

# THE PATHWAY TO LICENSING

Where Others Fear to  
Tread

James Dodds CGeol FGS



# WHAT I WILL TALK ABOUT



- Part 1
  - A bit about my background and its relevance
  - Why groundwater needs to be licensed
  - The role of the hydrogeologist
- Part 2
  - The Computer says NO!
  - Finding solutions
  - Examples
- Part 3
  - What does the future hold?

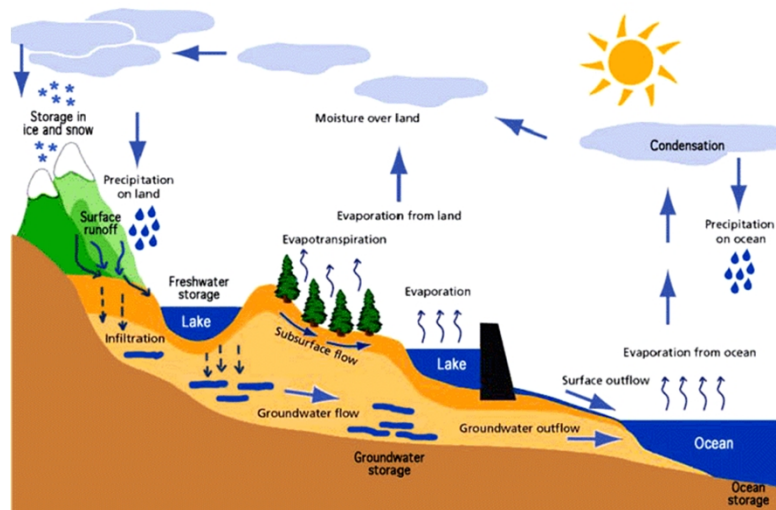
# BACKGROUND



- Geologist / Hydrogeologist 1986
  - Fundamental training
- UK consultant 87/88 – just at the end of the WA era
  - Pragmatism & Science
- International consultant 88-98 (Mining/Developing countries)
  - Pragmatism & Engineering.
- UK water resources consulting 92 – 2018 & NRA secondment 92
  - Experience
- UK Regulator negotiation since 94
  - Practise, Practise, Practise ...

# WHY LICENCE GROUNDWATER

- Water resources management & the water cycle
- Groundwater in the water cycle
- Links to other abstractors and the environment
- Balance



# THE HYDROGEOLOGIST'S ROLE



- Understanding the natural system
- Understanding the regulatory system
- What information do we need?
  - To understand the system
  - To satisfy the regulator
- Water Features Surveys
- Test pumping design & analysis
  - For the regulator
  - For the operator
  - Step, CRT & Operational

# THE COMPUTER SAYS NO!



- Policy Development
  - CAMS
  - WFD and other Directives
  - UKTAG
- The regulator has a job to do

# INNOVATION & COLLABORATION



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- Innovative solutions & working together
    - Early days of GSHC
    - Case Study 1
    - Not every officer has the same mindset

# PUSHING HARD



- Pushing hard
  - Know the rules
  - Know the system
  - Know who you are talking to
  - If it doesn't sound right, it probably isn't
  - Case Study 2
  - Case Study 3



# LOOKING FORWARD



- New Authorisations
  - Trickle Irrigation
  - Geographically exempt areas
  - Others
  - Started January this year
  - If you were exempt you probably are not now
  - You need to act NOW!
- Licence Reform
  - Licences to be replaced with Permits 2021?
- Initial Priority Catchments
  - Notts, Lincs, East Anglia

# LOOKING FORWARD



- BREXIT
  - I don't think much will change. The UK essentially designed the EU system!
- Standards
  - Borehole standards are being developed in Europe.
- Innovation
  - We have gone backwards in water resources planning & resource allocation. We need innovation but we need the science to underpin it.
- Re-inventing the wheel
  - But we don't want to re-invent the wheel.

## TAKE THIS HOME...



- Not all abstraction licensing is difficult, but it is getting more difficult
- The process starts when you make first contact. Be prepared
- Know the system and know who you are speaking to
- If it sounds daft it probably is

## ... AND THIS

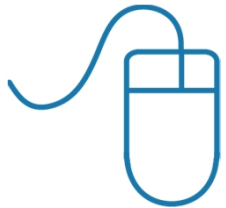


- The best solutions are collaborative solutions
- You can be hard, but know your stuff
- The future will be different from the past
- There needs to be (and will be) more innovation
- Independent water will cost more and will need more careful management

## GET IN TOUCH

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envireau<sup>💧</sup>  
WATER



[www.envireauwater.co.uk](http://www.envireauwater.co.uk)



[james@envireauwater.co.uk](mailto:james@envireauwater.co.uk)



01332 871 882