Review of Catchment Action NSW 2014-15 and 2015-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

September 2013

Enquiries

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List of acronyms

CMA   Catchment Management Authority
NRC   Natural Resources Commission
NSW   New South Wales

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1 Allocating *Catchment Action NSW* funding

Catchment Action NSW is the NSW Government's regionally-delivered project funding to address state natural resource management priorities. Previously sourced through the Minister for Primary Industries, from 2014-15 it is being funded from the Waste and Environment Levy via the Minister for the Environment.

1.1 The decision making process

Since 2008, *Catchment Action NSW* investment funds have been allocated using the Natural Resource Commission's (NRC's) six-stage decision-making process (**Figure 1**).
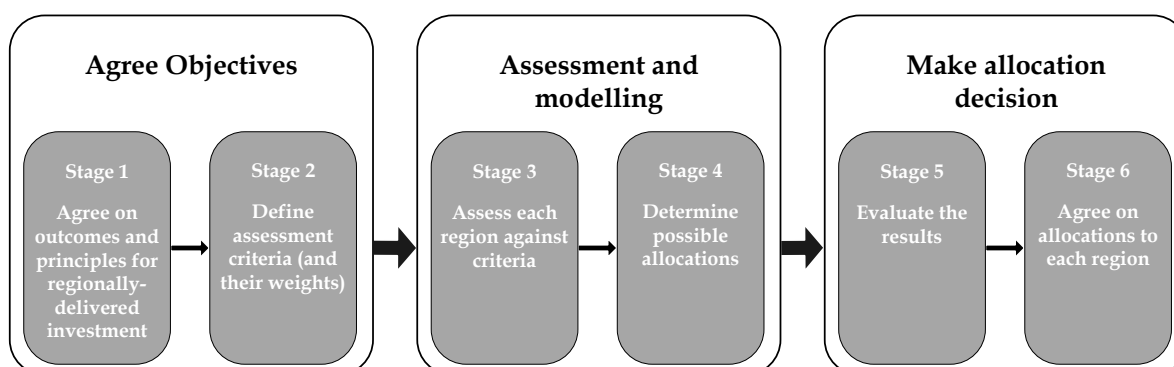

Figure 1: Decision-making process for *Catchment Action NSW* funding allocation

This process is designed to:

- direct investment towards Government's strategic investment priorities

- use best available state-wide knowledge to support decision making

- link funding to organisational performance, driving improved performance over time

- be transparent and draw on input from all stakeholders

- consider and address risks to the regional delivery of natural resource management.

In May 2013, the NRC provided the Minister for Primary Industries with a recommended profile for allocating *Catchment Action NSW* funding between Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) in 2013-14.[1]

The Minister for Primary Industries also requested that the NRC conduct a review of the funding methodology and recommend how it can be refined and applied to Local Land Services *Catchment Action NSW* funding for 2014-16 by 30 September 2013 (see Part B in **Attachment 1**).

1.2 Investment principles

In June 2013, the Minister for Primary Industries' office reaffirmed their support for the following investment principles:

- **priorities** - invest in priority natural resource issues

- **performance** - invest cost effectively and provide incentives to improve performance.

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[1] The NRC's report can be found at: http://nrc.nsw.gov.au/Workwedo/FundingAllocation.aspx

1.3 Assessment framework

The NRC, in consultation with key agency and CMA stakeholders, developed a revised assessment framework (**Figure 2**) to support the agreed investment principles based on:

▪ priorities for natural resource management identified within the *NSW 2021* state plan[2]

▪ priorities for *Catchment Action NSW* funding identified in a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for the Environment

▪ outputs from the NRC's independent performance evaluation program.

1.3.1 Priorities assessment

The priorities assessment, shown at a high level in the assessment framework in **Figure 2**, is explained in more detail in **Figure 3** including data sources and proposed weightings**.**

The NRC has identified best available knowledge, data, expertise and decision support tools to inform the priorities assessment. In particular, agencies have invested in spatial decision support tools that combine datasets and statistical tools to map Government investment priorities for state-scale natural resource management. **Attachment 2** provides further information about the datasets used, and **Attachment 3** presents the spatial priority mapping underpinning the priorities assessment.

The NRC analyses these data sources against the Local Land Services boundaries, converting the spatial information into scores for inclusion in a multi-criteria analysis model.

1.3.2 Performance assessment

Scores for recent NRC assessments of the catchment action plan upgrades are being carried over to Local Land Services (based on agreed decision rules to accommodate boundary changes), as these plans will guide natural resource management investment as Local Land Services are established.

Past CMA audits will not apply to Local Land Services as these are new organisations with different leadership and governance arrangements, meaning all regions will receive the same median score for this criterion. However, the NRC's audit program findings for Local Land Services will be included in future funding allocation reviews once new audits are completed.

2 Recommended allocation profile

The recommended allocation profile is provided in **Figure 4**. This profile is generated by inputting scores for the priorities and performance assessments into a multi-criteria analysis model that reflects the criteria and weightings within the assessment frameworks in **Figure 2**.

A full breakdown of priorities and performance scores for each region is included in **Attachment 4**, and a summary of the key factors driving each region's proportional allocation is provided in **Attachment 5**.

