Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England

Daniel Johns, Managing Director

For Hydrogen Week, Colchester
29th February 2024

WRE's board members and funders

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Affinity Water

love every drop
anglianwater

Cambridge Water

ESSEX&SUFFOLK WATER living water

The Rivers Trust

NFU

Norfolk County Council

RWE

ada Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Essex County Council

Suffolk County Council

REVIVEL

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

Urban&Civic plc

Oxford to Cambridge pan-Regional Partnership

5th studio
ada Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities
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Agri-Tech East
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CROSSLEY FARMS
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Thelveton Farms
the Environment Bank
BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
edf ENERGY
Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards
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sustainable direction thinking of the future
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South Norfolk Council
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NEW ANGLIA Local Enterprise Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk
North Lincolnshire Council
Aquagrain
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The Rivers Trust
Fenland CAMBRIDGESHIRE Fenland District Council
Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
NORFOLK FWAG
Cambridge Water
Great Glemham Farms
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
SANDRINGHAM
H & J Neville and Sons
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FeCRA – The Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations
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Water Management Alliance
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Stormsaver right as rain
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Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
wheatley solutions unrivalled utility metering software
Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service CVS
WildAnglia Nature is our business
middle level commissioners
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North Kesteven DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL
RWE
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
PROCTOR BROS LONG SUTTON, LINCS
EAST SUFFOLK WATER ABSTRACTORS LTD
SEMLEP South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
Sustainable Water Solutions
The land app
The Stamford Canal Society
Cranfield University
BARNHAM BROOM
CPRE The countryside charity Norfolk
REVIVEL
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Norfolk County Council
SizewellC Doing the power of good for Britain edf CGN
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Consultation group

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Environment Agency
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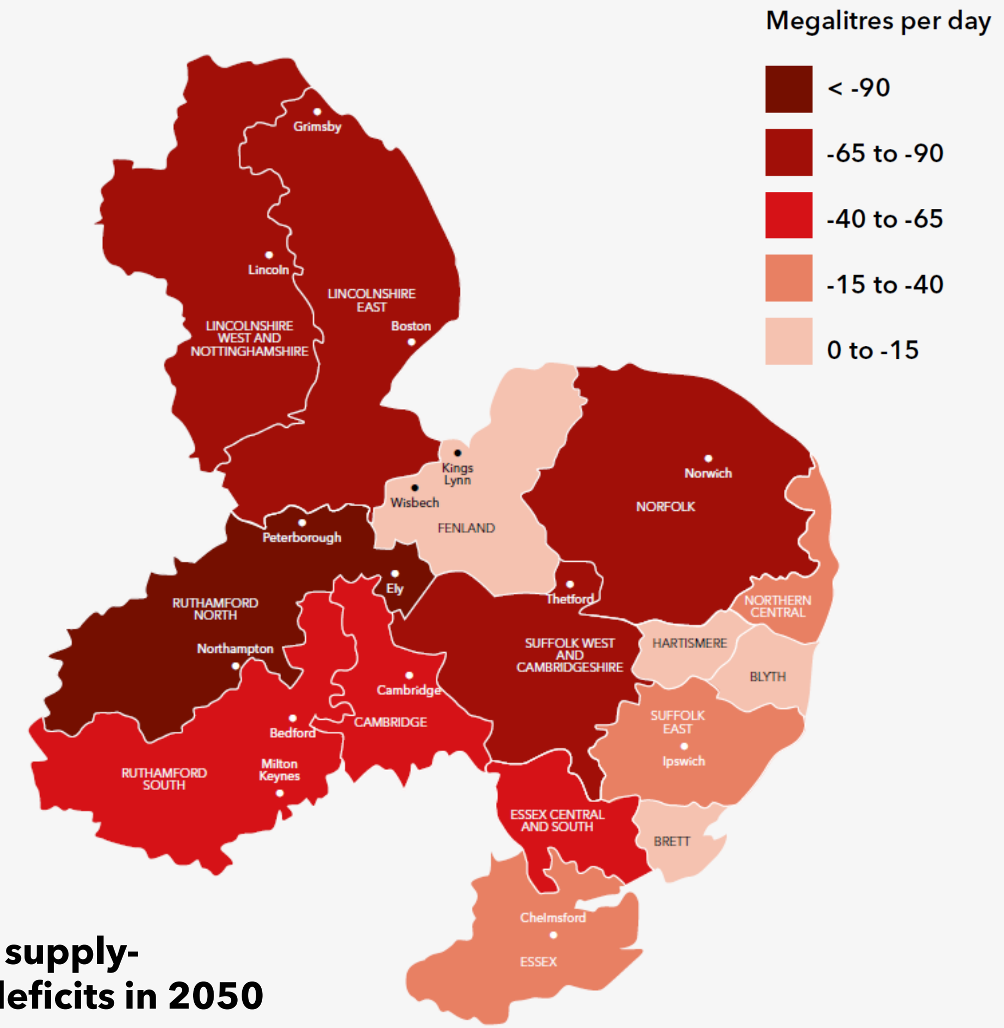
Ofwat
CCW The voice for water consumers Llais defnyddwyr dŵr
Historic England
NATURAL ENGLAND

Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England

Published December 2023

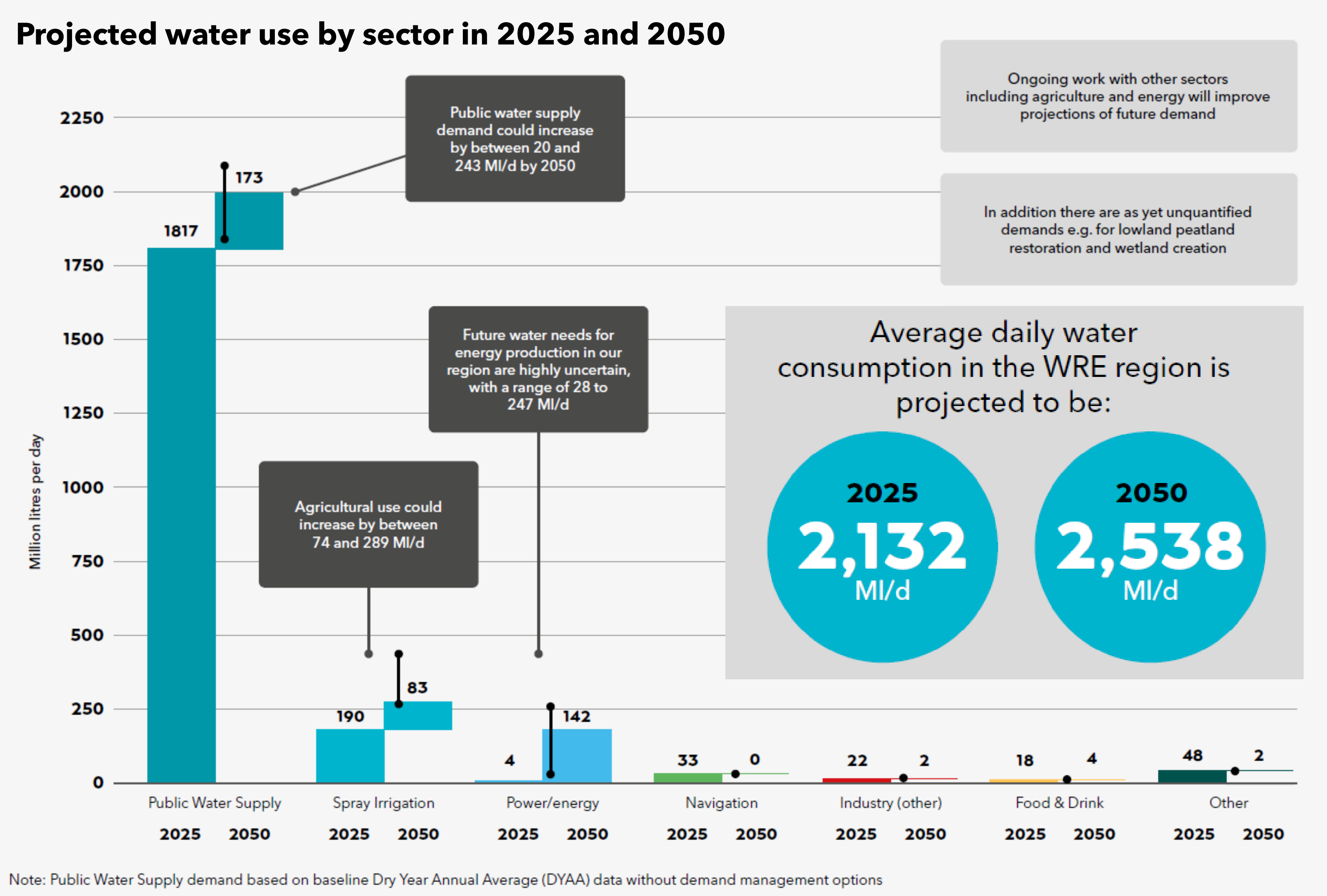
Economic prosperity and the health of the water environment at risk



Projected supply-demand deficits in 2050

- 800 million litres of water per day (Ml/d) shortfall projected for 2050
- Constraints already emerging for agriculture, housing and economic growth
- 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
  - Highest environmental ambition

400 Ml/day more water needed by 2050



- Public water supply figures updated to align with revised draft Water Resources Management Plans
- Impact of government policy measures removed from projections of future water use, included instead in demand management options
- Non-PWS sector figures unchanged from draft plan

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Water available for use falling by 700Ml/d

