



Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England

For Suffolk CC Scrutiny Committee

Daniel Johns, Managing Director
12th March 2024



Introduction to WRE

WRE's board members and funders

AffinityWater



ESSEX & SUFFOLK
WATER *living water*



RWE



Urban&Civic plc

**Oxford to Cambridge
pan-Regional Partnership**

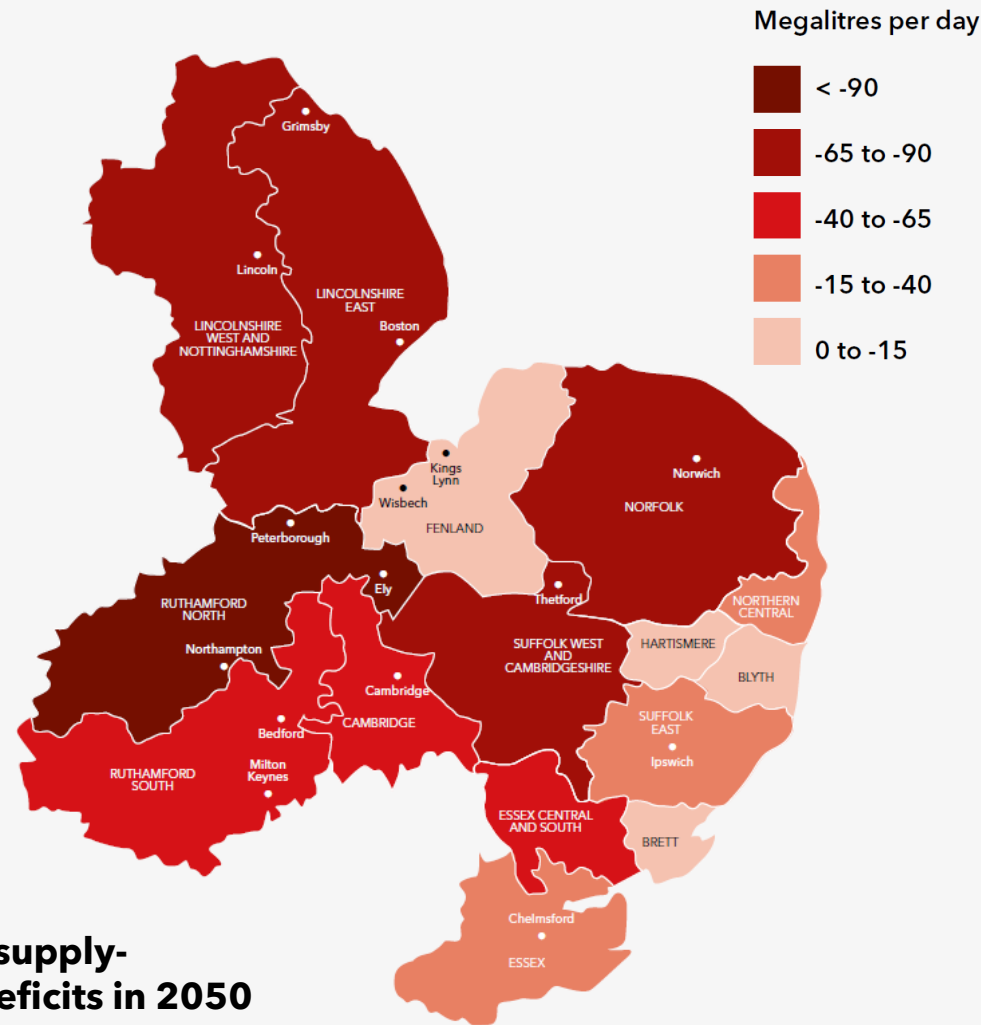




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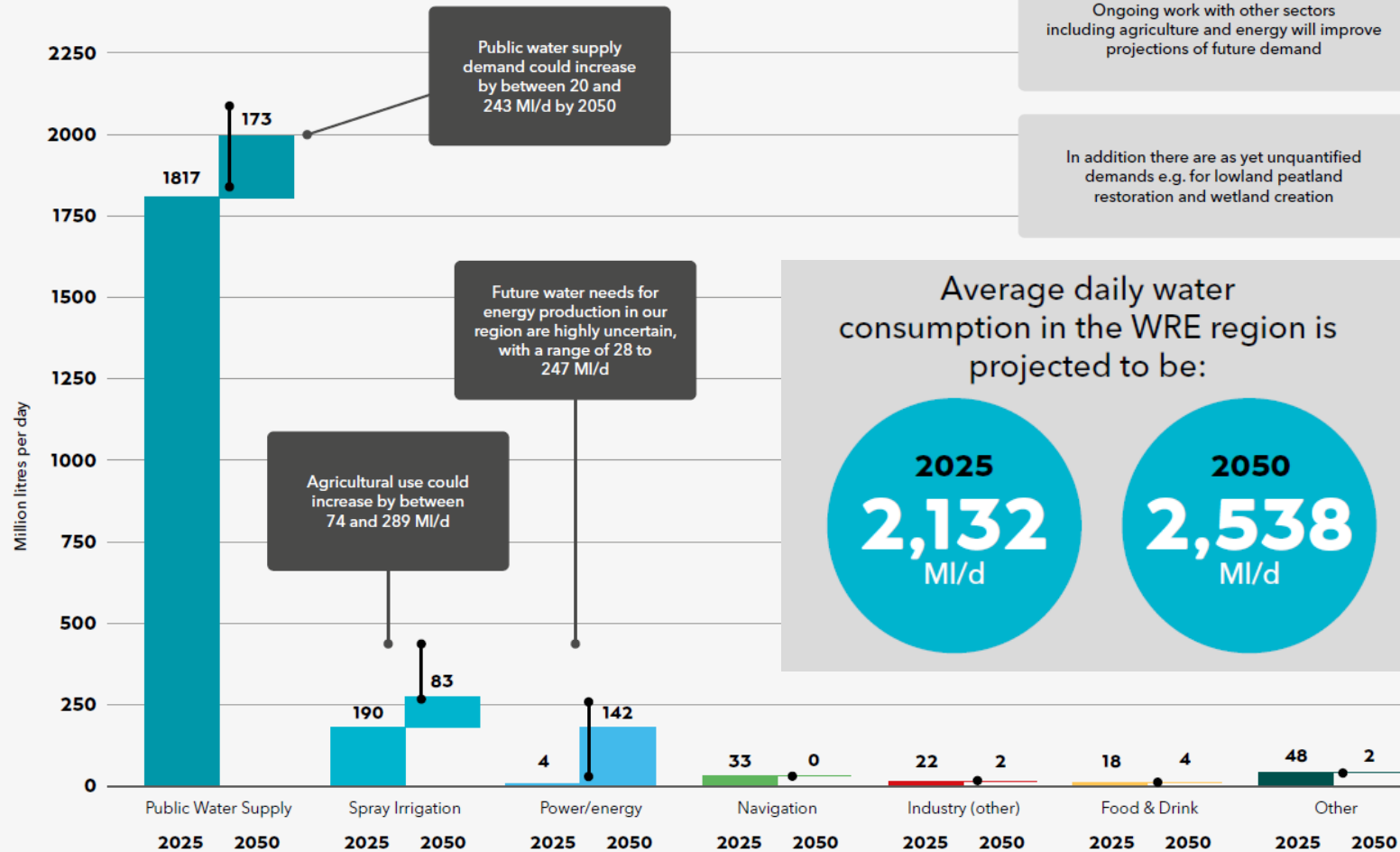
Economic prosperity and the health of the water environment at risk