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[2] NSW Government (2011), *NSW 2021 – A plan to make NSW number one*. At: www.2021.nsw.gov.au.

| Outcome sought | Investment principles | Assessment criteria | | Assessment approach |
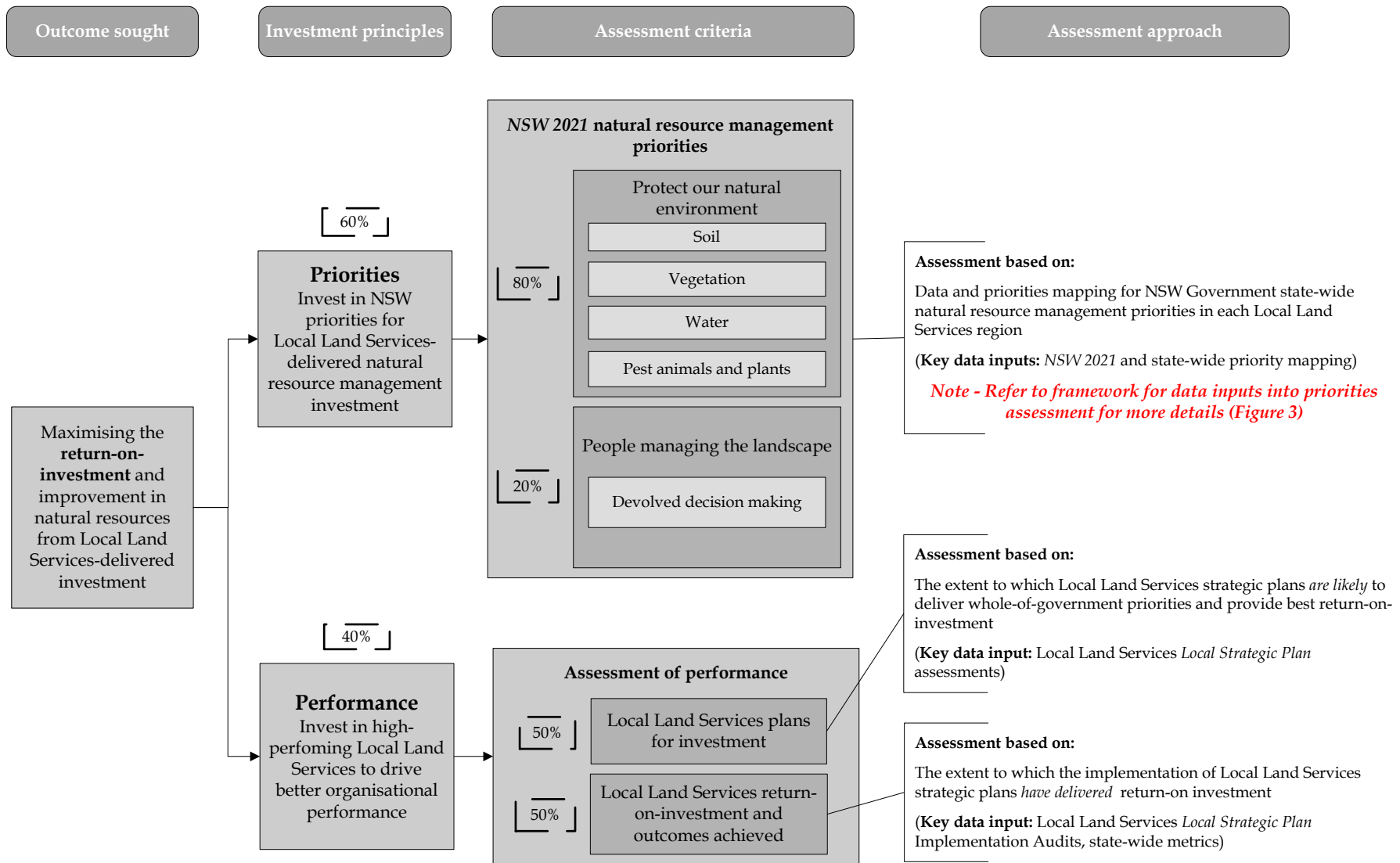
Figure 2: Assessment framework for Catchment Action NSW funding allocation to Local Land Services
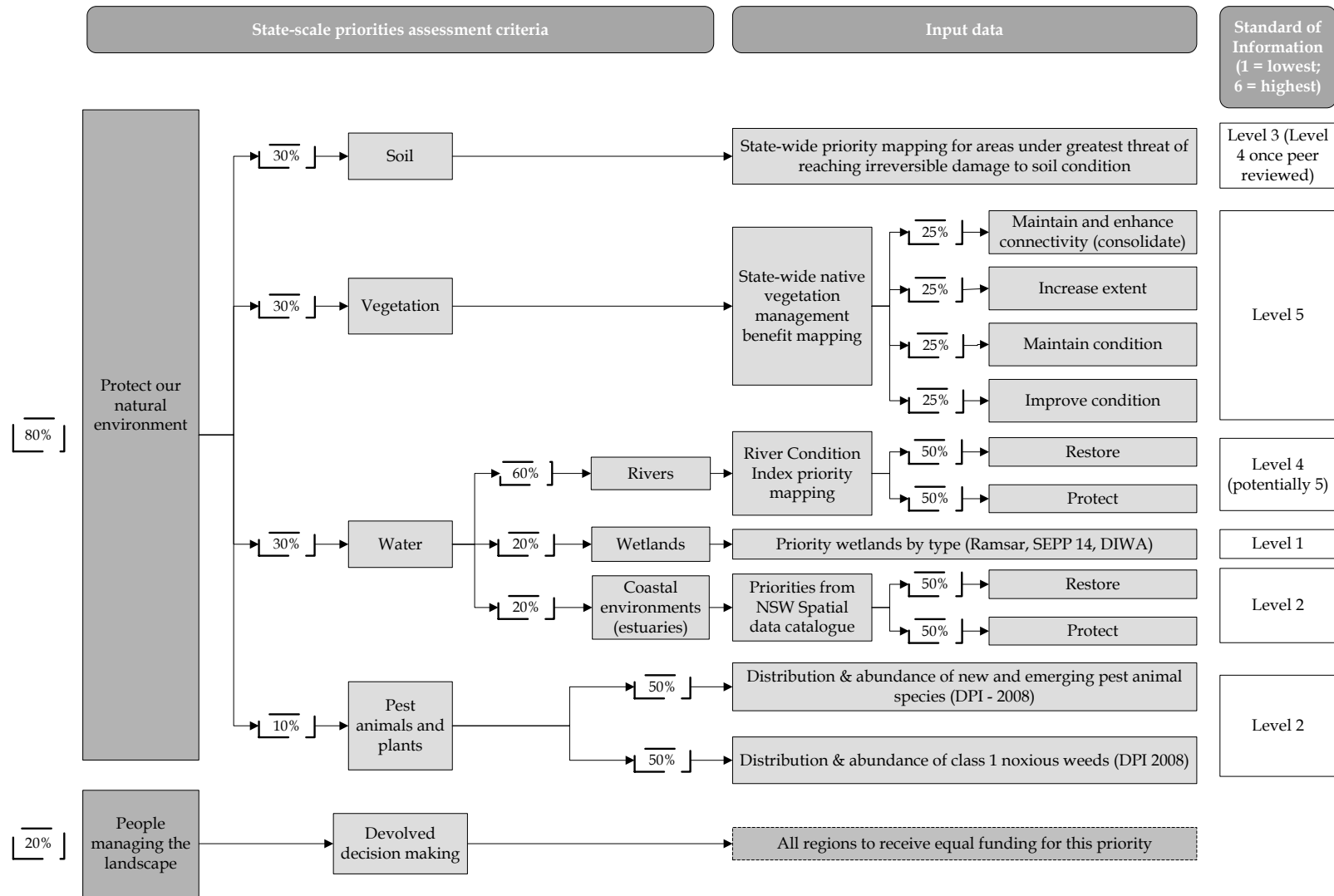
Figure 3: Detailed assessment framework for priorities assessment including data inputs (refer to Figure 2 for context)