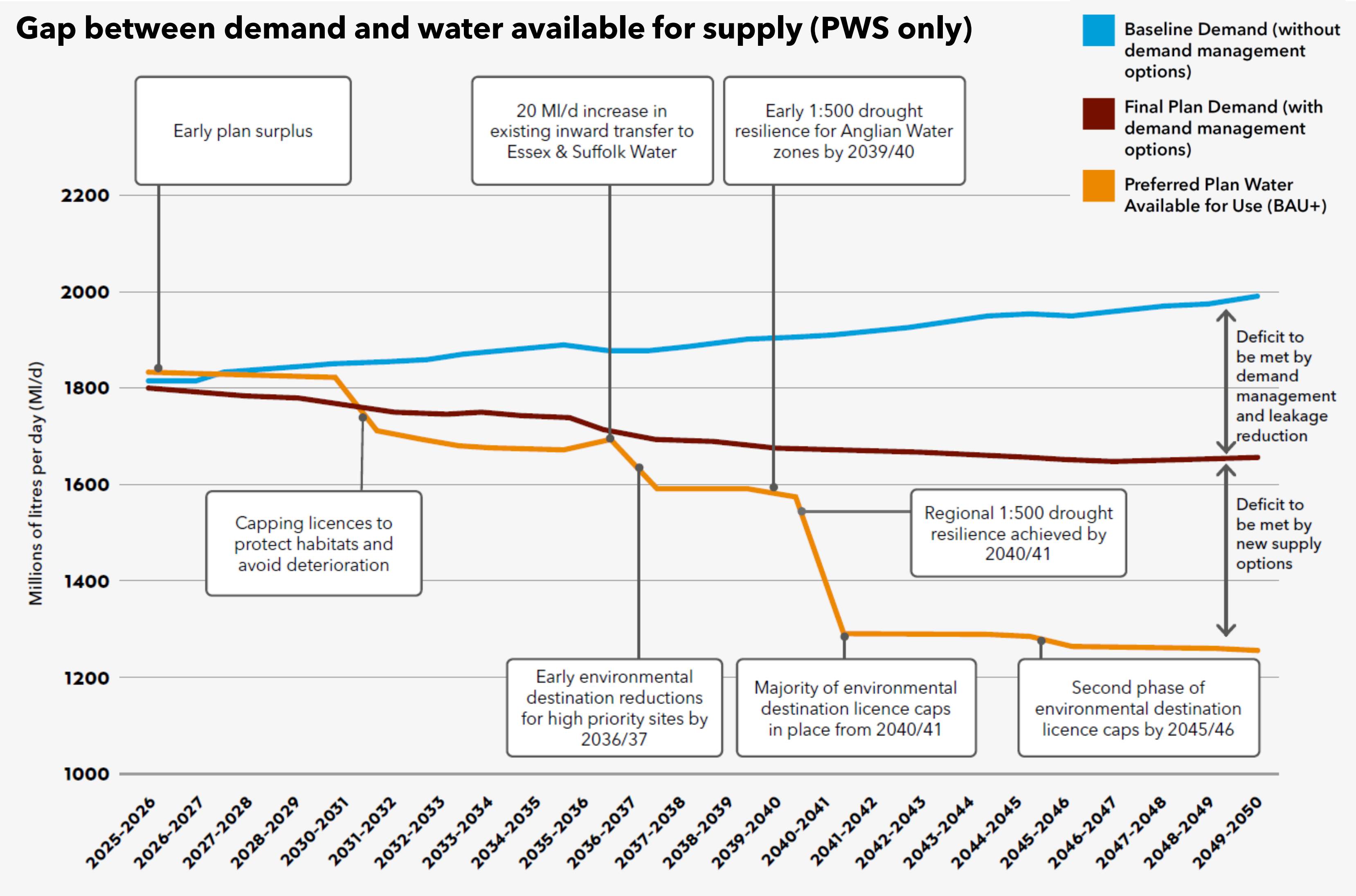
- Reductions in water company abstraction brought forward
- Higher estimate of climate change impacts
- All sectors' abstraction impacts to be reviewed as part of Environmental Destination investigations being initiated in 2024

	Capping licences to protect habitats	**Drought resilience**	**Climate change**	**Environmental Destination**
	To meet 'no deterioration' legal requirement	A regulatory requirement to deliver 1:500 year drought resilience by 2040	An uncertain, progressive reduction in available water	Achieving flows that support good ecological status or potential by 2050
	By 2036/37	**By 2040**	**By 2050**	**By 2050**
Public water supply	**169Ml/d 9%***	**86Ml/d 5%***	**42Ml/d 2%***	**316Ml/d 17%***
Agriculture	Further work with Environment Agency needed	N/A	Further work needed	**59Ml/d 22%****
Other sectors	Further work with Environment Agency needed	N/A	Further work needed	**22Ml/d 8%****

Shorter-term challenge → **Longer-term challenge**

* % of Public Water Supply Water available for use in 2025 ** % of Projected demand in 2050

An 800 Ml/day deficit by 2050



- Demand management and leakage control more than offset growth in water consumption
- Early surplus becomes a deficit by 2030
- Some Environmental Destination improvements delivered by 2036, and almost entirely by 2040
- Resilience to 1:500 drought by 2040

