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Importance of the Agriculture Bill to the water sector

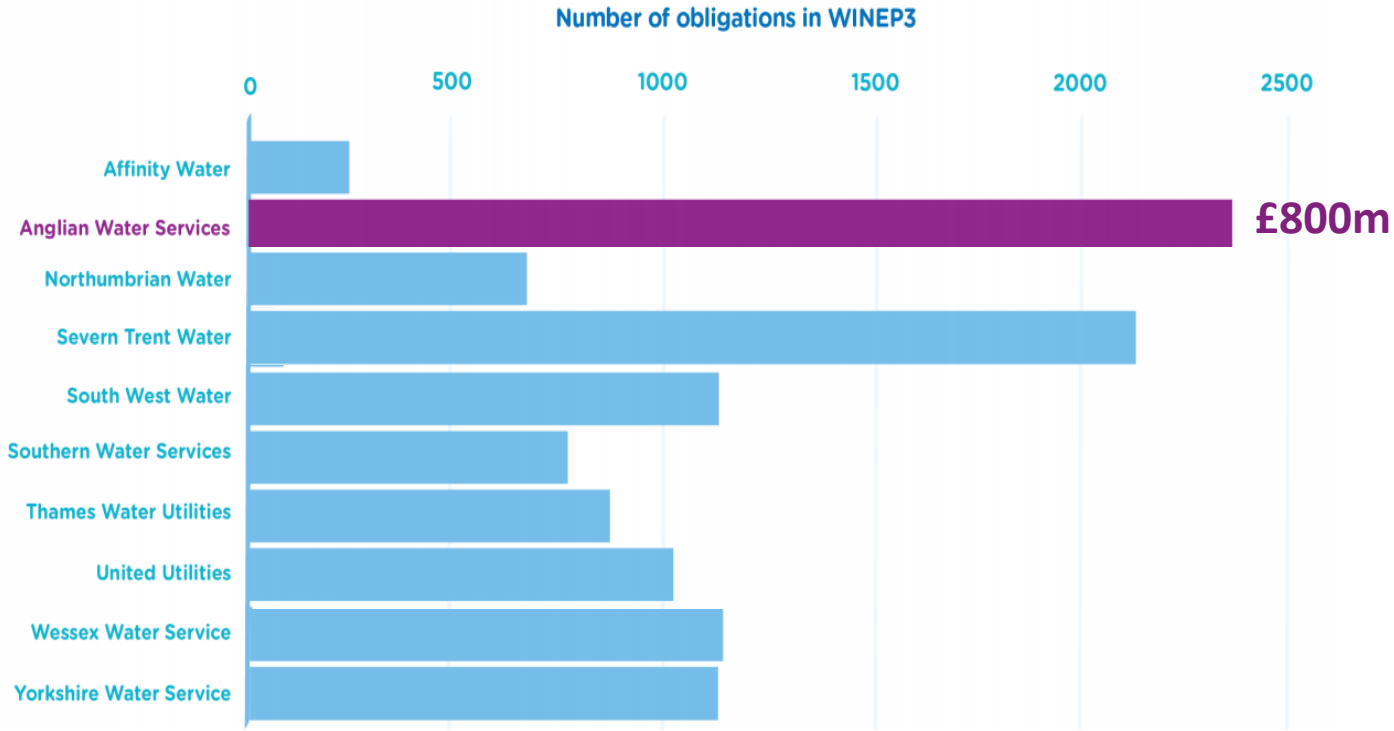