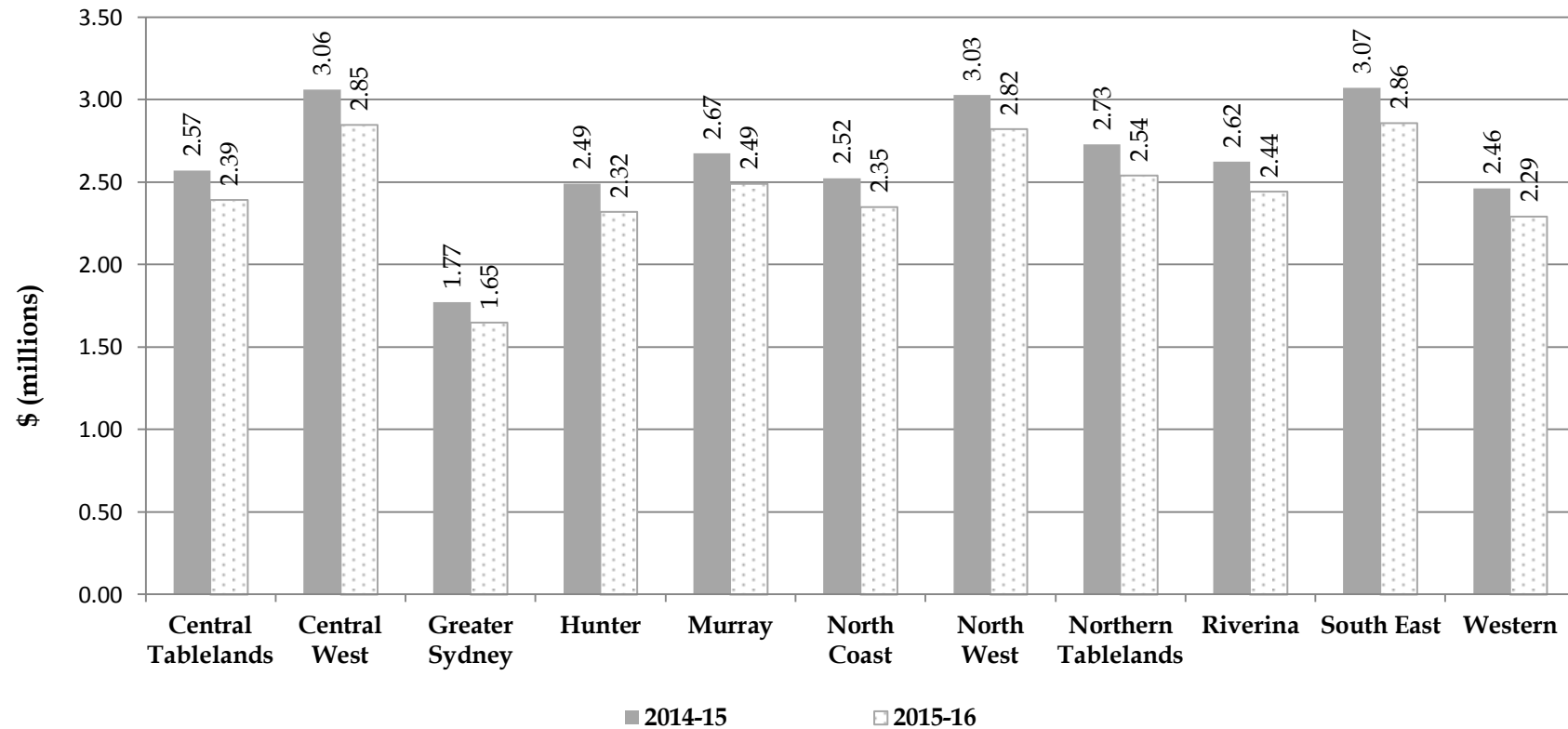
	Central Tablelands	Central West	Greater Sydney	Hunter	Murray	North Coast	North West	Northern Tablelands	Riverina	South East	Western	Total
Percentage %	8.86%	10.55%	6.11%	8.59%	9.22%	8.70%	10.45%	9.40%	9.04%	10.59%	8.49%	100%
$ 2014-15 (million)	2.57	3.06	1.77	2.49	2.67	2.52	3.03	2.73	2.62	3.07	2.46	29.00
$ 2015-16 (million)	2.39	2.85	1.65	2.32	2.49	2.35	2.82	2.54	2.44	2.86	2.29	27.00

