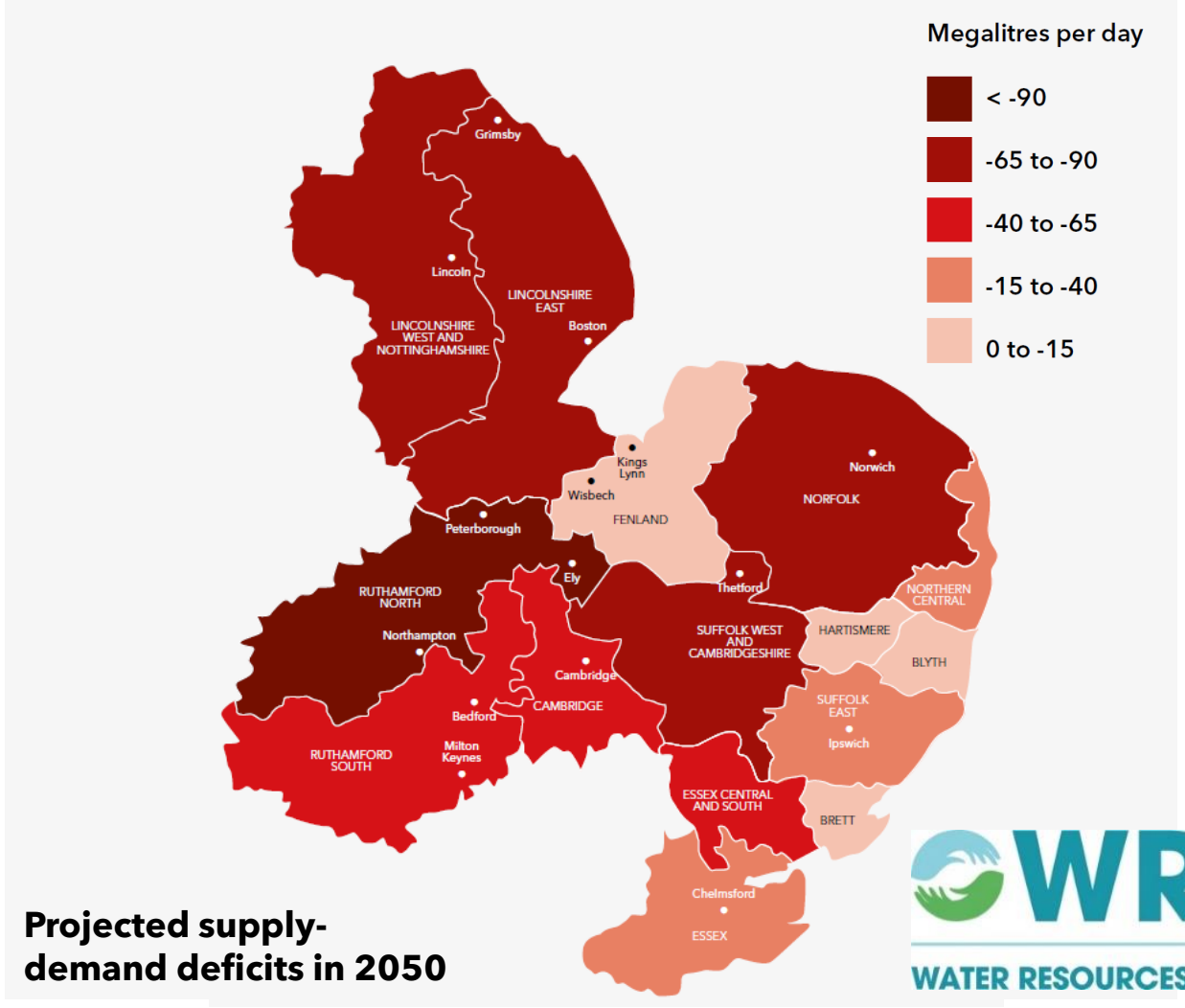
We are one of five regional groups covering England and parts of Wales, though our history pre-dates this. We were set up in 2014 as a collaboration between water companies and key representatives of other water-using sectors and environmental interests.

