

Water Resources Licensing

Transition to Environmental Permitting Regulations

July 2019

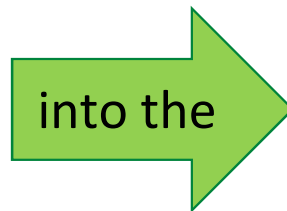
Abstraction reform and the Abstraction Plan

- Significant progress has been made in reforming abstraction management.
- Key driver was the publication of the joint government and Environment Agency Water Abstraction Plan in 2017
- The Abstraction Plan has three main elements:
 - address unsustainable abstraction
 - develop a stronger catchment focus
 - modernise the abstraction service

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- Abstraction Plan: Modernise the abstraction service
- Abstraction and impoundment of water is authorised through the granting of licences.
- Intention to move abstraction and impoundment licensing from:

Water Resources
Act 1991



Environmental
Permitting
Regulations
(EPR)



The move into EPR is

- Switching licences for permits
- Moving to a consistent regulatory framework
- Not changing how we assess and manage water resources

During and after the move into EPR

- The EA plans to migrate your licence into the new system and will grant permits (not licences)
- We will **not make changes** to your existing licences **or re-issue** any documents on transition
- **Your existing licence** document **will be called a permit** and will continue to **authorise** your abstraction or impoundment

Cross regime
working

Review our
legislation

Digital permits

Focus our regulatory
effort

Why are we
making the
change?

Consistency in
format and
determination

Consistency in
regulation

Consolidation

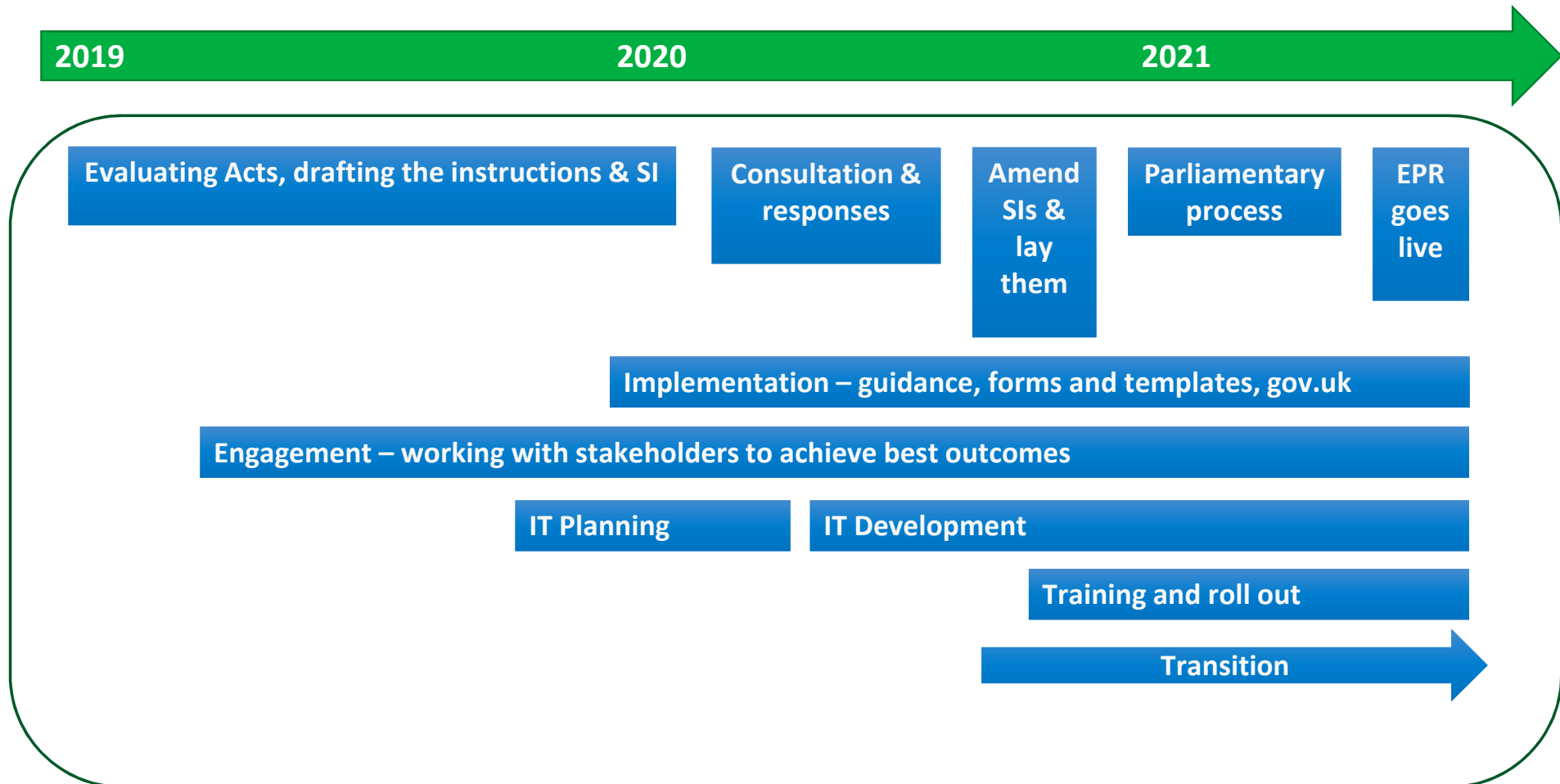
Risk based

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What will change?

- Will have activities instead of licence types: reviewing how to have more than one activity on a permit and how to consolidate activities across regimes
- Adopt the standard permit format – tweaked for abstraction and impoundment
- Considering how to use the management condition
- Will not time limit permits - instead permits will be reviewable

Timeline



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Gathering feedback on our approach

- Ongoing discussion External Advisory Group
- Engage with abstractors about the move to Environmental Permitting
- Offer opportunity to help shape our approach to how we review permits and permit content
- Short questionnaire: available electronically abstraction_reform@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Responses back by end August