Figure 4: Recommended allocation profile for Catchment Action NSW funding to Local Land Services 2014-15 and 2015-16

2.1 Risks associated with the recommended profile

A key risk within the funding allocation process is funding continuity from year to year. Changes to regional project funding may undermine project outcomes and community engagement.

2.1.1 Comparison with the 2013-14 funding profile

Direct comparison between the 2013-14 funding profile and 2014-16 profile is difficult, as extensive boundary changes mean it is not possible to draw clear links between some new Local Land Services and previous CMA areas (for example, Central Tablelands, Northern Tablelands).

The following factors are leading to differences between the allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-16:

- boundary changes brought about by the Local Land Services reforms in 2014

- changed input data for priorities assessment based on agreed spatial prioritisation mapping

- inclusion of new upgraded catchment action plan assessments and temporary absence of audit scores in 2014-16

- one-off transitional funding arrangements in 2013-14 as a result of CMA amalgamations prior to the transition to Local Land Services and the associated boundary changes

- changes in absolute funding quantum (funding decreases from $30 million in 2013-14 to $29 million in 2014-15 and $27 million in 2015-16).

In a general sense, the NRC believes the proposed profile for 2014-16 does not raise any significant concerns in relation to the overall funding profile when compared with the NRC's recommended 2013-14 profile. Summary tables providing a comparison between past funding allocations and the proposed profile can be found in **Attachment 6**.

Where it is possible to compare across a region, there have been some funding shifts between profiles, the largest being an increase of ~$700,000 for Central West and decreases of ~$600,000 in the Hunter and Murray regions.[3] All regions affected by a decrease in funding between the 2013-14 and 2014-16 profiles still receive a sufficient portion of the funding pool (at least ~$2.5 million each) to support regional investment and community engagement.

2.1.2 2013-14 *Catchment Action NSW* funding transfer to Local Land Services

External to the funding allocation process itself, the NRC is aware of funding continuity risks being brought about by the CMAs' transfer arrangements for 2013-14 *Catchment Action NSW* funding in the initial phase of Local Land Services.

In January 2014, remaining 2013-14 *Catchment Action NSW* funding is being transferred from CMAs to Local Land Services based on the location of planned *Catchment Action NSW*-funded projects. The distribution of these projects, and associated funding, was determined using CMAs' regional catchment priorities and investment prioritisation tools, rather than the NRC's

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3   Key factors behind these shifts include: improved performance scores for Central West; lower performance scores for Hunter; Murray previously benefitting from one-off transitional funding arrangements due to CMA amalgamations in 2013-14.

state-scale assessment of priorities and performance. Regional investment prioritisation processes take into account factors that are not part of the state-wide investment priorities for *Catchment Action NSW* funding; for example, the location of projects tied to other funding sources such as Caring for Our Country.

Variable distribution of *Catchment Action NSW* projects under the new Local Land Services boundaries will result in some regions receiving a substantial initial increase in *Catchment Action NSW* project funding for the first half of 2014 that will not be matched under the 2014-16 profile. For example, the South East is likely to receive a greater share of *Catchment Action NSW* funding in early 2014 (driven by *Catchment Action NSW* project locations in the prior Hawkesbury-Nepean, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan CMA areas) than it will receive under the 2014-16 profile (based on state-scale investment priorities).

Despite the likelihood of a funding discontinuity in some regions, the NRC recommends applying the funding profile in **Figure 4** that is specifically designed to reflect state-wide priorities across the new Local Land Services. Any legacy funding from previous CMA allocations or regional project prioritisation should not be carried over into the new Local Land Services organisation in 2014-16.

CMAs and Local Land Services have until July 2014 to adjust their investment planning in the new Local Land Services regions according to these projected investment figures. Local Land Services should use this time to identify new engagement or investment strategies to try and manage any significant risks to community engagement or project continuity brought about by funding discontinuity during the transition to a Local Land Services-based funding profile.

3   Areas for improvement

The NRC used this allocation process as an opportunity to:

▪   align the assessment framework more fully with the intent of state-scale priorities described in Government's *NSW 2021* state plan

▪   captitalise on agencies' improved spatial prioritisation capacity.

Despite the benefits associated with the NRC's refined allocation process, there are some areas for further improvement.

3.1   Improving investment across Local Land Service functions

The assessment framework is readily adaptable. Considering the broader objectives of the new Local Land Services organisation, the NRC believes there are opportunities within the funding allocation process to:

▪   drive more targeted prioritisation through adjusted weightings

▪   expand or revise the range of strategic priorities included in the assessment framework

▪   apply the strategic funding allocation process to a wider range of funding sources.

The current priorities assessment framework (see **Figures 2** and **3**) has a focus on biophysical priorities, driven primarily by investor feedback on their preferred areas of investment for

Catchment Action NSW funds. For example, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministers for Primary Industries and the Environment identifies biodiversity (including threatened species), native vegetation management, pests and weeds and Aboriginal natural resource management as investment priorities under the Waste and Environment Levy.

