

Future Water – the Government's water strategy for England

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Future Water: key policy areas

61 actions across six key policy areas:

- Supply/demand balance
- Environmental water quality
- Surface water management and flooding
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Charging for water
- Regulatory framework, competition and innovation



Supply/demand balance: water resources

Real-world outcomes:

- Sustainable use of water resources, with no interruptions to essential supply during drought
- Continued high levels of drinking water from our tap

Key policy initiatives:



- 25 year water resources management plans
 - Level of service
 - Company activity to manage demand
 - Identify need for new resources
- Changes to abstraction licensing system
 - Need to time limit all licences...?

Supply/demand balance: demand management

Real-world outcomes:

- Water valued by everyone and used more efficiently
- Ambition to reduce water consumption to 130 litres/head/day or lower by 2030

Key policy initiatives:

- Raising consumer awareness
- Efficient water fittings
- Water-smart homes and businesses
- Near universal metering before 2030 for households in areas of serious water stress



Pictures Courtesy of Waterwise

Environmental water quality

Real-world outcomes:

- Healthy rivers, lakes, estuaries, coasts and groundwaters
- Large majority of water bodies in England having good ecological and chemical status

Key policy initiatives:

- WFD is the key vehicle for achieving water quality objectives
 - Tackling diffuse pollution at source
 - Catchment approach
- Continued support for Catchment Sensitive Farming



Surface water drainage and flooding

Real-world outcomes:

- More adaptable drainage systems delivering:
 - reduced flood risk
 - improved water quality
 - decreasing burdens on the sewer system
- Flood and coastal erosion risk managed sustainably



Key policy initiatives:

- Government response to Sir Michael Pitt's review of 2007 floods [end November]
- Will incorporate thinking on:
 - establishing Surface Water Management Plans
 - clarifying responsibilities for sustainable drainage systems
 - Reviewing the ability to connect surface water to the public sewer



Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Real-world outcomes:

- Reduced water sector greenhouse gas emissions (currently industry footprint + domestic hot water use = 6% of total UK emissions)
- Adaptation to become part of 'business as usual' for the sector

Key policy initiatives:

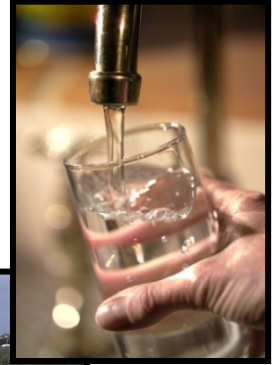
- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Water industry voluntary commitments
 - At least 20% of energy from renewables by 2020
 - Research into measuring and managing non-CO2 emissions
- Act on CO2 campaign



Charging for water

Real-world outcomes:

- Fair, affordable, and cost-reflective charges
- Targeted and appropriate protection for vulnerable customers and those least able to pay



Key policy initiatives:

- Independent review of charging and metering, looking at:
 - Effectiveness and fairness of different charging methods
 - Effectiveness of different types of tariff
 - Optimal pace of metering growth in areas of water stress
 - Social, economic, and environmental concerns
 - Protection for vulnerable customers

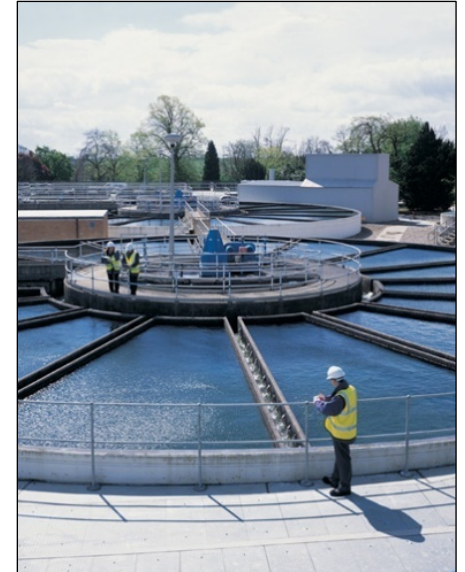
Regulatory framework, competition and innovation

Real-world outcomes:

