

# East Suffolk Water Abstractors Group (ESWAG)

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# The value of irrigation to the local economy of East Suffolk

- Pullen Report (2012) – Cramfield University
- Irrigated cropping gross output £51m annually
- £13m goes directly in to local economy (Employment)
- Another 20% indirectly (Hauliers, Agricultural Merchants, etc.)
- Combined Crops Only:
  - Gross Output £10.8m
  - Of which £1.7m goes directly to the local economy

# Crops



# Irrigated Crop Production in East Suffolk

- East Suffolk's unique situation
  - Soil Type
  - Water
  - Climate
  - Co-Operation
- Growing costs
- Quality and Quantity



# Water Supply is Under Threat

Current available volumes of water are being eroded

- Time Limited Licences:
  - Reduced at renewal (about 25% in East Suffolk)
  - Can be revoked if thought to be causing environmental damage
- Future Demand
  - Paul Bradford and Cranfield Report
  - 4 possible socio-economic scenarios
  - Slight immediate increase in demand
  - Thereafter, up between 40% and 120%

# Future Supplies

Climate Change – High rainfall events:

- High Flows, floods in rivers and water courses
- Drainage pumps – In East Suffolk we pump as much fresh water in to the sea annually as is used for irrigation (excluding sluices)....



# Future Supplies



We must store this surplus water for later use as in the  
Felixstowe Peninsular Project

# We need....

- The correct regulations to abstract high flows
- Infrastructure to monitor and identify high flows
- Straightforward planning procedures
- Incentives – Grants and Tax Allowances

It will be private or cooperatives ventures, not  
Government ventures



**Questions?**