However, the framework could be easily expanded to include priorities linked to broader Local Land Services functions such as agricultural extension and biosecurity, as shown in **Figure 5**.
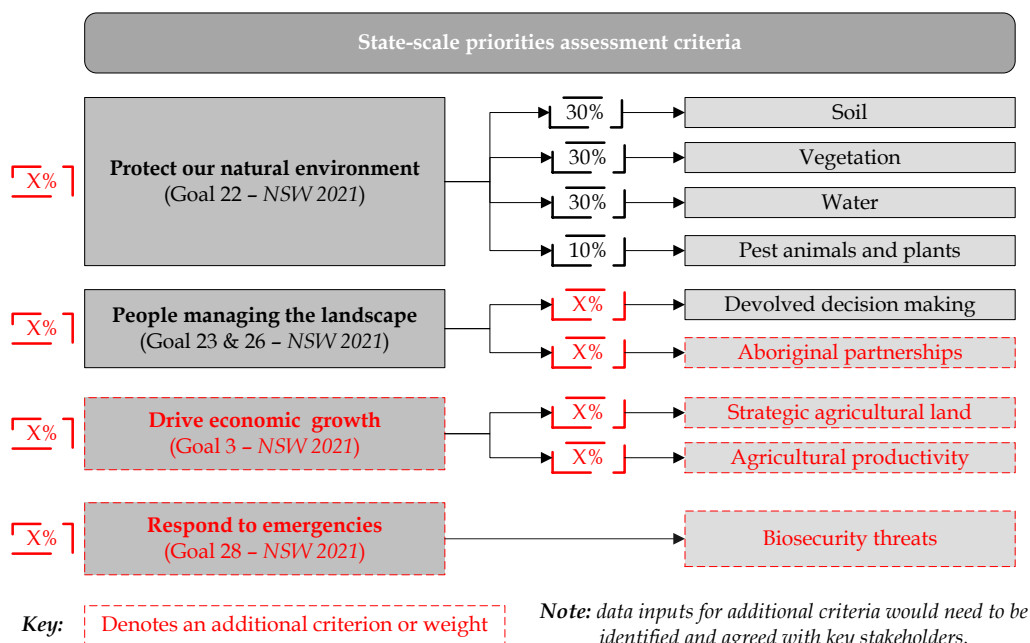
Figure 5: Example of an expanded priorities assessment framework including other *NSW 2021* priorities associated with broader Local Land Services functions

Additional criteria in the assessment allow for a more holistic consideration of investment priorities, but may also lead to broader investment across the state. If Government wishes to invest in a more targeted manner, it is possible to:

▪ reduce the number of criteria to those most strategically important

▪ make greater use of weightings to drive greater prioritisation.

The adaptable nature of the process and assessment frameworks also means this decision making process can be used to allocate other sources of Local Land Services funding in an objective and transparent manner, such as recurrent and/or agricultural advisory services funding.[4]

3.2   Improving spatial prioritisation

Although the NRC has used the best available information, **Table 1** shows how the assessment draws on information sources and decision rules of varying standards. Over time, agencies, Local Land Services and the NRC should work together to further develop and improve the standard of these data sources.

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[4]   Excluding funding from rates, which should be allocated in line with IPART recommendations once finalised.

Table 1: Hierarchy of information used in the funding allocation process

Standard of information	Assessment criteria	Characteristics of information
1 (lower)	**Wetlands**	▪ State-wide and/or regional datasets, reports and/or indices ▪ NRC judgement and scoring
2	**Estuaries** **Pest animals & plants**	▪ State-wide population, distribution and/or abundance mapping ▪ NRC judgement and scoring
3	**Soil and land management**	▪ State-wide priority mapping ▪ State-wide datasets and expert based decision rules ▪ Technical reports
4	**Rivers**	▪ Level 3 with peer reviewed and/or published mapping or modelling tools
5	**Native vegetation**	▪ Level 4 with government or agency endorsed or publically available priority mapping
6 (higher)	-	▪ Level 5 with incorporating regional decision rules and preferences, including socio-economic values

For example, the current state-wide spatial priority mapping would benefit from incorporating more social, cultural and economic values and decision rules, drawing on input and feedback from all scales. The soil and land management dataset does this to some extent; this mapping is based on three ecosystem service models, one of them being the production value of healthy soils.

The Office of Environment and Heritage identified that there was a high reliance on Native Vegetation mapping to account for Ministerial priorities around biodiversity, threatened species and native vegetation management, but otherwise agreed the approach is reasonable. Details of how the NRC's framework addresses key Ministerial priorities are included as **Attachment 7**.

The Hunter-Central Rivers CMA also identified issues with the Native Vegetation mapping around east-west connectivity. This should be an area for future improvement.

In addition to specific areas for improvement, the NRC hopes that the use of spatial data sources identified in **Table 1** to inform funding allocations will generally encourage:

▪ greater spatial expression of NSW government and investor preferences and priorities

▪ collaboration to support effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting and decision support systems in response to decision makers' needs at both regional and state scales

▪ increased objectivity and transparency when allocating funding between regions.

Attachment 1 – Ministerial request

The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

MOC13/1489

Dr John Keniry AM
Commissioner
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 20001

Dear Dr Keniry John,

I am writing to you to seek the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC's) assistance in determining investment program funding allocations to the Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs). This work could be undertaken in line with section 13 (g) of the Natural Resources Commission Act 2003.

In anticipation that the Government is able to provide a continuation of Catchment Action NSW project funding could the NRC:

Part A
1. Recommend a potential funding profile for allocating Catchment Action NSW funds between the CMAs for 2013-14 by 8 May 2013.
2. Review differences between the current and potential CMA funding profile and advise on related risks that should be considered by the Government in making final funding allocation decisions.

Part B
3. Review the NRC's funding methodology and recommend how the methodology can be refined and applied to Local Land Services (LLS) by 30 September 2013.
4. Recommend a potential funding profile for allocating Catchment Action NSW funds between the LLSs' in 2014-15 and 2015-16 by 30 September 2013.
5. Review differences between the current and potential LLS funding profile and advise on related risks that should be considered by the Government in making final funding allocation decisions.

I appreciate that Part A of this request involves a tight deadline and I want to express my appreciation to the NRC in advance for its assistance in providing me this advice. I also appreciate that the 2013-14 year is a transitional year and the assessment will be an interim one.

.../2

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Dr John Keniry AM   -2-   Minister for Primary Industries

Part B of this request recognises that once the LLS boundaries and CAPs have been finalised a comprehensive review can be undertaken for 2014-15 and the forward years.

I have asked that Ms Kerryn Richardson be available to discuss this matter further with you. Ms Richardson may be contacted on 02 6391 3383. I look forward to receiving your advice on Part A of this project by 8 May 2013.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries

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Attachment 2 – Summary of data inputs
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Attachment 2 - Summary of data inputs

Broad assessment approach

In developing its proposed funding profiles, the NRC has endeavoured to:

- **Use best available state-wide spatial priority mapping where available -** to leverage off existing expertise, decision rules and decision support tools that can combine and integrate a range of disparate datasets, models and statistical packages.

- **Ensure higher priority areas are appropriately weighted** – by applying a weighting ratio (for example, very high priority = 5x; high priority = 3x; medium priority = 1x; low priority=0x) to ensure relatively higher priority areas attract more investment than other areas with lesser priority.

- **Apply intuitive and simple decision rules** – for example, generating equal bands to rank scores (between lowest and highest measures) and applying recognised natural resource management investment principles in cases where no state-wide priority mapping with in-built decision rules exists (such as protecting assets already in good condition and restoring other in lesser health)

- **Use common sense and judgement where appropriate** – to manage situations where statistical anomalies and decision rules are impacting on the broad allocation of funding, for instance, to manage outliers that are adversely affecting the ranking process, or to address instances where a region's score lies on the boundary between ranking classes.

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Attachment 2 – Summary of data inputs
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
Soils		
▪ University of New England's priority area to improve land management spatial layer (commissioned by NRC) ▪ Identifies areas that are reaching biophysical tipping points and are likely to cause irreversible damage to soil condition ▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **three (3)** for funding allocation	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goal to protect and restore priority land as set out in *NSW 2021* ▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with more area (ha) identified as a priority for improving land management practices and avoiding irreversible biophysical tipping points	**Strengths** ▪ Uses best available state-wide datasets and the multi-criteria analysis shell (MCAS-S) spatial mapping software ▪ Uses a resilience based approach to analyse the immediacy of threats to highest value soil ecosystem services reaching irreversible tipping points ▪ Considers economic and environmental values such as production and soil biodiversity ▪ Addresses recognised state-wide knowledge gaps for soil and land management **Weaknesses** ▪ Weightings and assumptions have not undergone full expert review (plans to potentially present the work at the next NSW branch meeting of Soil Science Australia)
Native vegetation		
▪ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Native Vegetation Management Benefits analysis and mapping (2012) ▪ Analysis based on Biodiversity Forecasting Tool using best available data such vegetation condition ▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **five (5)** for funding allocation	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goals to protect and restore priority native vegetation (and biodiversity) as set out in *NSW 2021* ▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with more area (ha) identified as a priority for native vegetation management benefits	**Strengths** ▪ Uses best available, peer reviewed predictive modelling ▪ Provides a strong surrogate for overall terrestrial biodiversity benefits (representing a significant evolution in techniques applied to state-scale biodiversity benefits modelling) ▪ Complements more localised and detailed data and provides greater investment priority resolution where state-scale and catchment scale priorities overlap **Weaknesses** ▪ The 'consolidate' benefits layer is based only on the eastern and central divisions of NSW (assumes the western division is already considered to be relatively well intact even though there may be habitats in these areas that warrant conservation and restoration interventions) ▪ Biodiversity Forecasting Tool is an equilibrium model benchmarked against pre-European landscapes

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Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
Rivers		
▪ NSW Office of Water's river action priorities analysis and mapping (2012) ▪ Analysis based on risk assessment and input datasets for River Condition Index (RCI) ▪ Incorporates indices such as riparian vegetation cover, biodiversity condition and hydrology ▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **four (4)** for funding allocation	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goals to protect and restore priority water habitats and rivers as set out in *NSW 2021* ▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with more length (ha) of river systems identified as priority action areas to protect and restore	**Strengths** ▪ Uses best available, peer reviewed predictive modelling ▪ Represents areas of greatest need or urgency for management intervention or conservation ▪ Can also track long term changes in the condition of rivers as a result of investment **Weaknesses** ▪ Risks to in-stream values are scored relative across a CMA, rather than state-wide (however, a state-wide analysis is feasible in the future)
Estuaries		

▪ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's pressure and condition indices for NSW estuaries (NSW Spatial Data Catalogue)
▪ Based on a range of condition and pressure indicators
▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **two (2)** for funding allocation
	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goals to protect and restore priority coastal environments as set out in *NSW 2021*
	▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with a greater number of higher priority estuaries to protect and restore
	▪ Assumes investors at the state-scale are and more likely to gain a higher return on investment if actions:
	  - to protect estuaries are focused on those that are in higher condition, and under higher pressure;
	  - to restore estuaries are focused on those that are in lower condition, and
		Strengths
		▪ Uses best available state-wide datasets and published methodologies.
		▪ Supported by local scale monitoring programs
		▪ Incorporates catchment rainfall runoff modelling
		Weaknesses
		▪ No existing state-wide, expert-based priority mapping for estuaries (rather, decision rules and priority ranking scores were created for the NRC funding allocation process)
		▪ Condition data gaps across some estuaries
		▪ Many estuaries are degraded and/or under pressure (with the exception of South East Local Land Services region) making discrimination between rankings for Local Land Services regions difficult

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Attachment 2 – Summary of data inputs
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Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
	under lower pressure - to protect and/or restore estuaries are avoided on estuaries that are generally in very poor condition	

Wetlands

Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
▪ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's NSW Wetlands spatial database ▪ NSW Planning and Infrastructure's State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14 – Coastal Wetlands spatial database (1989) ▪ Australian Government Department of the Environment (formerly Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) Directory of Important Wetlands spatial database ▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **one (1)** for funding allocation	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goals to protect and restore priority water habits, wetlands and coastal environments as set out in *NSW 2021* ▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with more area of higher priority wetlands to protect and restore ▪ Assumes a national or state-scale investor is likely to have a stronger preference to invest in wetlands that are associated with international and/or national intergovernmental agreements (Ramsar and Directory of Important Wetlands) and state and national legislations (State Environmental Planning Policy No 14) ▪ The NRC has used a grouping approach to ranking (rather than the usual equal bands) across the measures to avoid an outlier significantly skewing overall ranking results	**Strengths** ▪ Aligns with well-defined and recognised national and state values for different wetlands **Weaknesses** ▪ Lacks condition and pressure data and context (either poor quality or highly variable at different scales) ▪ No existing state-wide, expert based priority mapping for wetlands (rather, decision rules and priority ranking scores were created for the NRC funding allocation process)

Pest animals and weeds

Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
▪ NSW Department of Primary Industries' distribution and abundance class 1 noxious	▪ Priority ranking should align with the NSW Government's (the investor's) goals to manage pests and weeds as set	**Strengths** ▪ Aligns with well-defined national and state goals and priorities for pest and weed management (although not spatially defined)

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Attachment 2 – Summary of data inputs
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Information source & standard	Key principles, decision rules & assumptions	Strengths and limitations
weeds spatial layers (2010) ▪ NSW Department of Primary Industries' distribution and abundance for new and emerging pest animals spatial layers (2008) ▪ The NRC scores the standard of this information a **two (2)** for funding allocation	out in *NSW 2021* ▪ Higher rankings should be allocated to Local Land Services regions with more area of class 1 noxious weeds and emerging and new pest animals to manage ▪ Assumes a national or state-scale investor would have a stronger preference for investment that is consistent with current strategies and legislation for weeds and pest animals, namely: - eradicating or preventing entry of weeds across all of the state (consistent with objectives 1 and 2 of NSW Biosecurity Strategy and class 1 noxious weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1997*), and with a higher preference for addressing weeds that are relatively more abundant than others - eradicating or preventing entry of new or emerging pest animals (consistent with objective 1and 2 of NSW Biosecurity Strategy), and with a higher preference for addressing pest animals that are relatively more abundant than others	▪ Incorporates local survey data for new and emerging pest animals and weeds mapping ▪ Expert based abundance and distribution index mapping for new and emerging pest animals **Weaknesses** ▪ Currency of the data given the potential dynamic nature of invasive species ▪ No access to existing, expert based abundance and distribution index mapping for new and emerging weeds (due to poor information management) ▪ No existing state-wide, expert based priority mapping for new and emerging pest and weeds (rather decision rules and priority ranking scores created for NRC funding allocation process)

Attachment 3 - Priority mapping

Maps for Attachment 3 can be found via the following link:

http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/content/documents/Funding%20allocation%20maps.pdf

Note: *there is no mapping provided for weeds as the analysis draws on a large number of individual weed datasets, and there is no consolidated state-wide priorities map available at this time.*

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Attachment 4 – Summary of Local Land Services regional scores
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Attachment 4 - Summary of Local Land Services regional scores

Investment principle	Assessment criteria	Sub-criteria	Inputs	Scores										
				Central Tablelands	Central West	Greater Sydney	Hunter	Murray	North Coast	North West	Northern Tablelands	Riverina	South East	Western
Priorities	Environment	Soil	Priority mapping	4	5	1	4	2	3	5	4	5	5	1
		Vegetation	Connectivity	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	4	2	5	1
			Increase extent	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	1	5	1	1
			Maintain condition	2	3	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	2	5
			Improve condition	1	5	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
		Water / Rivers	Restore	1	2	1	4	5	4	4	2	3	2	3
			Protect	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	5
		Wetlands	Priority wetlands	1	3	2	4	4	2	2	1	2	2	5
		Estuaries	Restore	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	5	0
			Protect	0	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	5	0
		Pests	Pest animals	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	5	2	5	2
			Weeds	2	4	1	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	5
	People	Devolved decision making		Equal scores										
Performance	Plans for investment		CAP assessments	5	5	2	3	5	4	5	5	3	5	4
	Audit		NRC audit	Equal scores										

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Attachment 5 - Key factors driving regional proportional allocations
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Attachment 5 - Key factors driving regional proportional allocations

Region	What is driving the region's proportional allocation?
Central Tablelands	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ High score for *priorities – soil* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
Central West	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ Generally higher scores for *priorities*, particularly in *soil, vegetation, wetlands, pests (weeds)* ▪ Low score for *priorities – pests (animals)*
Greater Sydney	▪ Fair score for *plans for investment* ▪ Medium score for *pests (animals)* ▪ Generally lower scores across *priorities – protect the natural environment*
Hunter	▪ Medium score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – soil, rivers (restore), wetlands,* ▪ Medium scores for *priorities – vegetation (connectivity), pests* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
Murray	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – rivers (restore), wetlands, pests (weeds)* ▪ Medium score for *priorities – vegetation (increase extent), pests (animals)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
North Coast	▪ High score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – rivers (restore), estuaries (protect), pests (weeds)* ▪ Medium scores for *priorities – soil, vegetation (connectivity), estuaries (restore),* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
North West	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – soils, vegetation (connectivity, maintain condition), rivers (restore), pests (weeds)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
Northern Tablelands	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – soils, vegetation (connectivity), pests (animals)* ▪ Medium score for *priorities – pests (weeds)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*

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Attachment 5 - Key factors driving regional proportional allocations
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Region	What is driving the region's proportional allocation?
Riverina	▪ Medium score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – soils, vegetation (increase extent), pests (weeds)* ▪ Medium score for *priorities – rivers (restore)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
South East	▪ Very high score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – soils, vegetation (connectivity), estuaries, pests (animals)* ▪ Medium scores for *priorities – rivers (protect), pests (weeds)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*
Western	▪ High score for *plans for investment* ▪ Higher scores for *priorities – vegetation (maintain condition), rivers (protect), pests (weeds)* ▪ Medium scores for *priorities – rivers (restore)* ▪ Lower scores for other criteria in *priorities – protect the natural environment*

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Attachment 6 - Comparison of past and proposed funding profiles
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Attachment 6 - Comparison of past and proposed funding profiles

Summary of changes in percentage allocation 2010-2016

Percentage %	Central Tablelands	Central West	Greater Sydney		Hunter	Murray	North Coast	North West	Northern Tablelands	Riverina	South East	Western			Total
		Central West	Sydney Metro	Hawkes. Nepean	Hunter	Murray	Northern Rivers	Namoi	Border Rivers Gwydir	M'gee	Southern Rivers	Western	Lower Murray Dlg	Lachlan	
2015-16	8.86	10.55	6.11		8.59	9.22	8.70	10.45	9.40	9.04	10.59	8.49			100
2014-15	8.86	10.55	6.11		8.59	9.22	8.70	10.45	9.40	9.04	10.59	8.49			100
2013-14 (*Transitional funding)		7.80	Amalg.	11.50*	10.20	10.90*	8.30	9.40	8.70	7.60	9.60	7.60*	Amalg.	8.20	100
2012-13		7.33	4.75	8.30	10.56	8.24	8.45	8.99	7.34	7.11	9.65	6.20	5.37	7.70	100
2011-12		7.33	4.75	8.30	10.56	8.24	8.45	8.99	7.34	7.11	9.65	6.20	5.37	7.70	100
2010-11		7.20	3.50	9.30	11.90	7.60	9.30	9.60	7.20	6.30	6.90	6.70	6.00	8.50	100
Change															
Change between 2013-14 vs 2014-15		2.75			-1.61	-1.68	0.40	1.05	0.70	1.44	0.99	0.89			
Change between 2012-13 vs 2014-15		3.22	1.36		-1.97	0.98	0.25	1.46	2.06	1.93	0.94	2.29			
Range 2010-11 to 2015-16		3.35	2.65		3.49	3.30	1.00	1.46	2.33	2.74	3.69	2.36			

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Attachment 6 - Comparison of past and proposed funding profiles
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Summary of changes in actual allocation 2010-2016

$ (millions)	Central Tablelands	Central West	Greater Sydney		Hunter	Murray	North Coast	North West	Northern Tablelands	Riverina	South East	Western			Total
		Central West	Sydney Metro	Hawkes. Nepean	Hunter	Murray	Northern Rivers	Namoi	Border Rivers Gwydir	M'gee	Southern Rivers	Western	Lower Murray Dlg	Lachlan	
2015-16	2.39	2.85	1.65		2.32	2.49	2.35	2.82	2.54	2.44	2.86	2.29			27.00
2014-15	2.57	3.06	1.77		2.49	2.67	2.52	3.03	2.73	2.62	3.07	2.46			29.00
2013-14 (*Transitional funding)		2.34	Amalg.	3.45*	3.06	3.27*	2.49	2.82	2.61	2.28	2.88	2.28*	Amalg.	2.46	30.00
2012-13		1.89	1.23	2.14	2.73	2.13	2.18	2.32	1.90	1.84	2.49	1.60	1.39	1.99	25.84
2011-12		1.89	1.23	2.14	2.73	2.13	2.18	2.32	1.90	1.84	2.49	1.60	1.39	1.99	25.84
2010-11		1.59	0.77	2.06	2.63	1.68	2.06	2.12	1.59	1.39	1.52	1.48	1.33	1.88	22.10
Change															
Change between 2013-14 vs 2014-15		0.72			-0.57	-0.60	0.03	0.21	0.12	0.34	0.19	0.18			-1.00
Change between 2012-13 vs 2014-15		1.17	0.54		-0.24	0.54	0.34	0.71	0.83	0.79	0.58	0.86			3.16
Range 2010-11 to 2015-16		1.47	1.01	1.39	0.62	1.59	0.48	0.91	1.17	1.23	1.55	1.00			7.90

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Attachment 7 – Addressing Ministerial priorities
Review of *Catchment Action NSW* 2014-16 funding allocations to Local Land Services

Attachment 7 - Addressing Ministerial priorities

Addressing key government priorities agreed by the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for the Environment

Priority area	How this priority is addressed in the assessment framework
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is incorporated into: ■ native vegetation benefits analysis (Office of Environment and Heritage) – by predicting where native vegetation management will contribute highest benefit to terrestrial biodiversity at the state-scale ■ river action priorities analysis (NSW Office of Water) – by incorporating river biodiversity condition indices ■ priorities for land management (University of New England) – by incorporating soil ecosystem services modelling for soil biodiversity
Threatened species	Threatened species are considered by the following surrogate measures: ■ native vegetation benefits analysis (Office of Environment and Heritage) – as above and also includes criteria that considers 'highly cleared' vegetation communities including Endangered Ecological Communities ■ river action priorities analysis (NSW Office of Water) – this incorporates a river biodiversity condition index (including use of Aquatic Biodiversity Forecaster Tool)
Native vegetation management	Native vegetation management is addressed through: priorities – protect our natural environment – vegetation. This assessment draws on state-wide native vegetation benefits analysis (Office of Environment and Heritage).
Pests and weeds	Pests and weeds are addressed through: priorities – protect our natural environment – pests animals and plants. This assessment draws on state-wide mapping for new and emerging pests and class 1 noxious weeds, as per the management goals and strategies identified in the NSW Biosecurity Strategy.
Aboriginal natural resource management	Aboriginal natural resource management is addressed through: priorities – people managing the landscape – devolved decision making. This assessment criterion is designed to recognise and support the important role of organisations and individuals in landscape management and decision making. At present there are no priority areas identified or datasets to assess Aboriginal natural resource management priorities at the state-scale, or any other specific sub-criteria relating to devolved decision making. All regions will therefore receive the same overall score for devolved decision making at this stage.
Landcare	Landcare is addressed through: priorities – people managing the landscape – devolved decision making. As above, this criterion recognises the important role of organisations and individuals in landscape management and decision making. At present there are no priority areas identified or datasets to assess priorities for community organisation (including Landcare) involvement in natural resource management at the state-scale, or any other specific sub-criteria relating to devolved decision making. All regions will therefore receive the same overall score for devolved decision making at this stage.