Average reductions in licenced volumes

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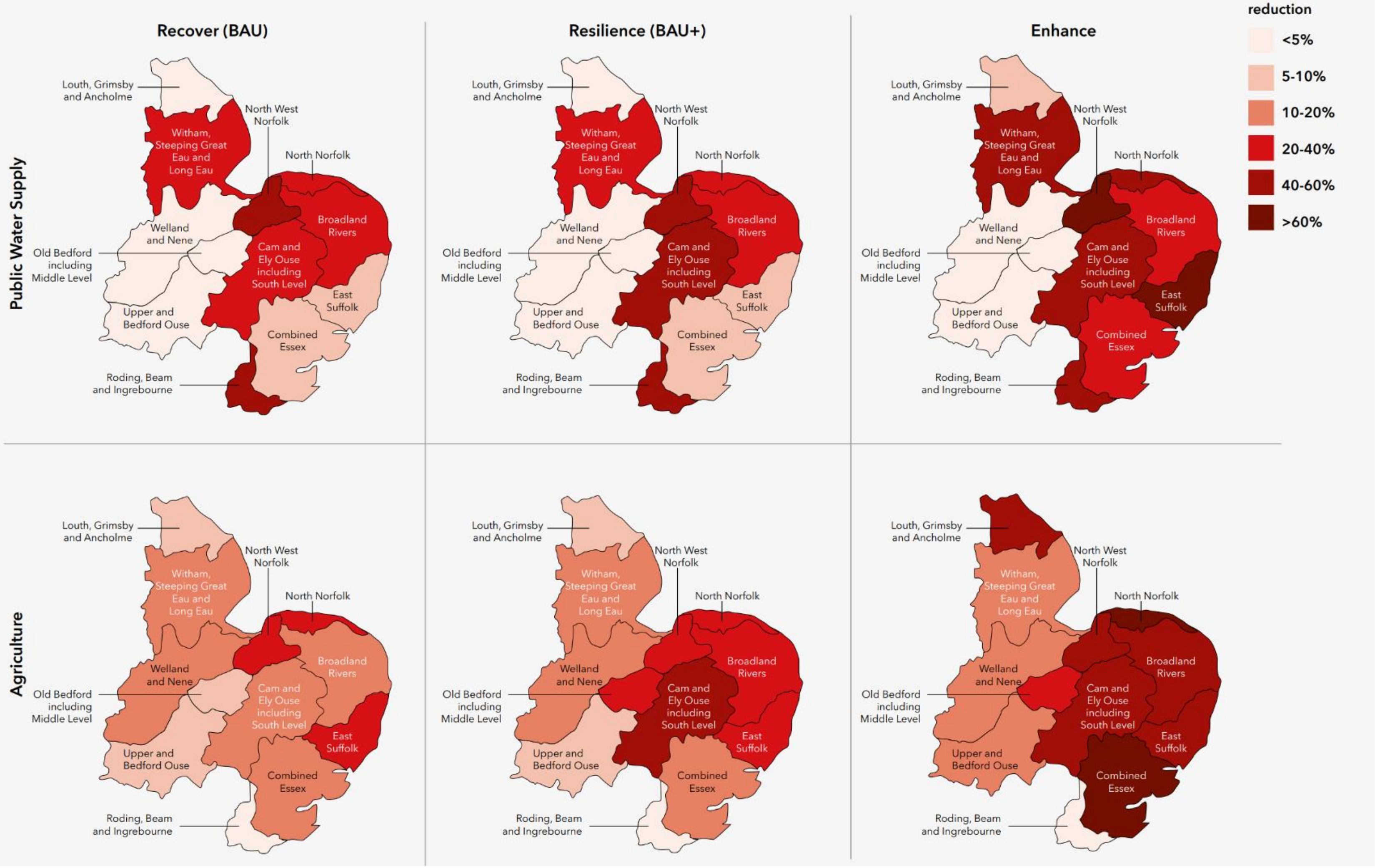
Projected reductions in licenced abstraction volumes by 2050



Projected returns of water to the environment by 2050 for Public Water Supply (*top row*) & Agriculture (*bottom row*):

- **Recover ('Business As Usual'):** to meet existing legal requirements, excluding 'uneconomic' waterbodies
- **Resilience ('BAU+'):** extra protection for internationally designated habitats
- **Enhance:** including 'uneconomic' waterbodies plus extra protection for UK designated habitats, chalk rivers, headwaters and wetlands