Our Board structure and governance is deliberately multi-sector due to the strategic importance of water to the regional economy, including agriculture and to the natural environment.

Figure i: WRE is one of five regional water resources planning groups covering England and parts of Wales



Resulting shortfall of water – requires investment to maintain economic prosperity

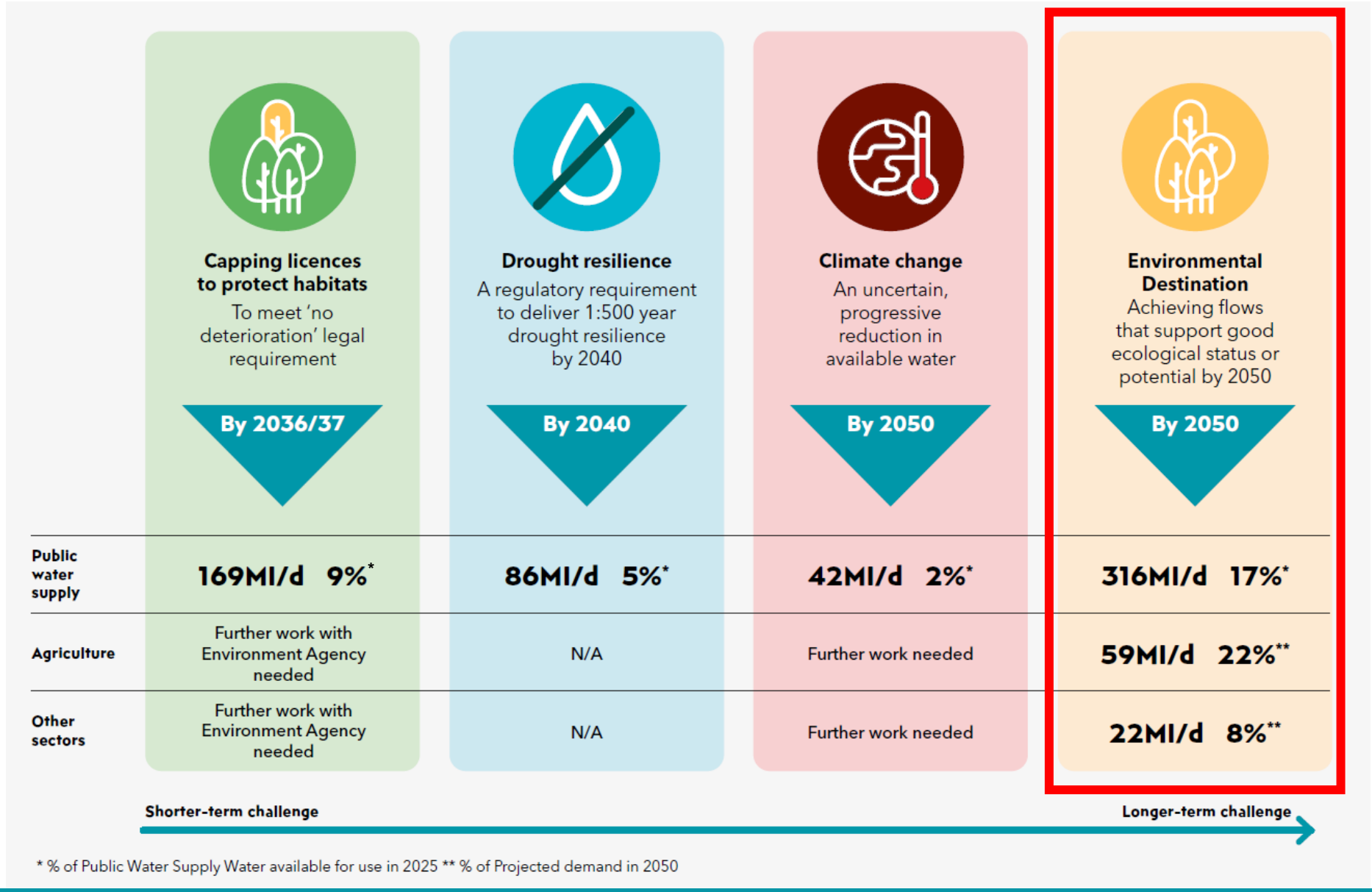


Projected supply-demand deficits in 2050

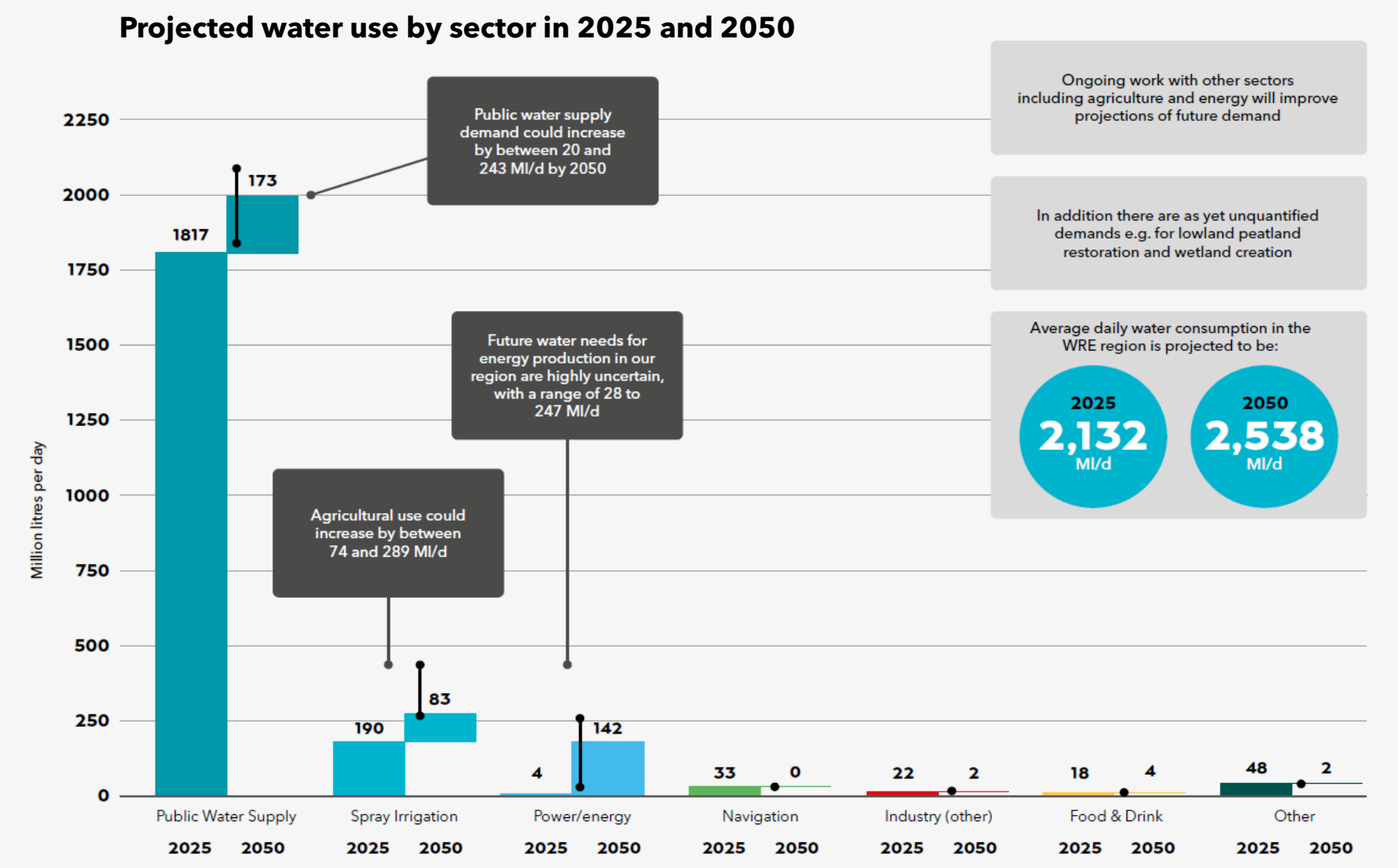
- 800 million litres of water per day (Ml/d) shortfall projected for 2050
- Growth constraints emerging for housing and already present for agriculture and commercial development
- The Regional Plan identifies the 'best value' approach to meeting the projected deficits in the public water supply in ways that maximise co-benefits for other sectors
- Aims to deliver sufficient water to meet:
  - Growth projections within local authority development plans
  - Increased drought resilience by 2040
  - Environmental destination