- 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 MI/day more water needed by 2050

Projected water use by sector in 2025 and 2050

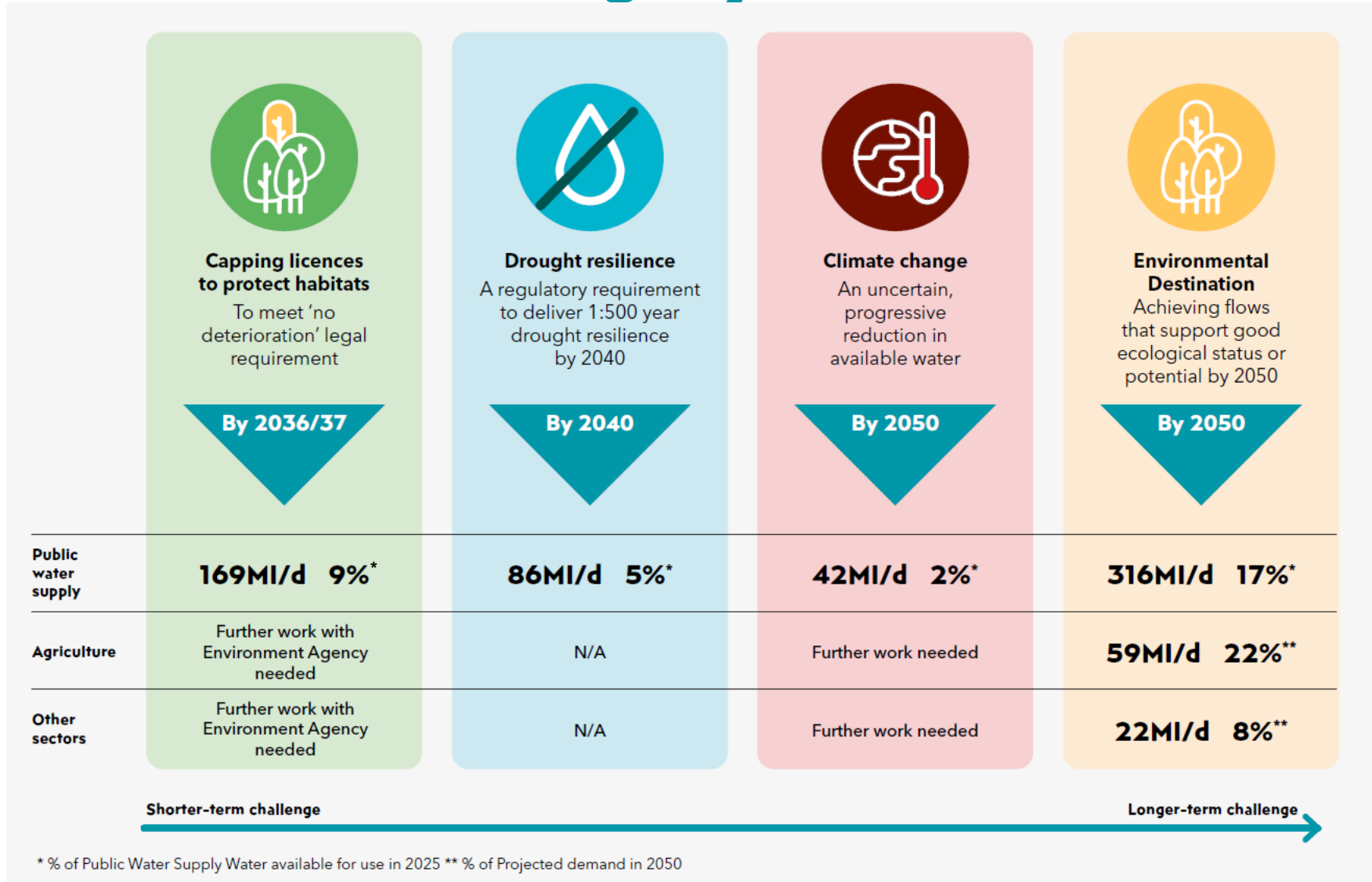


Note: Public Water Supply demand based on baseline Dry Year Annual Average (DYAA) data without demand management options

- Public water supply figures align with revised water company draft Water Resources Management Plans in the region
- Since draft Regional Plan in December 2023, the impact of government policy measures have been removed from projections of future water use, included instead in demand management options
- Non-Public Water Supply sector figures unchanged from draft Regional Plan

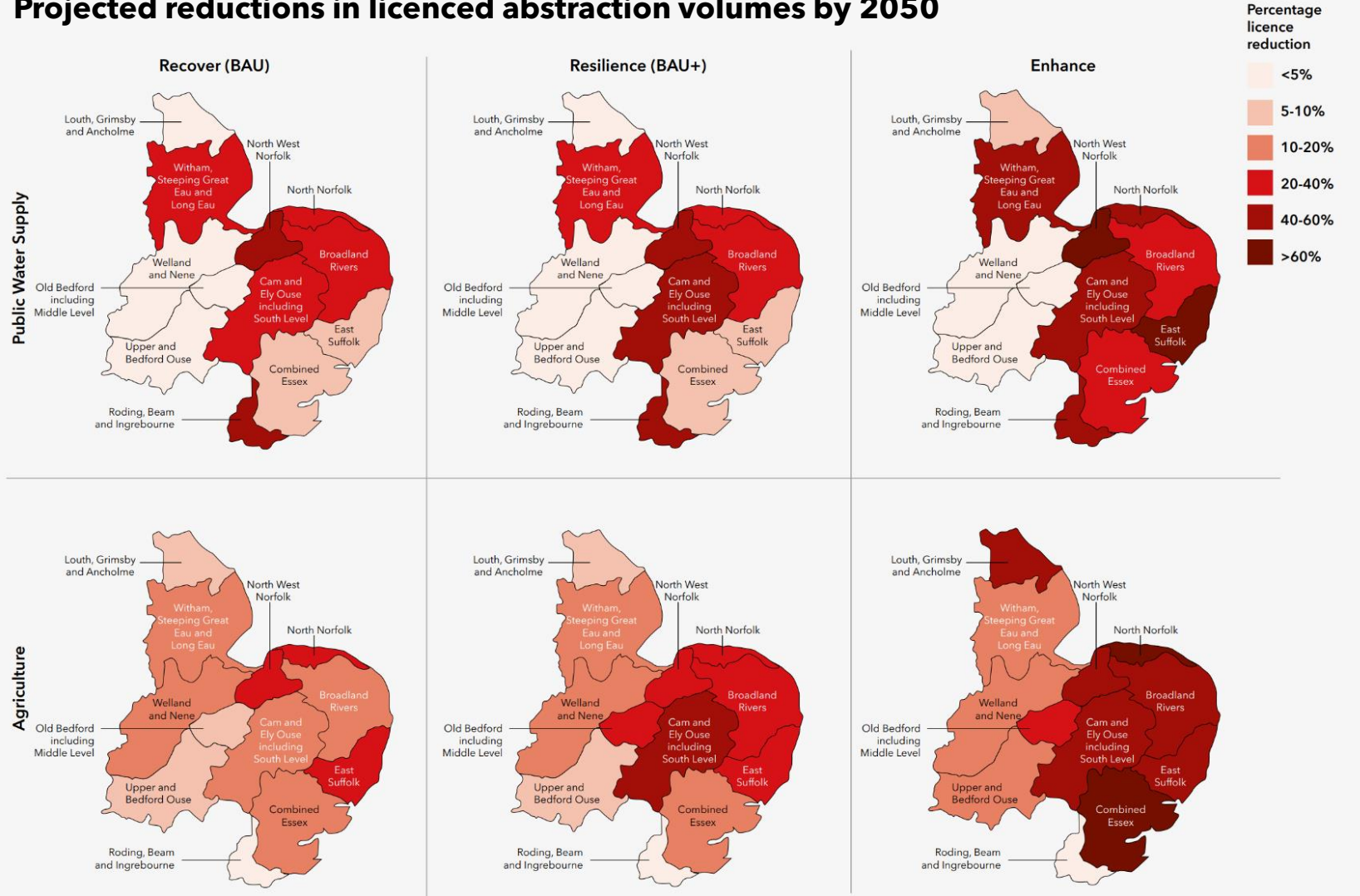
Water available for use falling by 700MI/d

- Reductions in water company abstraction brought forward since draft Regional Plan
- Higher estimate of climate change impacts
- All sectors' abstraction impacts to be reviewed as part of more detailed investigations being initiated in 2024 and 2025



