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Water abstractor groups – who needs them in UK?



Melvyn Kay
Exec Secretary UK Irrigation
Association

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Irrigation in East Anglia

- Water shortages
- Pressure from other water users
- Water industry and Env lobby well organised
- Irrigated agriculture - a fragmented industry
- Irrigation bottom of the pecking order
- No coherent voice for ag water use
- Pressures from all sides



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Agriculture in E Anglia

- 55,000 jobs in Agriculture in E Anglia
- Contributes £3bn to GDP

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The plan

Develop a strategy for ag water use

Informing the plan are two studies:

- Impact of the 2006 drought – what can we learn from this?
- Assess the role abstractor groups can play in future water management

(BAWAG, ESWAG, Lincoln Transfer)

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What might come from this

- Establish new abstractor groups – central to future planning
- Possibly a federation of abstractor groups
- An information gateway for irrigators
- Benchmarking scheme
- Shared resources – reservoirs