WRE
WATER RESOURCES EAST

Water available for use falling by 700Ml/d



Why do we need more water? – 400Ml/day needed by 2050?

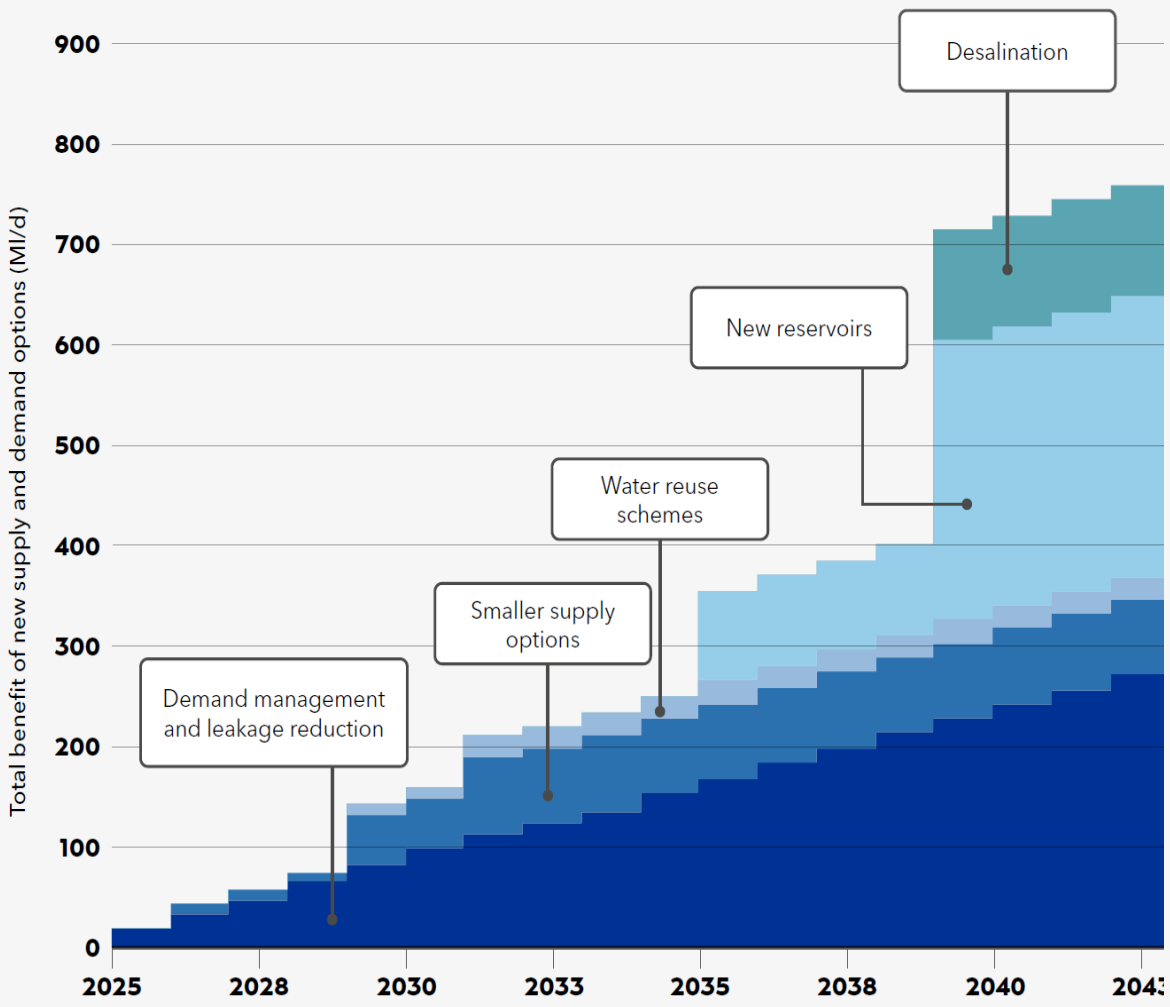


