

# NFU position: Water company strategic supply infrastructure (public reservoirs)

## Summary position

The NFU acknowledges that the expansion of strategic water supply infrastructure is a vital component of improving long-term, multi-sector water management as a critical response to climate change.

consistent with principles embedded in the NFU Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS).

However, the NFU believes that all new public water supply infrastructure must be designed and built to deliver multi-sector benefit (including agriculture) such that agricultural water needs are recognised as an explicit part of resource use plans. The NFU also believes that both the design and implementation during construction must be carried out in a way that minimises impact on land ownership and farming operations.

In terms of the promotion of individual schemes, the NFU is committed to playing a role in the interrogation local decisions to mitigate the difficulties experienced by farmers and local stakeholders.

The NFU believes that land which is of lower agricultural value and/or that is voluntarily surrendered should be subject to special consideration during in the process of site selection prior to developer reliance on compulsory purchase.

## Introduction

meeting future demands for water in England. It explores water needs across all sectors (including agricultural and horticulture) at the national and regional level. Five cross sector regional planning regional groups have been created to shape water company plans and investment and to deliver greater co-ordination across the sectors.

Five draft regional water plans will be published in early 2022. Most of them will promote strategic water supply options (that may or may not benefit agriculture), such as public reservoirs, with the ambition that they will be ready for construction as early as 2025 to 2030.

The capture, storage and distribution of surplus water and the integration of flood risk and drought risk

published in January 2021 and so, in principle, there are good reasons to support these projects in terms of their potential to deliver strategic water security

