

Why agri-service delivery in NSW must change

Livestock Health & Pest Authorities

- There are currently 14 Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPAs) across NSW.
- In the last financial year, ratepayers contributed \$29.8 million in rates, plus an additional \$5.91 million for the pest insect levy.
- Of this approximately \$3.5 million goes to supporting administrative/operating functions of the State Management Council, including supporting 121 Directors.
- The Ryan Review of LHPAs identified that the LHPAs carry excessive operational and governance overheads ie there is one Director for every three staff members
- The NSW Auditor-General recently identified that the State Management Council of the LHPA has not provided adequate financial statements for 2008; 2009/10; 2010/11; and 2011/12.

Catchment Management Authorities

- There are currently 13 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) across NSW
- Between 2003-04 to 2012-13 the Catchment Management Authorities received more than \$1.486 billion to fund operational activities and NSW Government and Commonwealth NRM priorities - of this the NSW Government directly provided more than \$697 million
- In 2012-13 the NSW Government will provide CMAs with about \$38 million for core operational funding. Almost \$11 million which is about 30% of this amount will be used to support CMA Board and Executive Management support, including 81 CMA Directors

Agriculture NSW

- The current Agriculture NSW (division of DPI) extension services model was created in 1940
- Since that time, numerous government and statutory organisations have developed to deliver advisory and other programs to improve agricultural productivity, biosecurity and natural resource management in regional NSW.
- A recent survey found 50% of producers have used the NSW DPI for farm management advice in the last 12 months but 46% felt that the NSW DPI overlaps with other organisations, companies and providers.
- Over half (54%) felt that the DPI needs to change to meet the needs of rural producers, a view shared across all demographic groups
- The cost implications for farmers are significant – they pay numerous times for similar services, even if they don't hire in private consultants through taxes, levies and rates ie DPI, LHPA, CMAs, Weed County Councils, R+D Corporations
- The Local Land Services model will still attract the same funding as the DPI, LHPAs and CMAs, however the money will be used more efficiently

More information

Further information on *Local Land Services* and changes to regional service delivery can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices