

## Proposed LLS “Biosecurity County Council” Delivery Model for Greater Sydney

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The Concept: LLS “State” and LLS “Greater Sydney” remain key planning / strategic / policy development agencies – creating a mix of legislative and incentive frameworks to deliver on their plans at their respective levels.

Under this proposed model, LLS “Local” is local government (as County Councils), who function under an inter-governmental contract (defined via “Vertical Shared Services” Dollery *et al*, 2012) to engage and deliver the services on-the-ground. This could be delivered in Sydney via four “Council Clusters”, similar in jurisdiction to the current Sydney Weeds Committees boundaries (see Fig 1) and established under the *Local Government Act 1993* (S383). The services provided include pest plant and animal control, regulation and education activities.

A council driven LLS delivery model will have the following advantages:

- Ease at which LLS State strategy can be implemented by “single” organisations across a wide variety of landscapes and tenures utilising the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework to plan and deliver.
- Utilising local government “shared services” economies of scale benefits – especially in plant provision, IT and specialist knowledge. (there are excellent examples of Council’s already doing this effectively, ie: WSROC, SWC, HRCC) – further evidence in Dollery et al (2012)
- Employing more people (long term) under the Local Government (State) Award (lower cost than state public service) = more people on-the-ground where the community want them (cognitive of current Award arrangements).
- State government employees focus on strategy, policy, support material and legislation.
- Local government employees focus on operational works, community engagement, network development and education.
- The Landcarer and/or Farmer only needs to establish a relationship *with one government agency* - LLS “Local” - for all of their biosecurity and NRM services. Whilst being employed by local government, this representative will be uniformed and “branded” with the LLS corporate logo.
- Can easily expand to include current Weed Control (LCA) and/or other roles.

In conclusion we believe we have a rare opportunity to coordinate the delivery of biosecurity and NRM roles in a greatly simplified model. A model the community is more likely to understand and therefore engage with and support. It would eliminate duplication (especially in the strategic areas) and foster cost effective use of public funding leading to more operational jobs in the sector. It will produce a bottom line result of engaged land managers, more on-ground results, enhanced biosecurity and a productive and healthier environment.

Ref: Dollery B, Grant B, Kortt M (2012) *Councils in Cooperation – Shared Services and Australian Local Government*. The Federation Press. <http://www.federationpress.com.au/>

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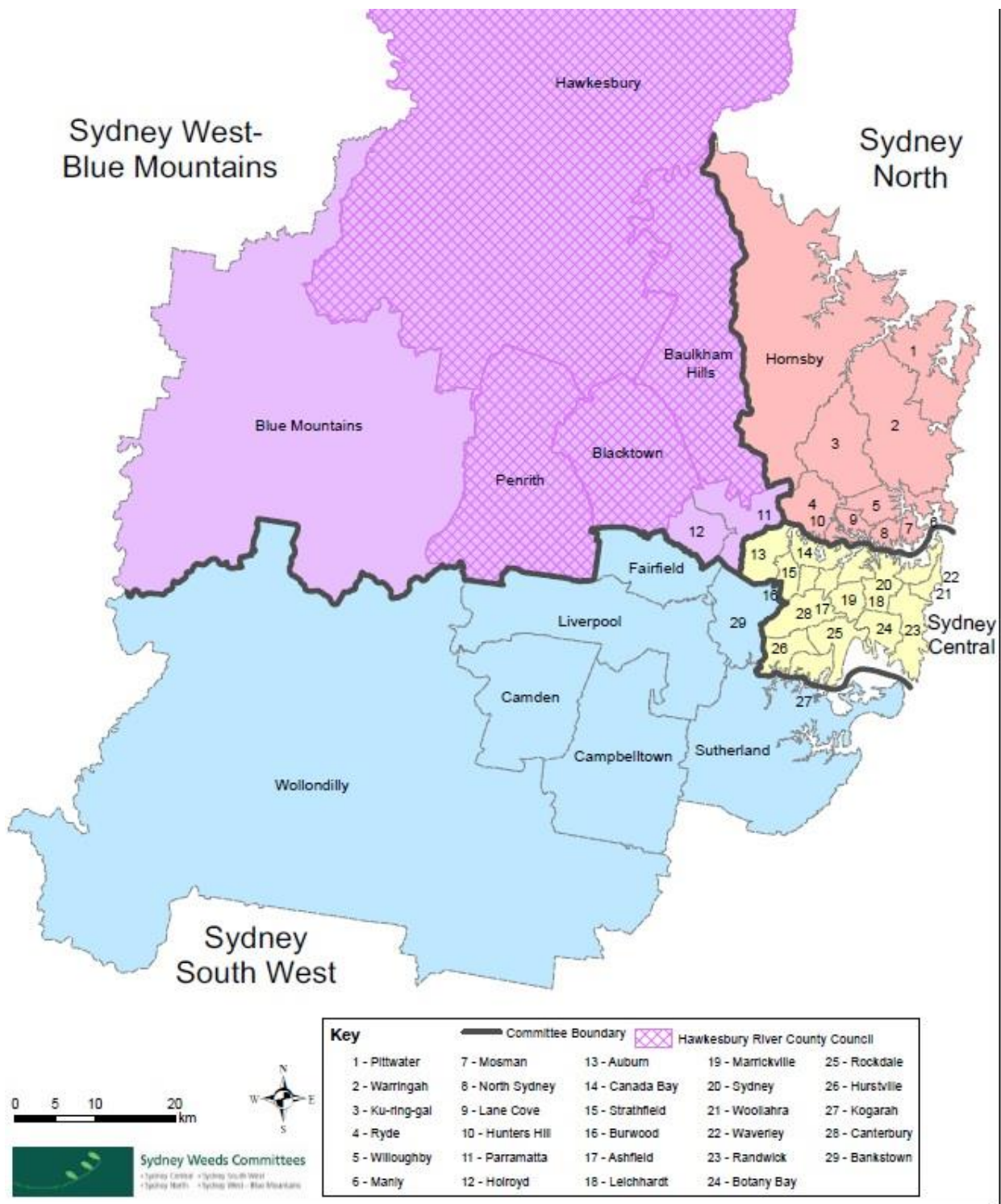


Figure 1: The Current Council Clusters that could form the LLS Biosecurity County Councils