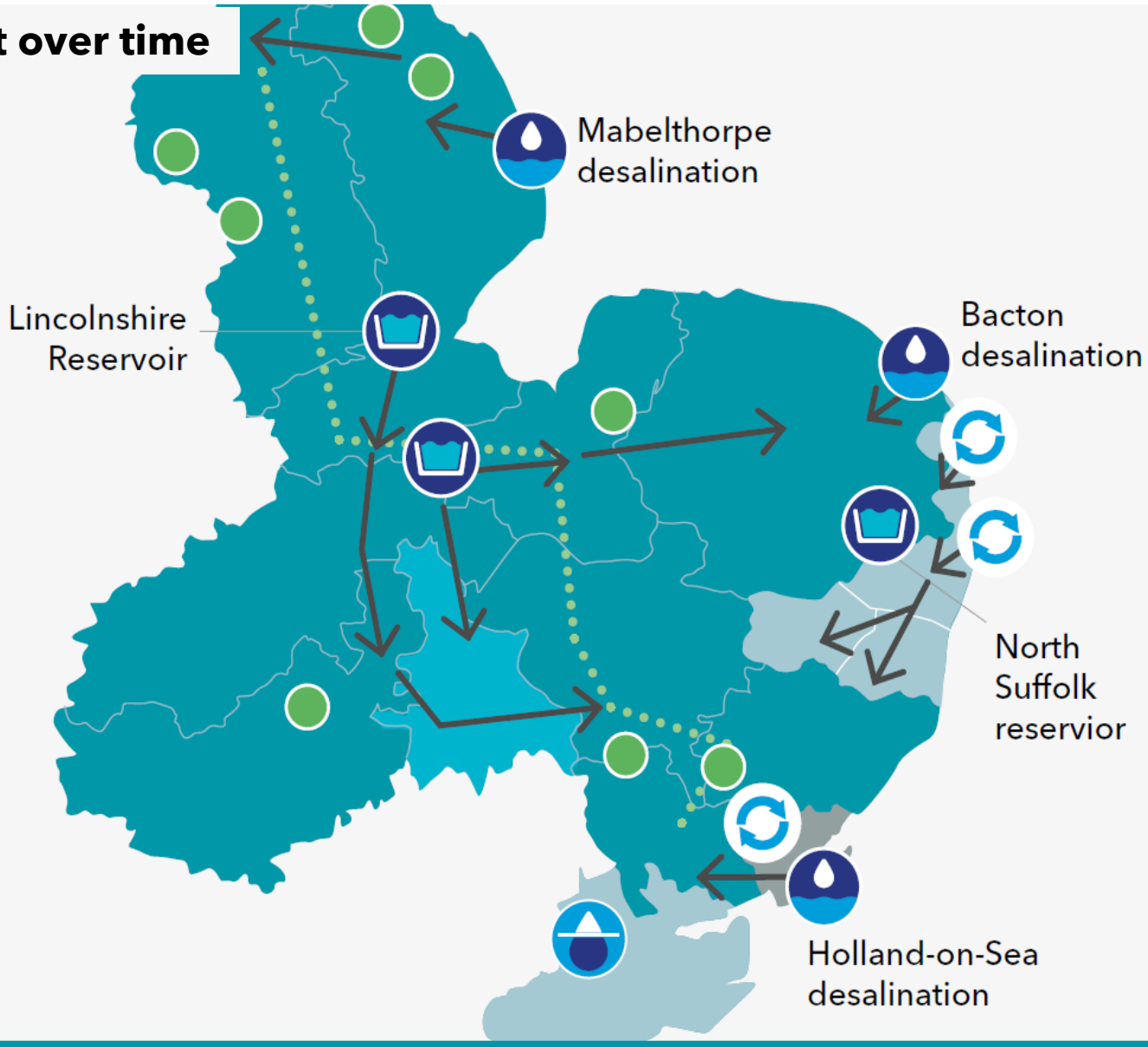
Note: Public Water Supply demand based on baseline Dry Year Annual Average (DYAA) data without demand management options