All Party Parliamentary Water Group
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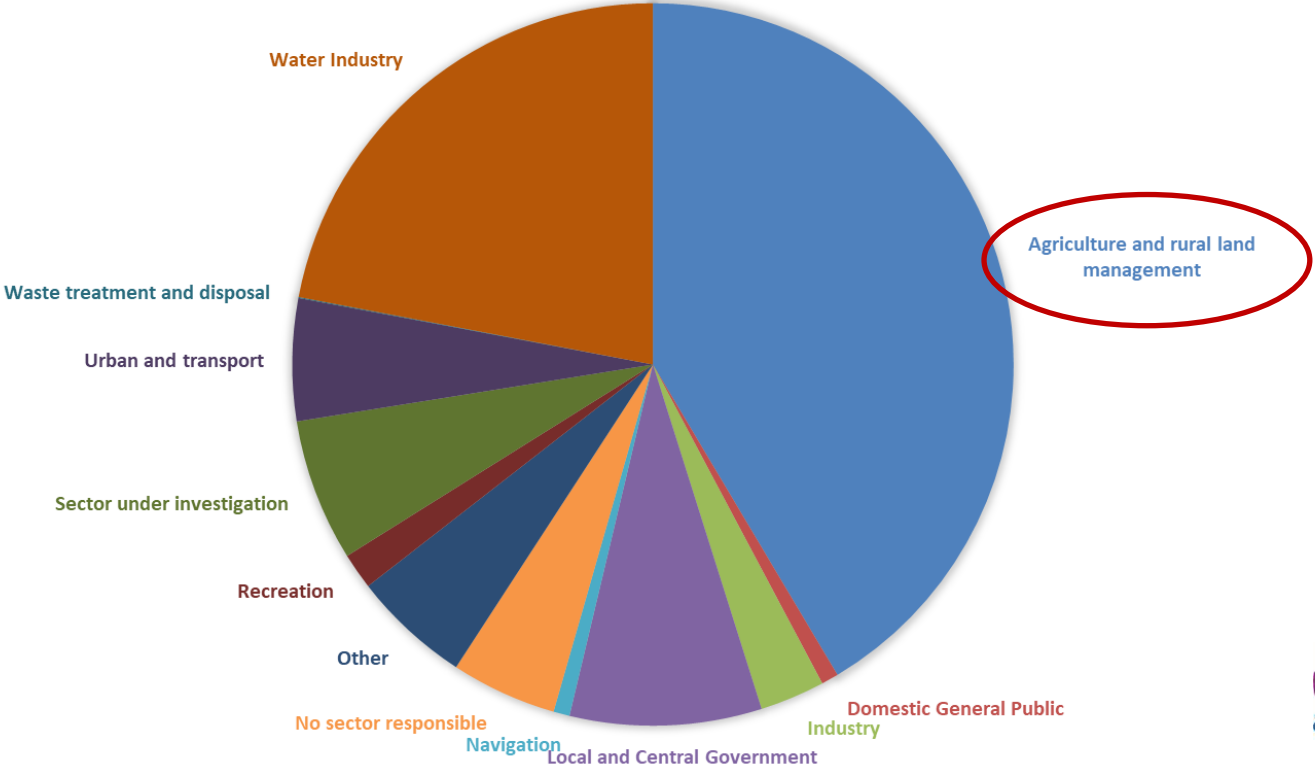
Water industry investment in the environment