Average reductions in licenced volumes

Projected reductions in licenced abstraction volumes by 2050

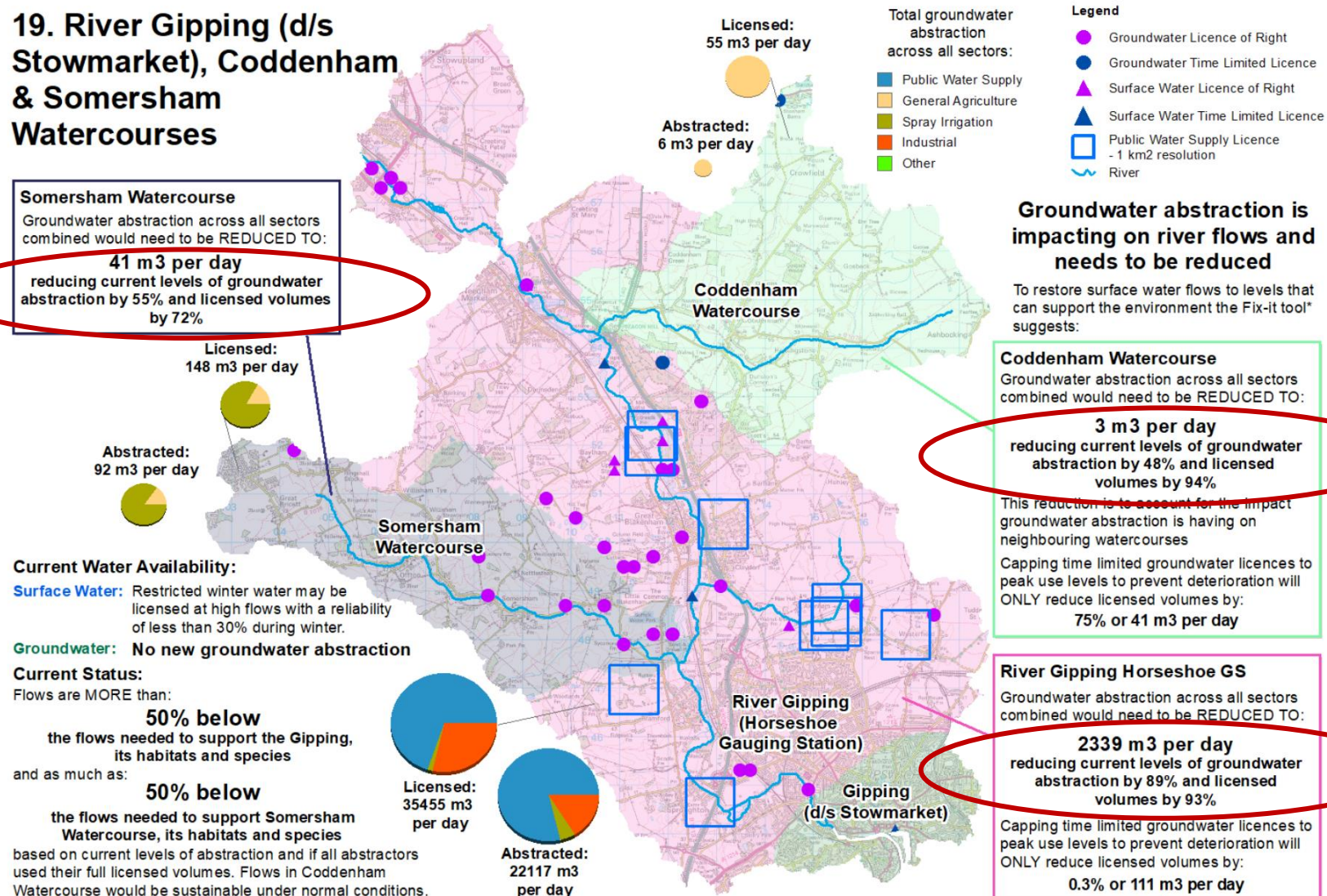


Projected returns of water to the environment by 2050 for Public Water Supply (*top row*) & Agriculture (*bottom row*):

- **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

Averages hide the full scale of potential impacts

19. River Gipping (d/s Stowmarket), Coddenham & Somersham Watercourses



*The results of the Fix-It tool are indicative only and may be subject to change due to future investigations, new data or revisions to existing regulation or policies.

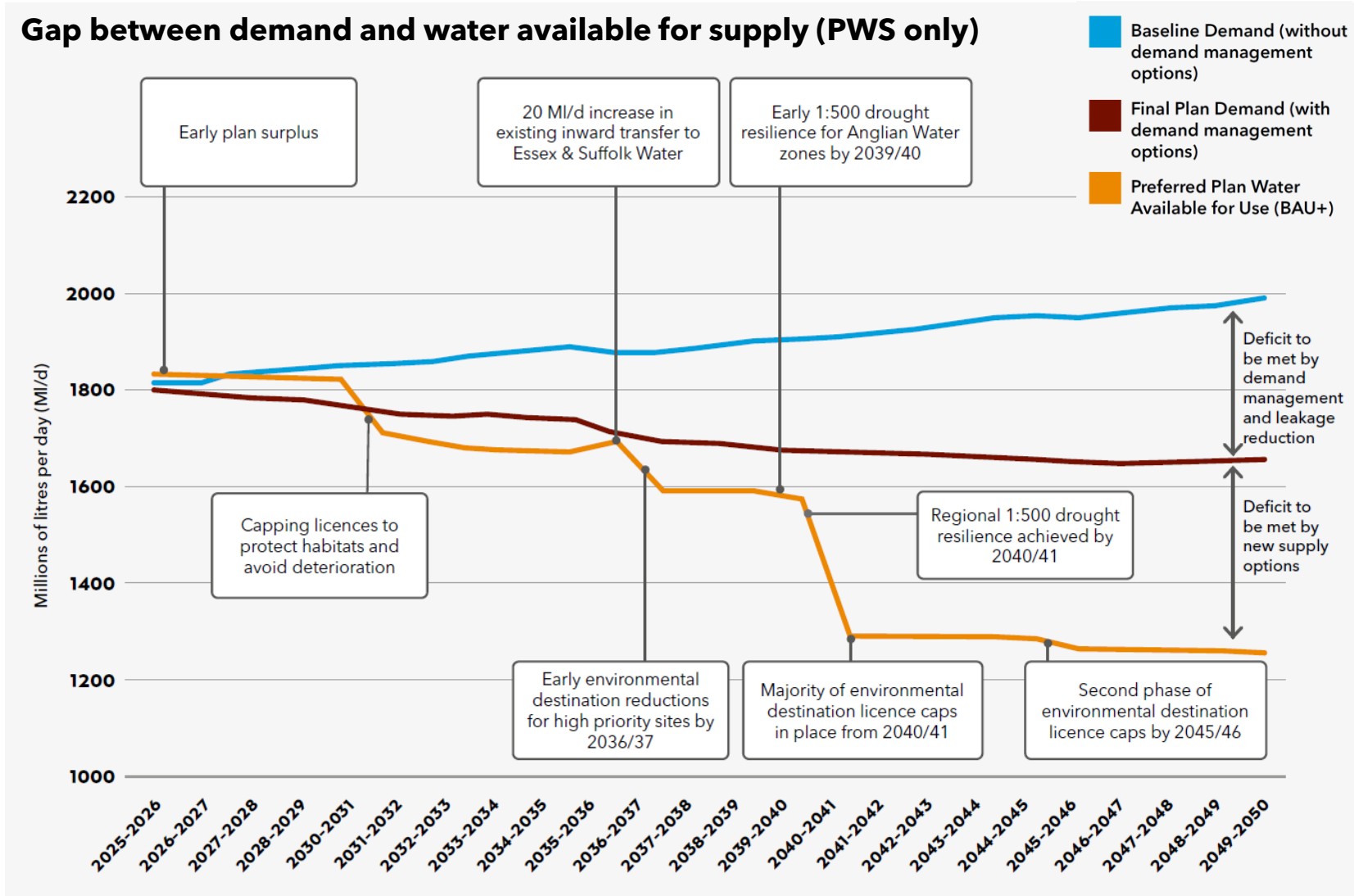
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Environment Agency groundwater abstraction maps:

- Is there scope for new abstraction licences to be granted?
- How much might groundwater abstraction licences need to be reduced by to protect the environment?
- Will capping time-limited licences to 'max peak' historic usage be sufficient?