Components of the Best Value Plan

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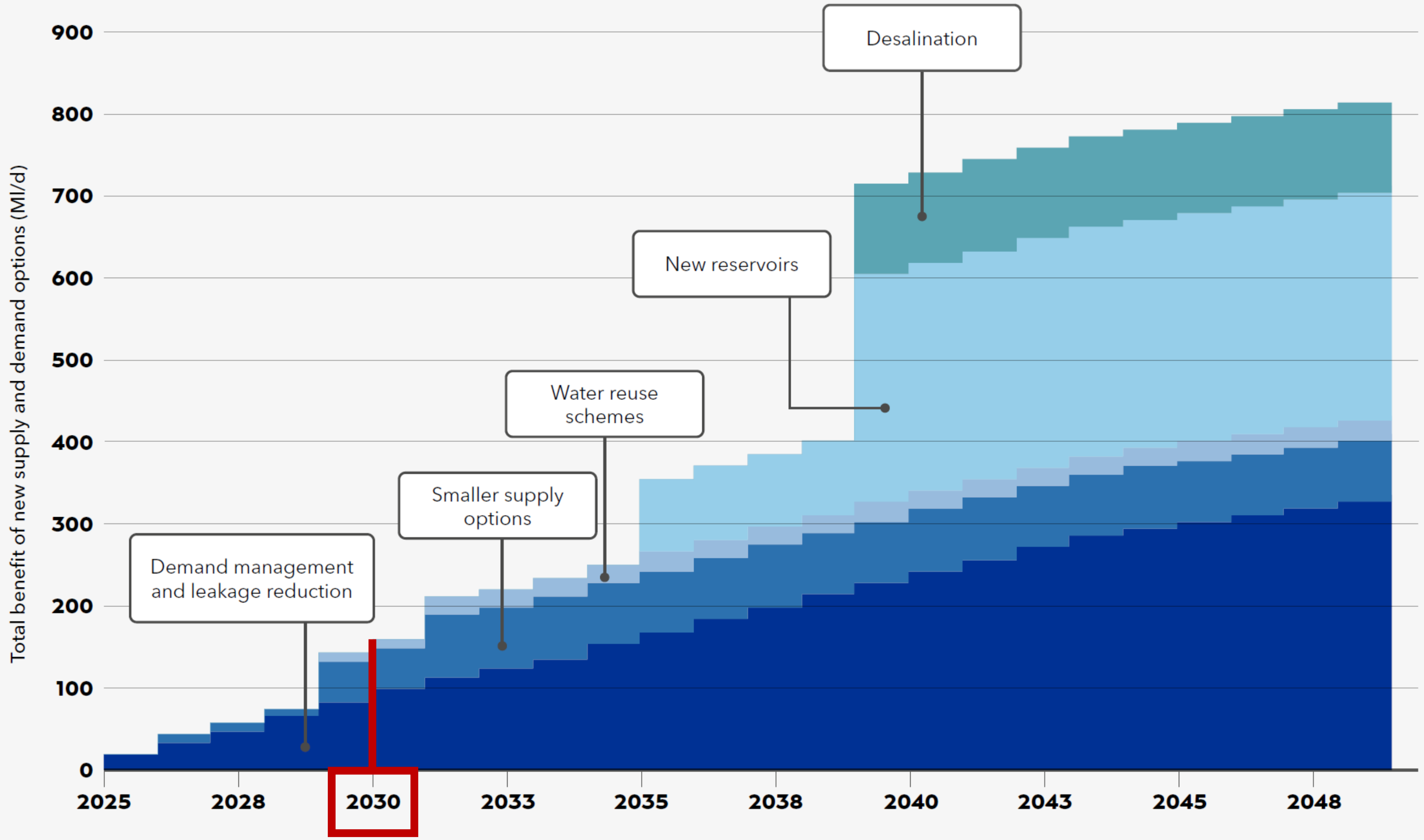
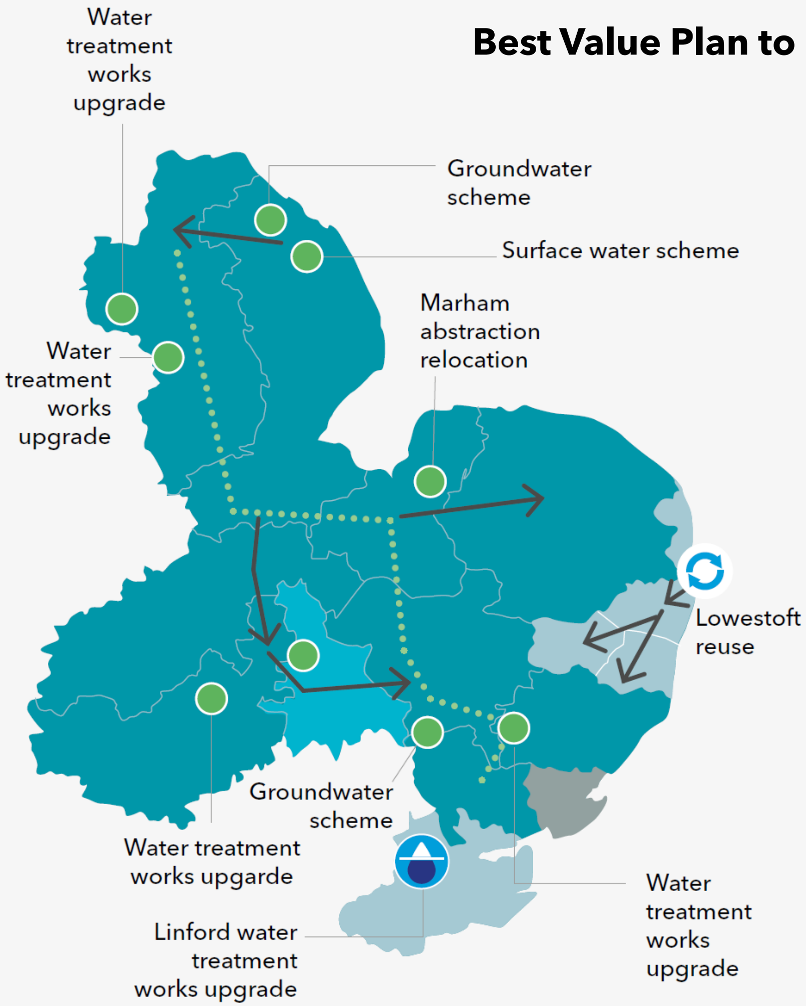
Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time