A £5bn WINEP programme for AMP7 (2020 – 2025)



The scale of the challenge

Reasons for failing WFD Good Ecological Status in Anglian region (2015 data)



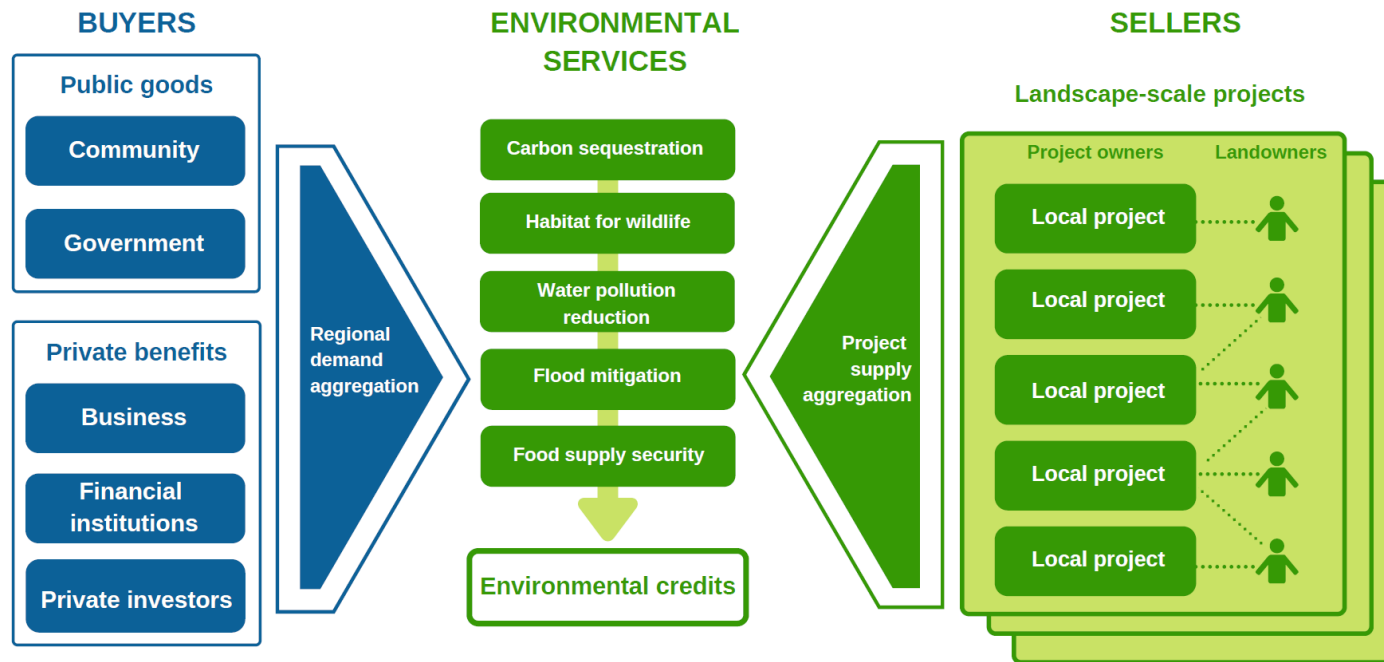
ELMS is a potential game-changer

Public money for environmental public goods, lots of potential benefit for waterbodies

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
What is the purpose of the tier?	To incentivise environmentally sustainable farming and forestry and help to deliver environmental benefits	To incentivise the management of land in a way that delivers locally targeted environmental outcomes	To deliver land use change projects at a landscape scale to deliver environmental outcomes
What could this tier pay for?	<p>Actions will contribute to the delivery of environmental public goods, our 25 Year Environment Plan commitments and net zero target. Examples could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient management • Pest management • Livestock management • Soil management • Field margins (buffer strips) • Field cover (cover crops) • Water storage/efficient water use <p>See further detail on page 20.</p>	<p>Examples could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree, shrub and/or hedge planting and maintenance • Habitat creation/restoration/management (including woodland, wetlands, freshwater, peatland, heathland, species-rich grassland, coastal habitat, urban green space) • Instream/river and overland flow attenuation and diversion (natural flood management) • Species management, for example, introduction, translocation and/or recovery and invasive species prevention/control 	<p>Example projects could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and woodland creation / restoration / improvement • Peatland restoration • Creation / restoration of coastal habitats such as wetlands and salt marsh
Who is eligible?	All farmers	All land managers (but likely to be taken up by those with more interest/experience in taking on environmental challenges)	All land managers (but likely to be limited to land with the right natural capital assets and at the right spatial scale to deliver transformational land use change)

Massive potential to blend public/private money

Need to create robust local markets for carbon and biodiversity net gain credits



But...is the original vision being lost?

Risk that ELMS is becoming just another agri-environment scheme

Key details remain unknown:

- What will be the 'regulatory baseline' of standards that all farmers will need to abide by?
- How much harder will it be to achieve Tier 1?
- How will farm and land management activity be checked and enforced? (Stacey Review!?)
- How will land managers get the trusted, rounded advice they will need to decide how to maximise the potential of their land?
- How much money will be available, and will payment rates be high enough to encourage widespread ELMS participation?
- How will local priorities for Tier 2 and Tier 3 schemes be determined, to reinforce local nature recovery strategies, water resources management plans, local flood risk strategies?

And we detect a sliding in ambition:

- Brexit realities on trade and labour becoming clearer for farmers
- 'Food security' concerns rising up the agenda
- Will Ministers really be able to stomach farm businesses going under?

Thank you for listening



To discuss further please get in touch!
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