

## **NLAF Working Group on Collaborative Service Planning Feedback on the Discussion Paper on Proposed Catchments for Service Planning**

On 22 February 2019, the NLAF Working Group published a [discussion paper](#) seeking the views of legal assistance service providers on proposed catchments for collaborative service planning across all areas of NSW. In particular, feedback was sought on whether the proposed catchments make sense from a local perspective.

Feedback was requested by 29 March 2019. In total, 32 responses were received. Of these, 14 individual CLC responses were collated by CLCNSW, and an additional two responses were received directly from Macarthur CLC. Three responses were received from CLSD coordinators, two of those respondents had also responded from the perspective of the CLC they work at, one response was received from ALS and nine responses were received from Legal Aid NSW.

A summary of the changes suggested by the respondents is set out below, together with proposed recommendations for consideration by the NLAF Working Group.

### **1. North Coast**

#### **Mid North Coast**

- Northern Rivers CLC, the CLSD Coordinator for the Northern Rivers CLSD region (who is also from NRCLC) and Mid North Coast CLC all suggested that Grafton should be incorporated into the Northern Rivers catchment. This would also align with the current court circuit of Ballina, Grafton and Maclean although this circuit changes in July 2019 to Grafton, Maclean and Casino as noted by Lismore Legal Aid office.
- The CLCs and the CLSD Coordinator proposed that the lower point of the Northern Rivers sub-catchment should start on the coast at Woolgoolga and run west in a line.
- Coffs Harbour Legal Aid is of the view that Grafton and Maclean should remain in the proposed Mid North Coast catchment. Lismore Legal Aid office advised that Coffs Harbour Legal Aid provides services to Grafton and Maclean.

#### Suggested action:

- Undertake further consultation on the placement of Grafton and Maclean.

#### **Lower North Coast**

- Mid North Coast CLC, Port Macquarie Legal Aid office, the ALS and Coffs Harbour Legal Aid office all agreed that Kempsey should be aligned with Port Macquarie which is currently in the Lower North Coast sub-catchment.
- Mid North Coast CLC and Hunter CLC note that the Hunter CLC provides services to Gloucester and Forster. Port Macquarie Legal Aid advised that they provide services to Taree and Forster but not to Gloucester.
- Mid North Coast CLC commented that there is no such catchment / zone known as 'Lower North Coast'. They note that what is understood by local communities as the 'Mid North Coast' includes Taree, Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour.

#### Suggested action:

- Reduce the number of sub-catchments in the North Coast catchment from three (Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast and Lower North Coast) to two (Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast).

- Extend the Mid North Coast sub-catchment to include Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree.
- Undertake further consultation about the locations of Forster and Gloucester.
- Hold a workshop with relevant service providers to settle these catchments.

## **2. Hunter**

### **Upper Hunter**

- Hunter CLC consider Morrissett, Belmont, Toronto, Gloucester and Forster to be in the Hunter catchment.
- Mid North Coast CLC and Hunter CLC note that the Hunter CLC provides services to Gloucester and Forster. Port Macquarie Legal Aid advised that they do not provide services to Gloucester.

### **Upper and Lower Hunter**

- The Hunter CLSD coordinator suggested that two catchments for the Hunter is unnecessary noting that all the legal service providers are based in Newcastle and currently engage in effective collaborations across the entire Hunter catchment.

#### Suggested action:

- Make Hunter one catchment with no sub-catchments.
- Morrissett, Belmont and Toronto to remain in the Hunter catchment.
- Invite Hunter legal assistance providers to the consultation about Forster and Gloucester with Mid and Lower North Coast legal assistance providers.

## **3. Central Coast**

- No comments were received.

## **4. New England and North West**

- The North and North West CLC suggested that there is no need for sub-catchments within this region.

#### Suggested action:

- Seek the views of the ALS and Legal Aid offices in this catchment on the need for sub-catchments.

## **5. Central West and Orana (Tablelands)**

### **Central West**

- Western NSW CLC and Elizabeth Evatt CLC suggested moving Mudgee to align with Dubbo in the Central West sub-catchment.

#### Suggested action:

- Move Mudgee to the Central West sub-catchment.

## **Central Tablelands**

- Elizabeth Evatt CLC suggested that the larger catchment area should be known as “Central West and Central Tablelands” rather than “Central West and Orana (Tablelands)”, noting that the use of Orana in the title was geographically inaccurate.

### Suggested action:

- Rename the “Central West and Orana (Tablelands)” catchment the “Central West and Central Tablelands” catchment.

