upcoming change to Babel

There is a suggested change to Babel that may change the way you write your configurations, builder tasks and other aspects of your Babel configuration.

In the blog post Upgrade to Babel 7 (WIP) the Bable maintainers give information on how upcoming changes will affect Babel installations.

The one I'm concerned about is how to use yearly plugins. The posts states that:

> Instead of any yearly preset, we suggest that you use the newly created babel-preset-env which uses the correct plugins based on your environment.

When configuring Babel you'd normally use the following:

```
{
  "presets": ["es2015", "es2016", "es2017"]
}
```

My configuration file looks like this

```
gulp.task('babel', () => {
  return gulp.src('src/es6/**/*.js''src/es6/**/*.js'rcemaps.init())
    .pipe($.babel({
      presets: ['es2015', 'es2016', 'es2017']
    }))
    .pipe($.sourcemaps.write('.'))
    .pipe(gulp.dest('src/js/'))
    .pipe($.size({
      pretty: true,
      title: 'Babel'
    }));
});
```

The idea is that both of the examples above use the presets directly and,

regardless of the level for ES6, 7, or 8 in your browser, it'll load all the presets needed for each yearly plugin.

Instead the new recommended way to go is use the [babel-preset-env](#) plugin that will only load the transformations that you need for your target browsers.

Used in combination with [stage-1](#), [stage-2](#) and [stage-3](#) presets we can get fuller coverage of what we want on Javascript.

Leaving the targets attribute blank makes `preset-env` equivalent to `preset-latest` in terms of functionality.

If we want to use `preset-env` and all the stages plugins we can do something like this in the `babelrc.json` configuration.

```
{
   "presets": ["env","stage-1","stage-2","stage-3"]
}
```

If we want to specify what versions of browsers we want to support then we can specify the `targets` parameter and provide a list in the same way we do for Autoprefixer. The folloiwng example uses the last two versions of browsers and Safrai 7+

```
{
  "presets": [
    ["env", {
    "env""targets": {
        "browsers"
          "last 2 versions",
          "safari >= 7"
       ]
      }
    },
  "last 2 versions" "stage-2",
     "stage-3"
     ]
   ]
```

```
}
```

an equivalent Gulp task would look like this

```
gulp.task('babel', () => {
  return gulp.src('src/es6/**/*.js''src/es6/**/*.js'rcemaps.init())
    .pipe($.babel({
        presets: [
          ["env", {
              "targets": {
                "browsers": [
                  "last 2 versions",
                  "safari >= 7"
                ]
              }
          },
          "stage-1",
          "stage-2",
          "stage-3"
          ]
      ]
    }))
    .pipe($.sourcemaps.write('.'))
    .pipe(gulp.dest('src/js/'))
    .pipe($.size({
      pretty: true,
      title: 'Babel'
    }));
});
```