- An efficient, flexible and innovative water industry
- A strategic framework for the industry that incentivises innovation and sustainability

Key policy initiatives:

- Independent review of competition and innovation, looking at:
 - Benefits to both business and household customers from developing competition in water and wastewater services
 - Scope for competition to drive efficiency and innovation



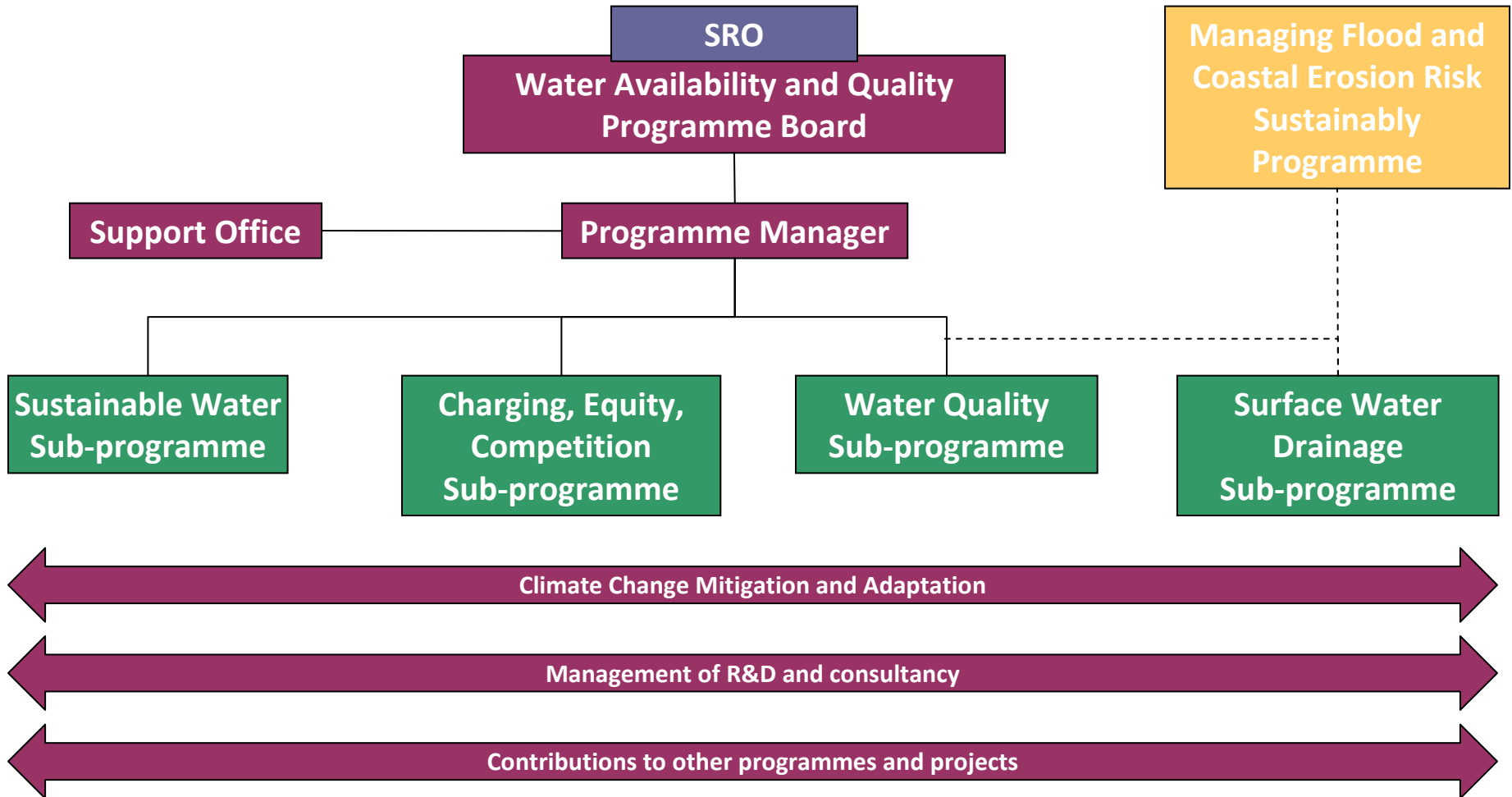
Competition not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

