



Katrina Hodgkinson MP Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLEAR FUTURE FOR LOCAL LAND SERVICES

Delivering the NSW Government's hallmark reform for the State's primary industries sector is one critical step closer with key Local Land Services decisions announced by the Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today.

"The steps taken by the NSW Liberals & Nationals to improve service delivery and reduce duplication will redirect \$5 million to frontline agricultural advisory and extension services each year," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"These funds will deliver extra capacity and flexibility to Local Boards to hire more employees; form new partnerships; or secure services from other providers.

"The decisions taken today are based on the ideas and expectations gathered over the last 18 months through the extensive Local Land Services consultation process as well as the findings of the Ryan Review of Livestock Health & Pest Authorities."

The Government accepted 21 of the 25 Stakeholder Reference Panel governance recommendations and delivered a regional boundaries map which considered two maps.

From January 2014, Local Land Services will comprise:

- 11 regions (map attached)
- Local Boards with seven members – with four Government appointments and three ratepayer elected positions (*a five:four ratio in the Western Local Land Services to account for its size*)
- 1 Board of Chairs with an independent Chair

"Local Land Services will be a statutory corporation which will delegate responsibility for operational management and planning functions to 11 local Boards," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Boards will be a mix of Government appointments and ratepayer elected positions to address the evidence of significant weaknesses in corporate governance and accountability highlighted in the Ryan Review and reflect the vital need for Local Land Services to be accountable to ratepayers and taxpayers.

"Local Land Services will be an organisation of considerable financial capacity. Over a four year period the projected revenues are over \$500 million so we need to ensure this organisation has the skills and expertise to set it on the right course."

From January 2014, the advice and services from Local Land Services or the Department of Primary Industries will be available from 139 towns across NSW, an increase of 22 locations through bringing Livestock Health & Pest Authorities into the network.

Full details of the NSW Government decisions on Local Land Services regions, governance structure and services are available via the DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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