Doesn't include uplift in growth aspirations from new government

Planned investments – Water Companies

Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time





Current, and future potential impacts

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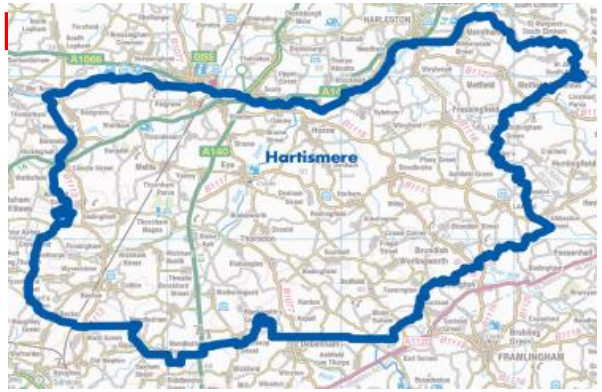
21 August 2023



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Written by Matt Clarke
14th June 2024

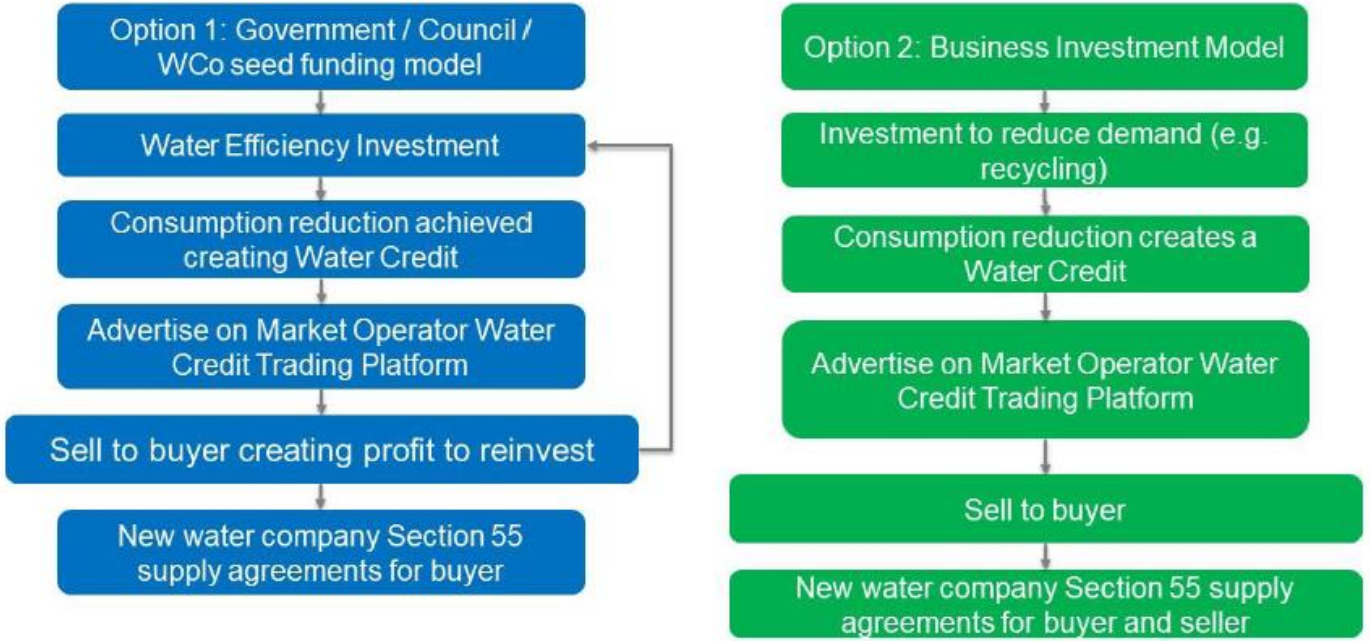
Water Commission Recommendations:

- **"Including a regional element" within the new integrated regulator** to ensure greater local involvement in water planning and better alignment between water infrastructure plans and local growth planning.
- Creation of **“regional water authorities”** - responsible for integrated and holistic water system planning working to hydrological boundaries.

Local solutions – Suffolk Business Water Group

SUFFOLK BUSINESS WATER GROUP: WATER CREDIT SCHEME PROPOSAL

- Water Credit Scheme that could result in demand reductions for reallocation to small businesses
- Suffolk Business Water Group sub-group setup to investigate options
- Options 1 and 2 are to support discussion and at this stage are not supported by any individual organisation

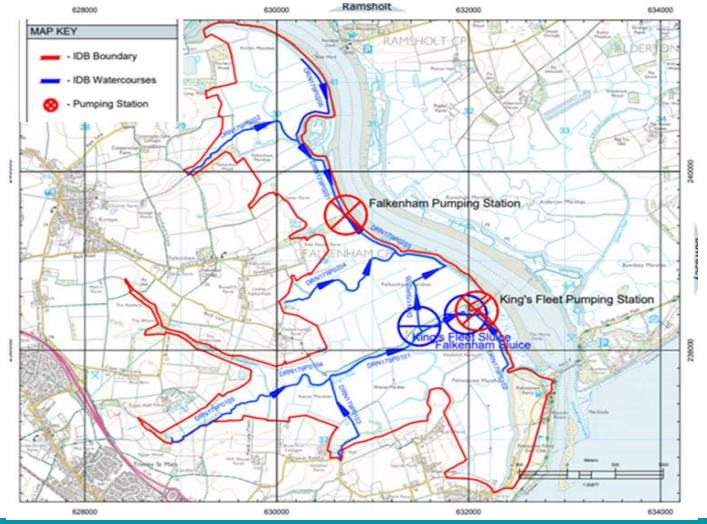


Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

Local solutions – Felixstowe Hydrocycle

Water source: IDB pumps at Kingsfleet – **1,500,000m³** pumped to the estuary annually, damaging existing saltmarsh, high running costs and need to replace aging pumps.

Project Delivered: 12km of pipe to link to reservoirs & Managed Aquifer Recharge to supply agricultural irrigation with very low risk of licence removal. Copycat projects being developed.



Suffolk County Council

Integrated Water Action Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk

Proposal: To work collaboratively with Norfolk CC, WRE, Water Companies, Business, Industry and Agriculture to produce a localised Integrated Water Action Plan.

Outputs:
Data and Evidence Base: Forecasts of water demand, risk mapping, and economic analysis of water scarcity.
Stakeholder Engagement: Captured insights from businesses, water management professionals and sector experts, alongside behaviour change strategies.
Innovation Pipeline: Catalogue of projects and solutions, from small-scale water storage to wastewater reuse.
Investment Strategy: Targeted funding plans and business cases for critical infrastructure, technology and processes.
Case Studies: Real-world examples demonstrating scalable water resilience solutions.
Constraint and Opportunity Mapping: GIS overlays to inform land use, infrastructure, investment and growth decisions.
Action Plan: Prioritized measures, stakeholder roles, and an implementation timeline.

Timescale: Draft report in 6 months, final report mid 2026. Targeted for consideration by the Mayor.

DEFRA are monitoring this approach as potential national best practice.