Future Water

- The Government is committed to delivering the 61 actions laid out in Future Water
- Vision for 2030 – valuing water taking responsibility
- Ensuring delivery – Defra Renew



Water Availability and Quality programme organigram



Ongoing Activities

Water resources and conservation

Drinking Water Directive & Policy

Public sewerage and pipework

Economic regulation

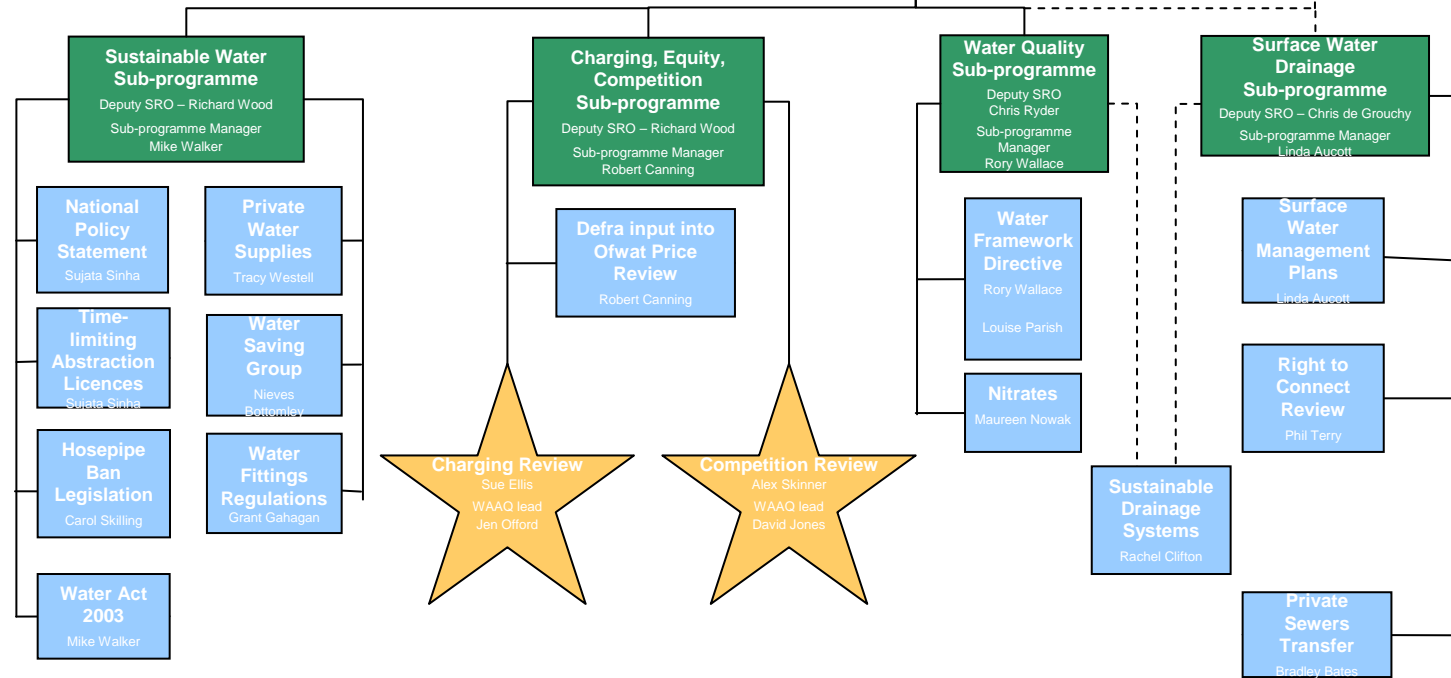
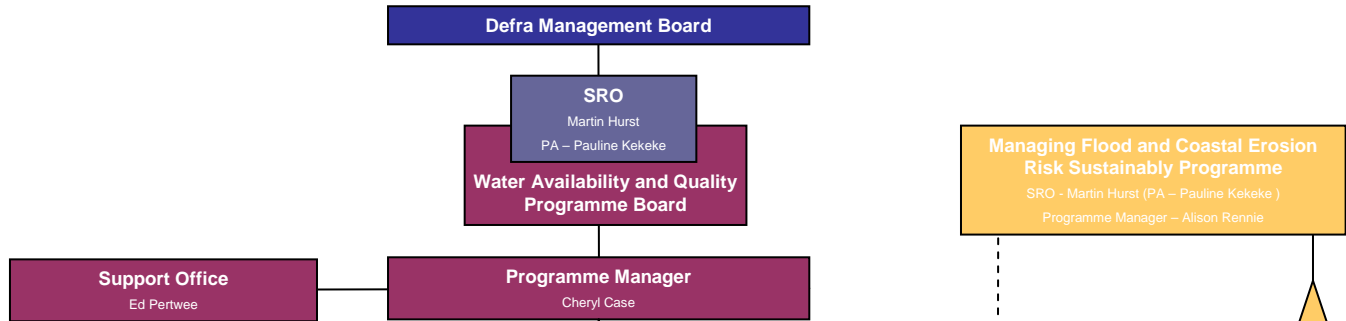
Existing water quality directives and regulations

Emergency planning

Water Availability and Quality Programme Organigram

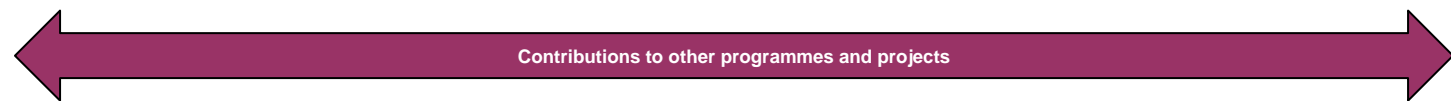
Key

- WAAQ programme
- WAAQ sub-programme
- WAAQ project
- External to WAAQ
- Not yet initiated
- ☆ Key delivery interface
- ↔ Cross-cutting activity
- Dual reporting lines



Water Ongoing Activity

- Water resources and conservation**
 - EC Communication on Water Scarcity and Drought - Mike Walker
 - Water Resource Management Plans – Dawn Instone
 - ECA scheme – Joanna Bentley
 - Drought planning – Carol Skilling
 - Leakage - Peter Jiggins
- Drinking water**
 - Drinking Water Directive and policy - Peter Jiggins
- Public sewerage and pipework**
 - IDA grants – Phil Terry
 - Statutory pipelaying powers; Secretary of State's guidance on the provision of first time sewerage - Bradley Bates
- Economic regulation**
 - CCWater sponsorship; burdens on water companies – David Jones
 - Relations with Ofwat - Robert Canning
- Existing water quality directives and regulations**
 - Bathing Water Directive; Shellfish Water Directive; Freshwater Fish Directive – Edmund Beard
 - Dangerous substances Directive; abandoned mines; oil storage regulations; silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil regulations; Sewage Sludge Directive – Ian Macdonald
 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive – Mark Cunningham
- Emergency planning**
 - Water emergencies and national security – Phil Wildbore or Jonathan Haskoll



Implementing the strategy

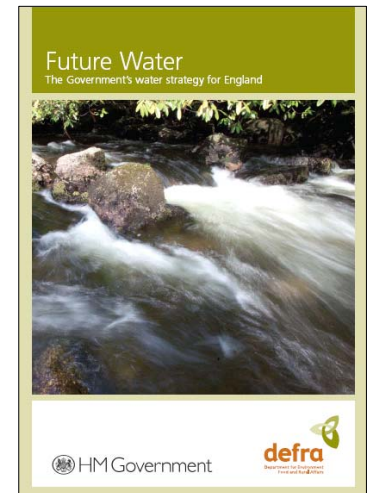
The Government is committed to delivering the actions from *Future Water*.

Significant progress made since publication:

- Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat issued
- Independent reviews commissioned
- Draft Floods and Water Bill announced
- First draft River Basin Management Plans

But Government cannot deliver all this alone.

Delivery partners have been identifying what part they can play, leading on some areas and contributing to others.



Contact details

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