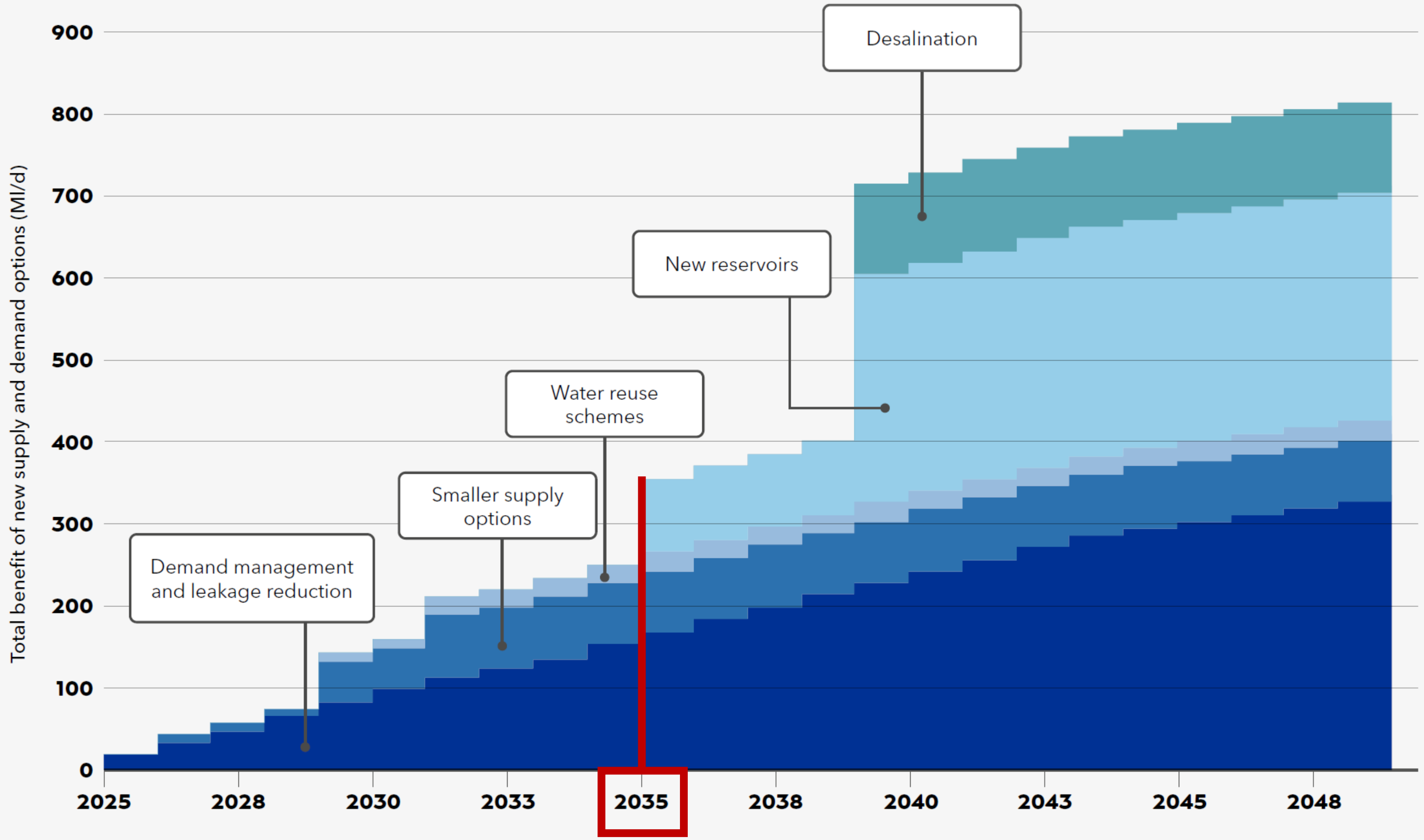


Best Value Plan to 2030

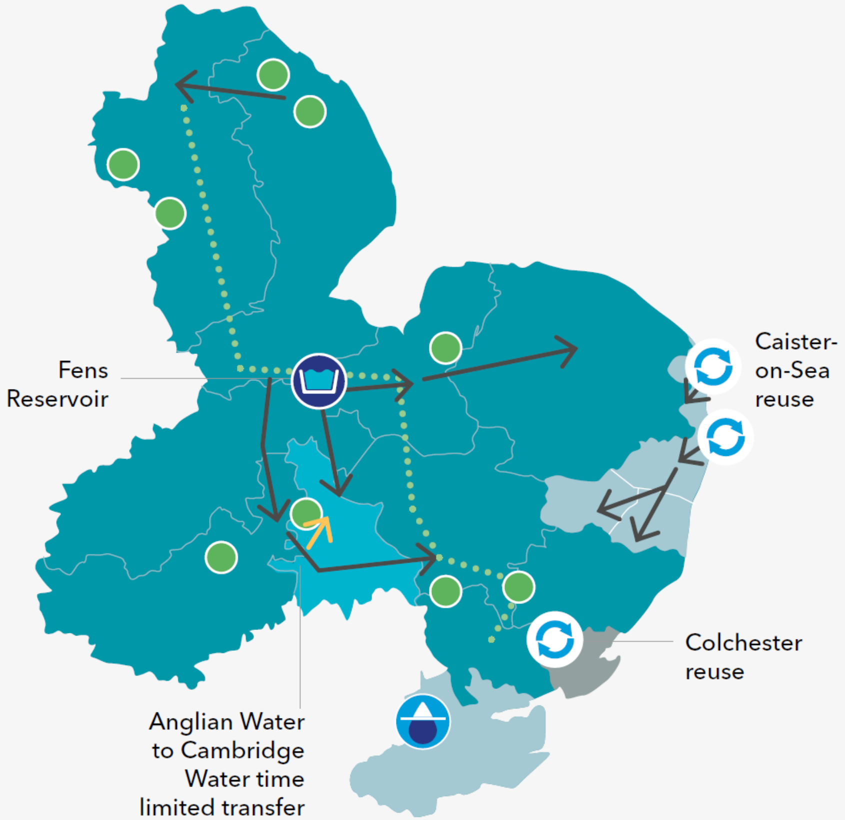


Components of the Best Value Plan

Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time

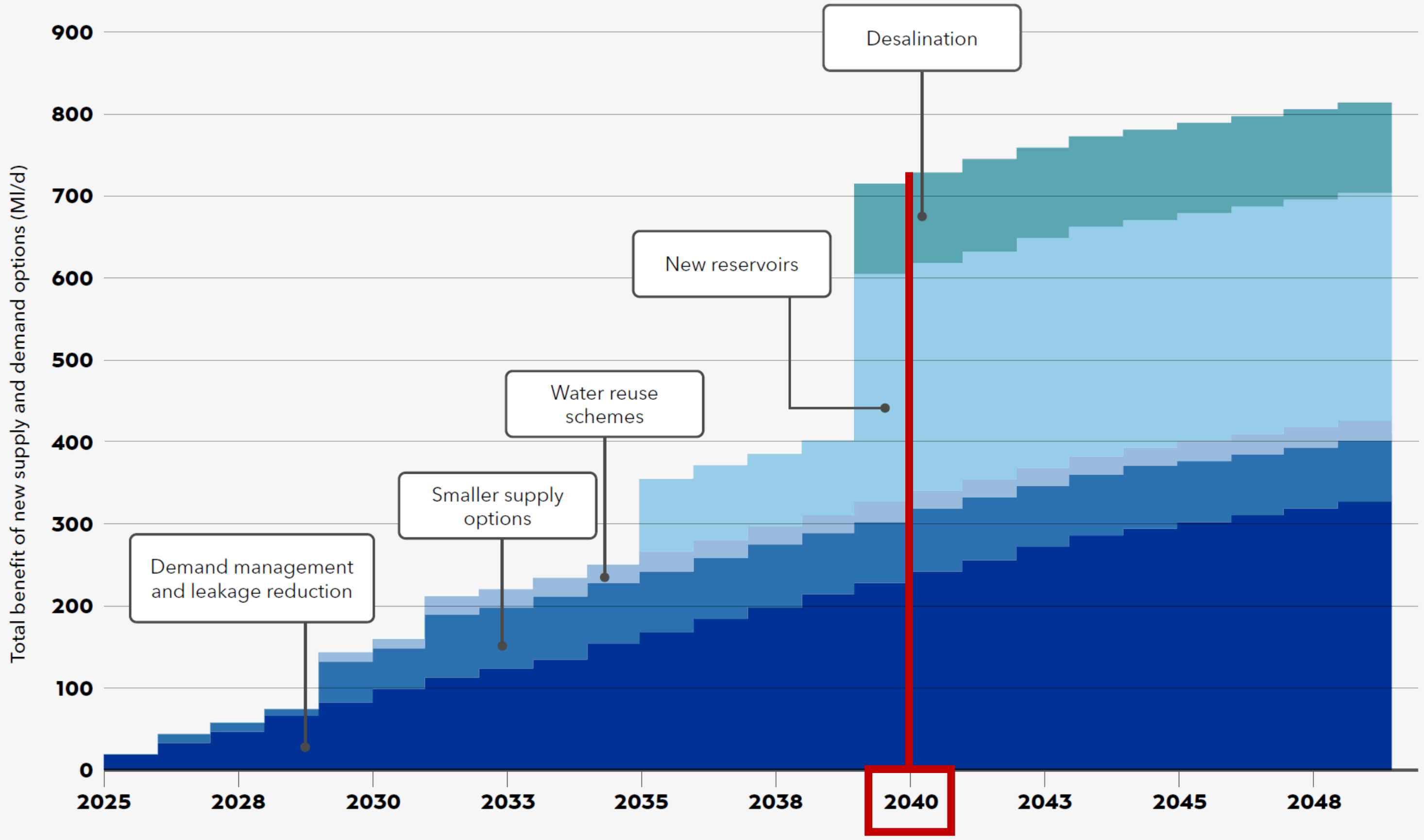


Best Value Plan to 2035



Components of the Best Value Plan

Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time



Best Value Plan to 2040

Our core pathway to 2050

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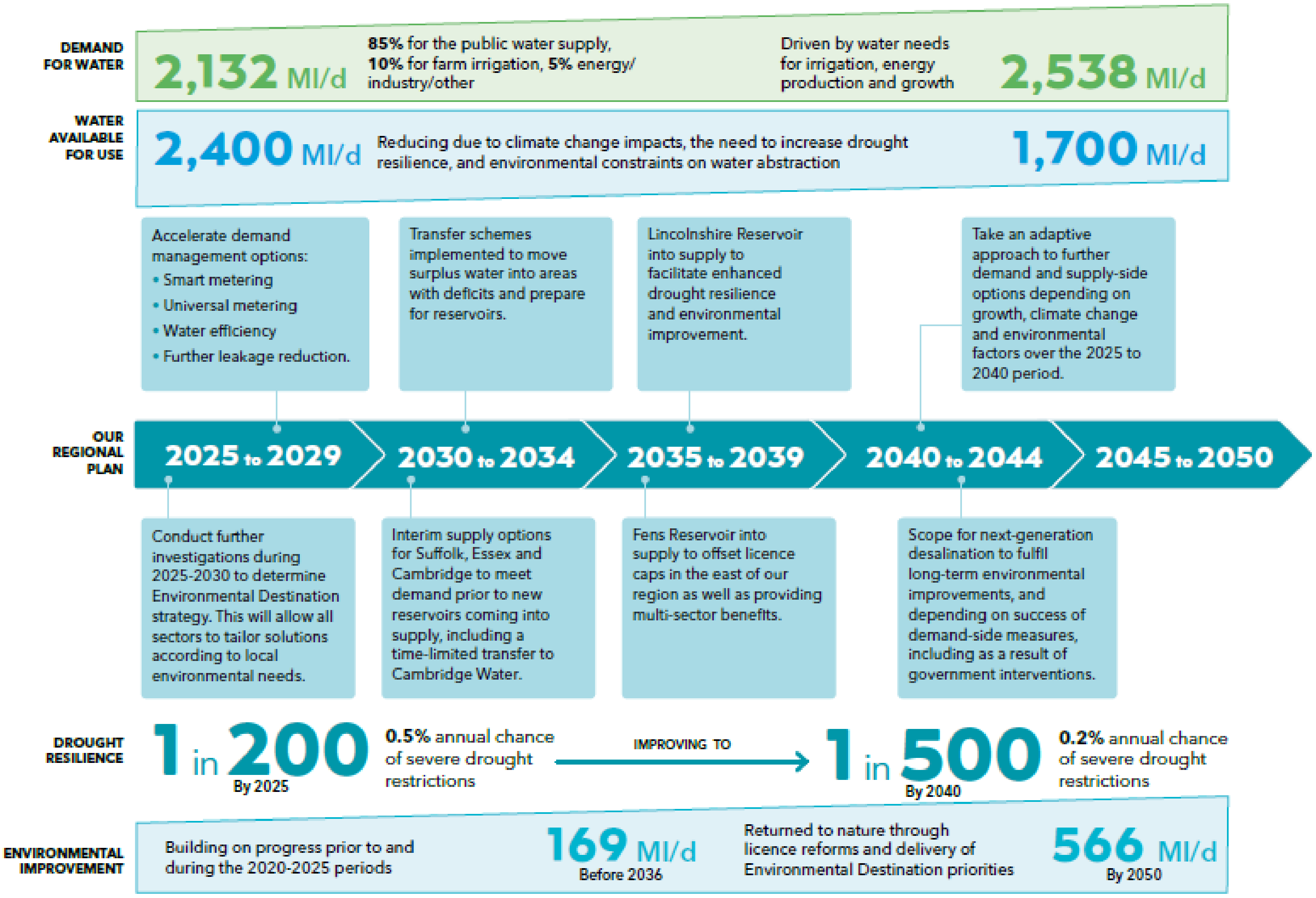

- Demand management and leakage control critical in short term
- Complemented by a portfolio of low-regret supply-side options
- Multi-sector investigations to determine long-term Environmental Destination strategy – ambition remains to achieve ‘Enhance’
- Chalk rivers, wetlands and sensitive water-dependent habitats prioritised for early improvement
- Will monitor progress and trigger adaptive action if necessary

Headline recommendations

- **Commit now to a second round of regional planning** so that the five regional groups do not lose momentum.
- **Fund the regional groups so that they can fulfil their remit on a multi-sector basis from mid-2023.** At present, WRE's Technical Programme is entirely funded by our water company members, who are prevented from using customer income to pay for studies that benefit other sectors.
- **Accelerate the timetable for new government policy on demand management** including tighter building regulations for water efficient new homes and the proposed mandatory water label on white goods, taps, toilets and showers.
- **Create more long-term certainty for all abstractors over the impact of forthcoming licence reforms.** The CaBA national working group on water resources could extend its remit with WRE to navigate through licence reduction challenges and escalate strategic issues to decision makers.
- **Establish a single, integrated approach to planning for environmental improvement for all sectors** that clarifies through joint investigations the necessary returns of water to the environment.
- **The approach to planning for new non-household growth also needs to be improved** through closer working between government, regulators, regional groups, water companies and planning authorities.

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Thank you for listening

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