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