See: <https://water-for-tomorrow.com/abstraction-map-gallery/>

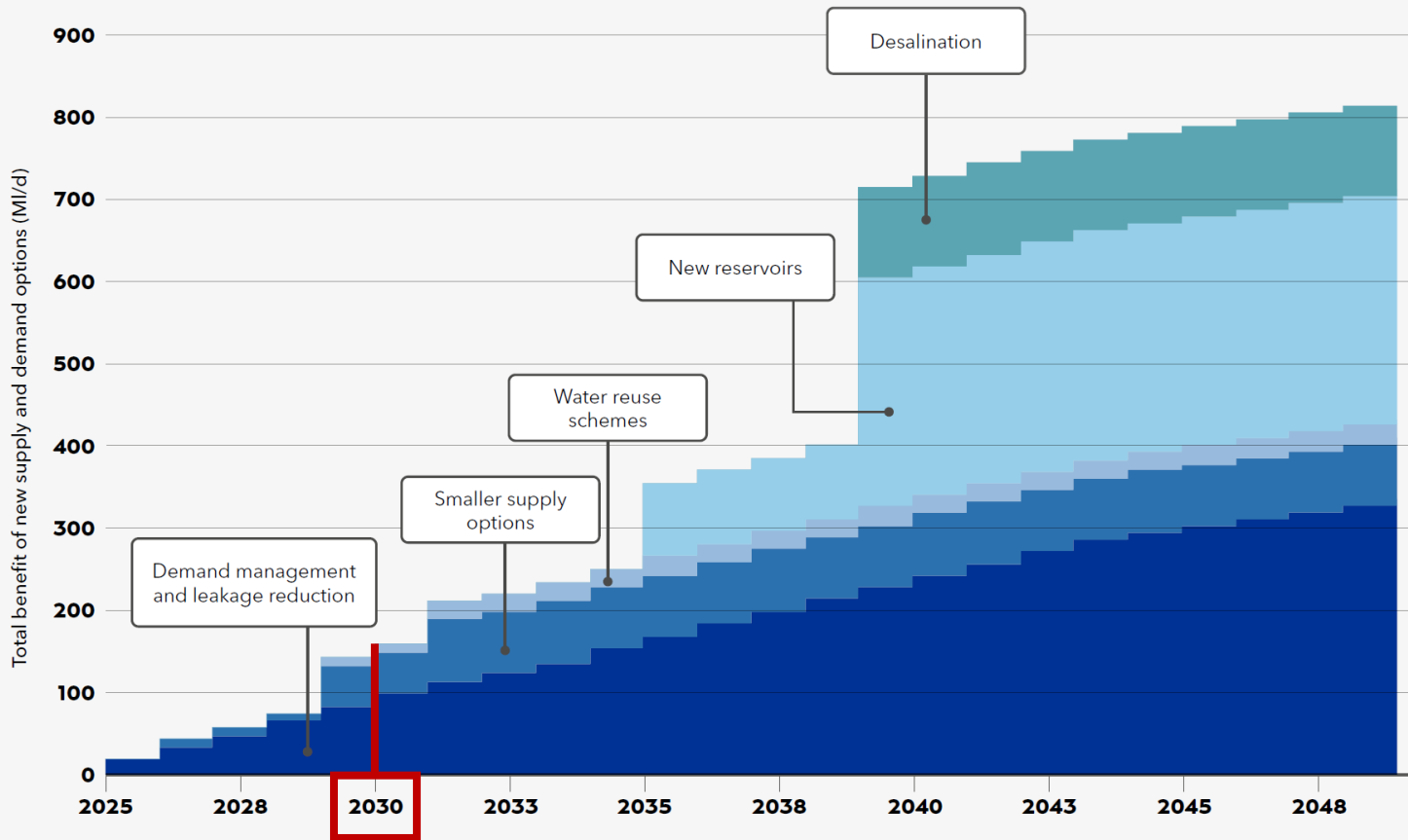
An 800 ML/day deficit by 2050



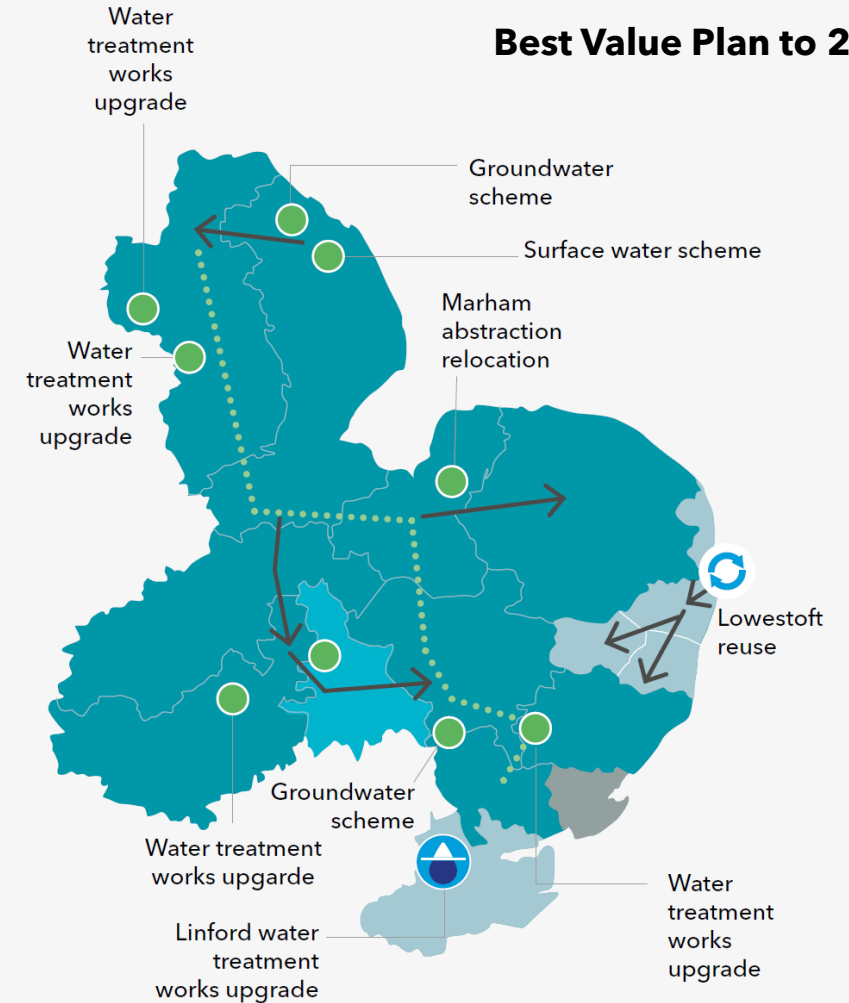
- Demand management and leakage control more than offset growth in water consumption
- Early surplus becomes a deficit by 2030
- Some Environmental Destination improvements delivered by 2036, and almost entirely by 2040
- Resilience to 1:500 drought by 2040

Components of the Best Value Plan

Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time

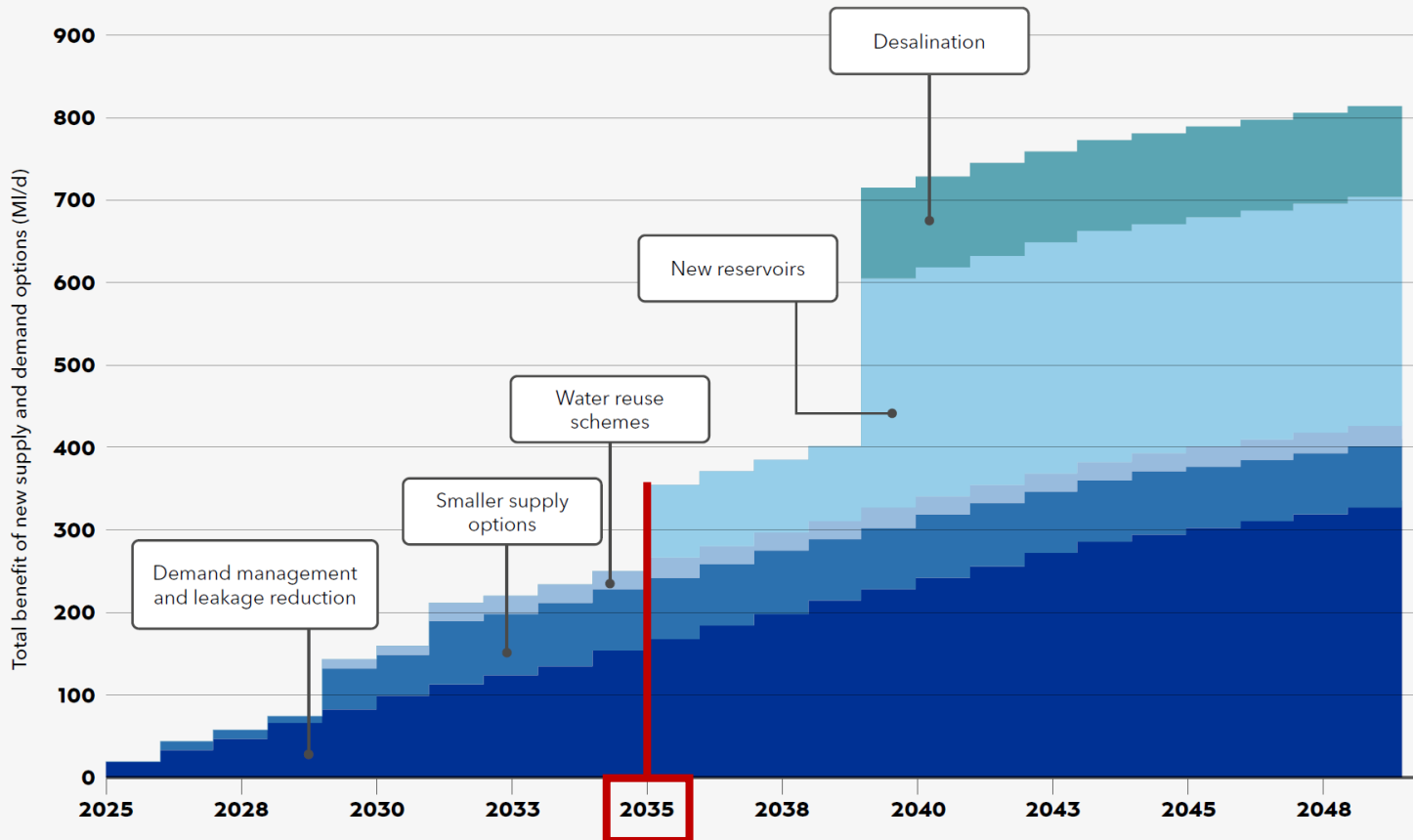


Best Value Plan to 2030

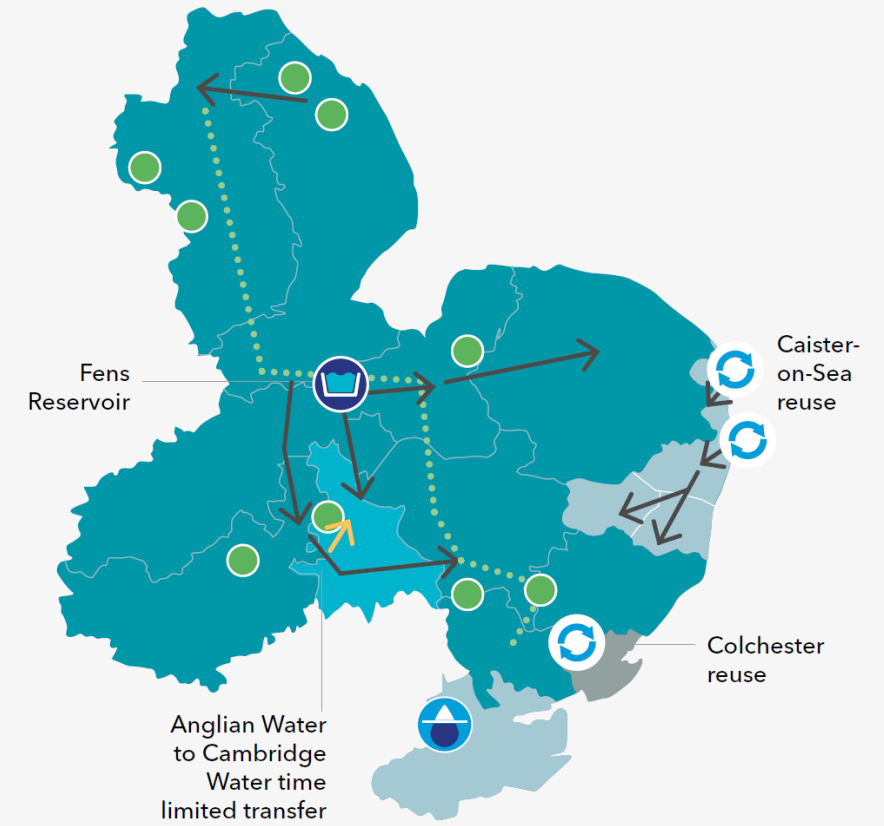


Components of the Best Value Plan

Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time

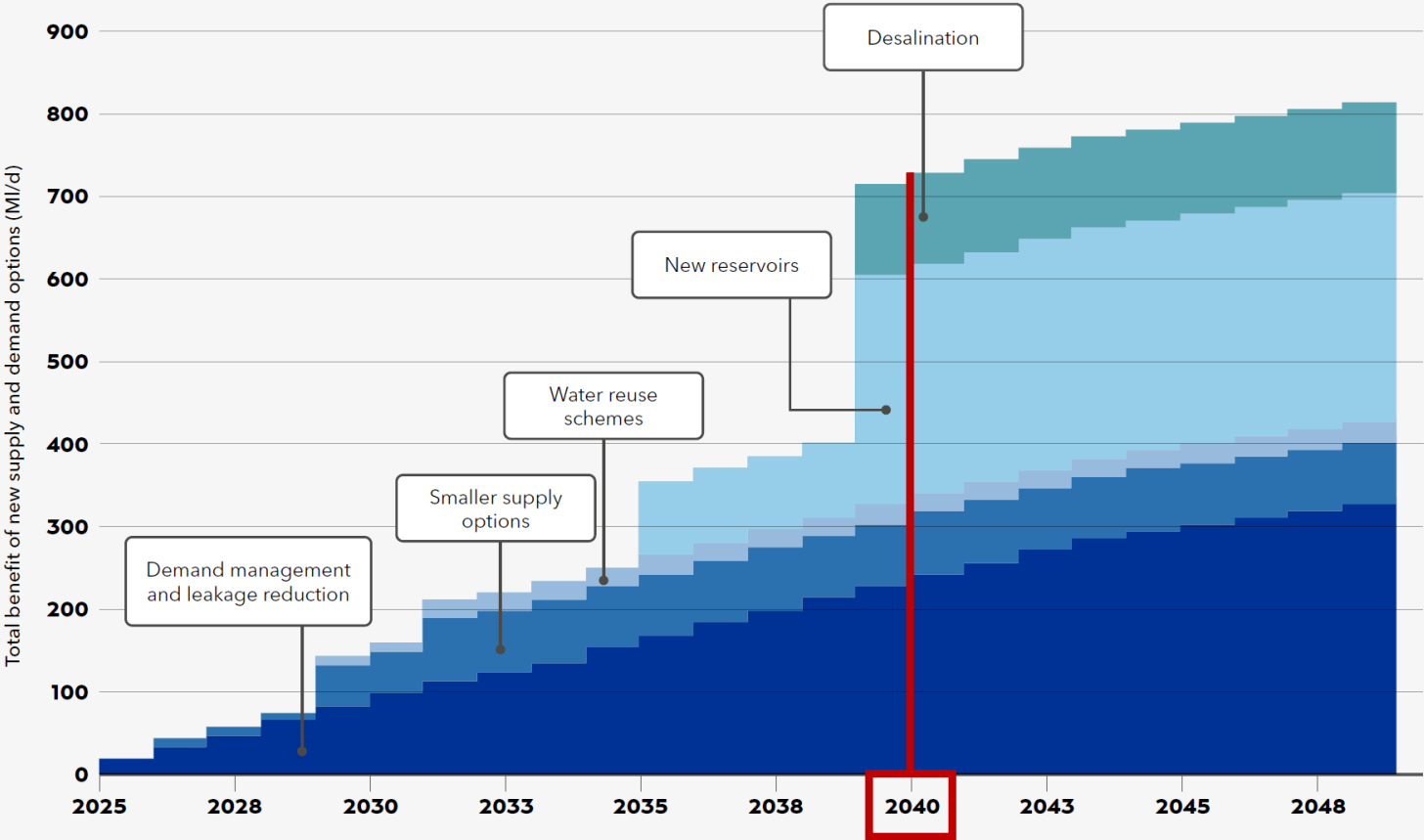


Best Value Plan to 2035

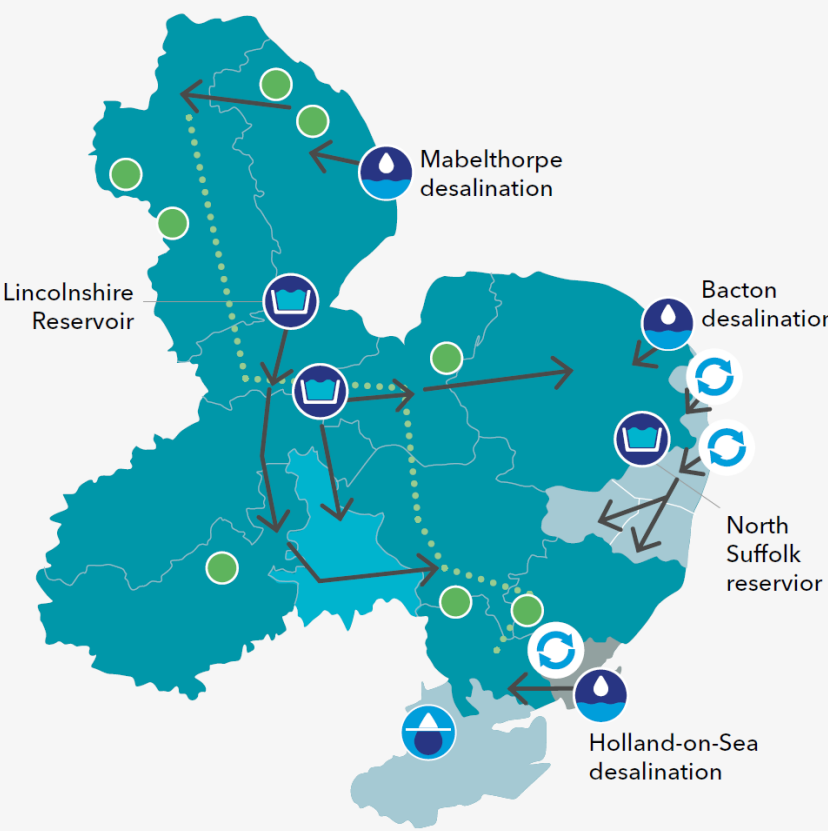


Components of the Best Value Plan

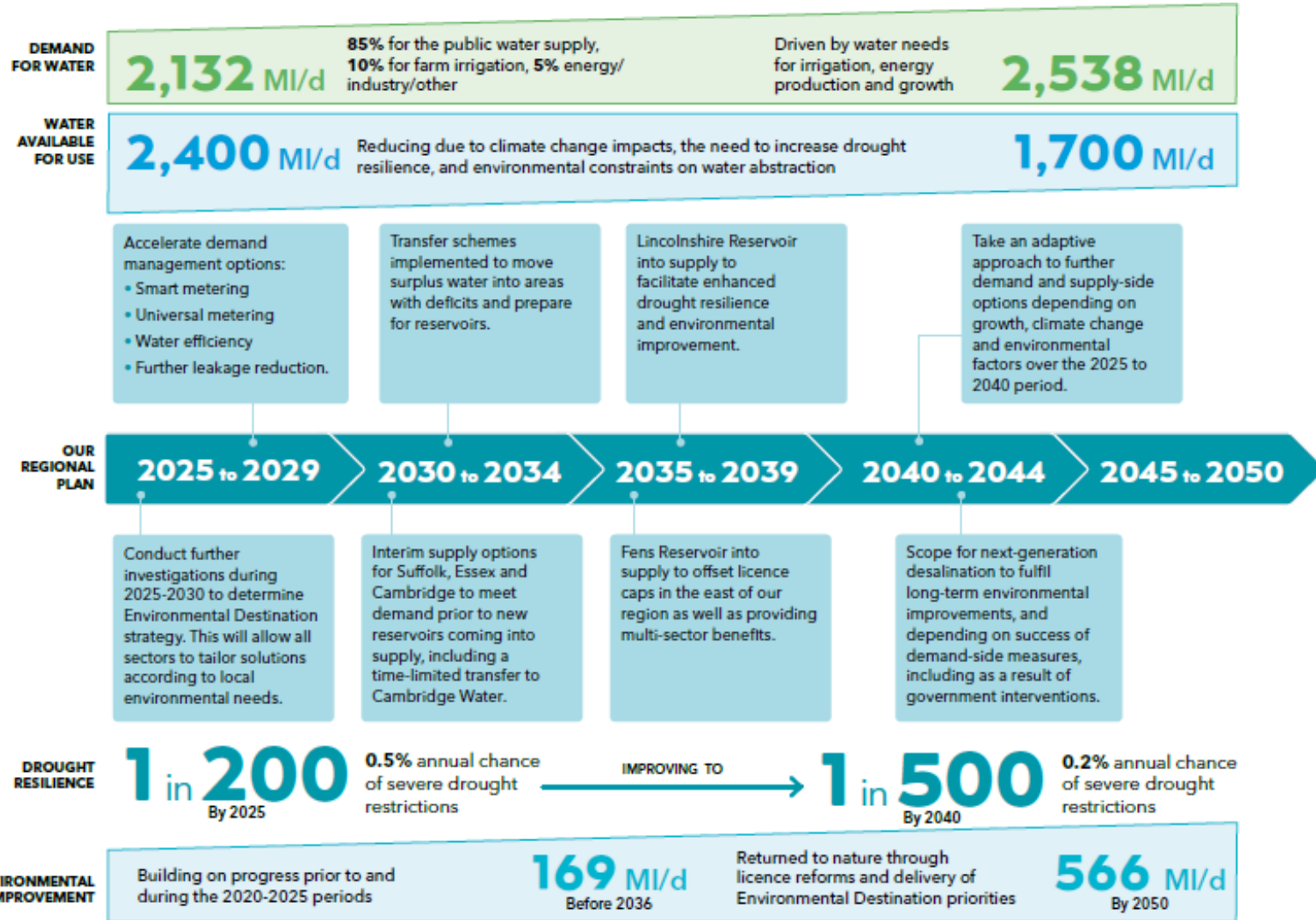
Bridging the projected public water supply deficit over time



Best Value Plan to 2040



Our core Regional Plan to 2050



- 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



Thank you for listening

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