## **Blue Mountains**

- Elizabeth Evatt CLC and Legal Aid Civil Law Division agreed that the Blue Mountains (currently in the Western Sydney catchment) should be aligned within the Central West and Orana (Tablelands) catchment.
- Elizabeth Evatt CLC suggested that the catchment line should be drawn at the bottom of the Blue Mountains before Emu Plains (on the west side) and extend to Lithgow.
- Elizabeth Evatt CLC also suggested that the Blue Mountains should become a third sub-catchment of the Central West and Orana (Tablelands) catchment.

### Suggested action:

- Move the Blue Mountains from the Sydney West catchment into the Central West and Central Tablelands catchment, and make it a separate sub-catchment.

## **6. Far West**

- No comments were received.

## **7. Riverina and Murray**

### **Albury**

- The Hume Riverina CLC does not oppose the proposed catchments but notes that the cross-border project has not been taken into consideration, and that border towns often have legal need driven from the other side of the state boundary.

## **8. South West and Tablelands**

### **South Coast**

- Shoalcoast CLC and the South Coast CLSD coordinator note that Shoalcoast CLC, Nowra Legal Aid and the ALS at Moruya all tend to focus their services on Nowra and further south. They suggest that the Shoalhaven sub-catchment (currently in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven catchment) fits better in the South Coast catchment.

### Suggested action:

- Move the Shoalhaven sub-catchment into the South Coast sub-catchment.

### **Southern Tablelands**

- The CLSD coordinator noted that the “South West and Tablelands” catchment does not accurately describe the area it represents, and should be renamed the “South East and Tablelands”.
- The CLSD Coordinator recommends that Goulburn be removed from the catchment but has not proposed where Goulburn might be re-aligned to.
- The CLSD Coordinator for the South Coast recognises the South West (Southern) Tablelands as an area of legal need and proposes that the catchment include the LGAs of Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Cooma-Monaro and Bombala.

#### Suggested action:

- Rename the “South West and Tablelands” catchment the “South East and Tablelands” catchment.
- Undertake further consultation on the placement of Goulburn.

### **9. Illawarra and Shoalhaven**

- The Shoalcoast CLC and the South Coast CLSD Coordinator suggested that Nowra (currently in the Shoalhaven sub-catchment) should be moved to the South West and Tablelands catchment.

#### Suggested action:

- Move Nowra to the South Coast sub-catchment.
- Undertake further consultation on whether Goulburn and Sutherland should be moved into the Illawarra sub-catchment (see below).

### **10. Sydney Central**

- Comments from Redfern, Kingsford and Inner City CLCs and Marrickville CLC suggested that the metropolitan catchments are too large. They noted concerns that data at the catchment level may be insufficiently specific to enable the location based planning that is required to service Sydney communities.

#### Suggested action:

- Hold a workshop to consult further on the specific boundaries between catchments and sub-catchments in metropolitan Sydney.

### **11. Sydney West**

- Elizabeth Evatt CLC and Legal Aid Civil Law Division agreed that the Blue Mountains should be aligned with the Central West and Orana (Tablelands) catchment. Elizabeth Evatt CLC suggested that the catchment line be drawn at the bottom of the Blue Mountains before Emu Plains (on the west side).
- Western Sydney Legal Aid requested further detail on where certain suburbs fall e.g. Auburn and Lidcombe, and what the boundary lines are between the metropolitan catchments.

Suggested action:

- Move the Blue Mountains out of the Sydney West catchment and into the Central West and Orana (Tablelands) catchment.
- Hold a workshop to consult further on the specific boundaries between sub-catchments.

## **12. Sydney South West**

- Macarthur CLC, South West Sydney Legal Centre, Fairfield Legal Aid and Campbelltown Legal Aid all suggest that the Sydney South West catchment needs sub-catchments, and all commented on the demographic differences between Campbelltown, Sutherland, Liverpool and Fairfield that fall within this catchment.
- Macarthur CLC and South West Sydney Legal Centre agreed that the current CLC catchments of Liverpool and Campbelltown would work as sub-catchments.
- Fairfield Legal Aid suggested that Campbelltown more neatly aligns demographically with Wollongong (in the Illawarra sub-catchment).
- Campbelltown Legal Aid advised that they represent indictable matters at Goulburn.

Suggested action:

- Make Campbelltown a sub-catchment.
- Make Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown another sub-catchment.
- Move Sutherland into the Illawarra sub-catchment.
- Hold a workshop to consult further on the specific boundaries between sub-catchments.

[TAB A](#) – Map of proposed regional catchments and sub-catchments

[TAB B](#) – Map of proposed metropolitan catchments

[TAB C](#) – Map of current CLC catchments

[TAB D](#) – Map of current ALS catchments

[TAB E](#) – Map of CLSD regions

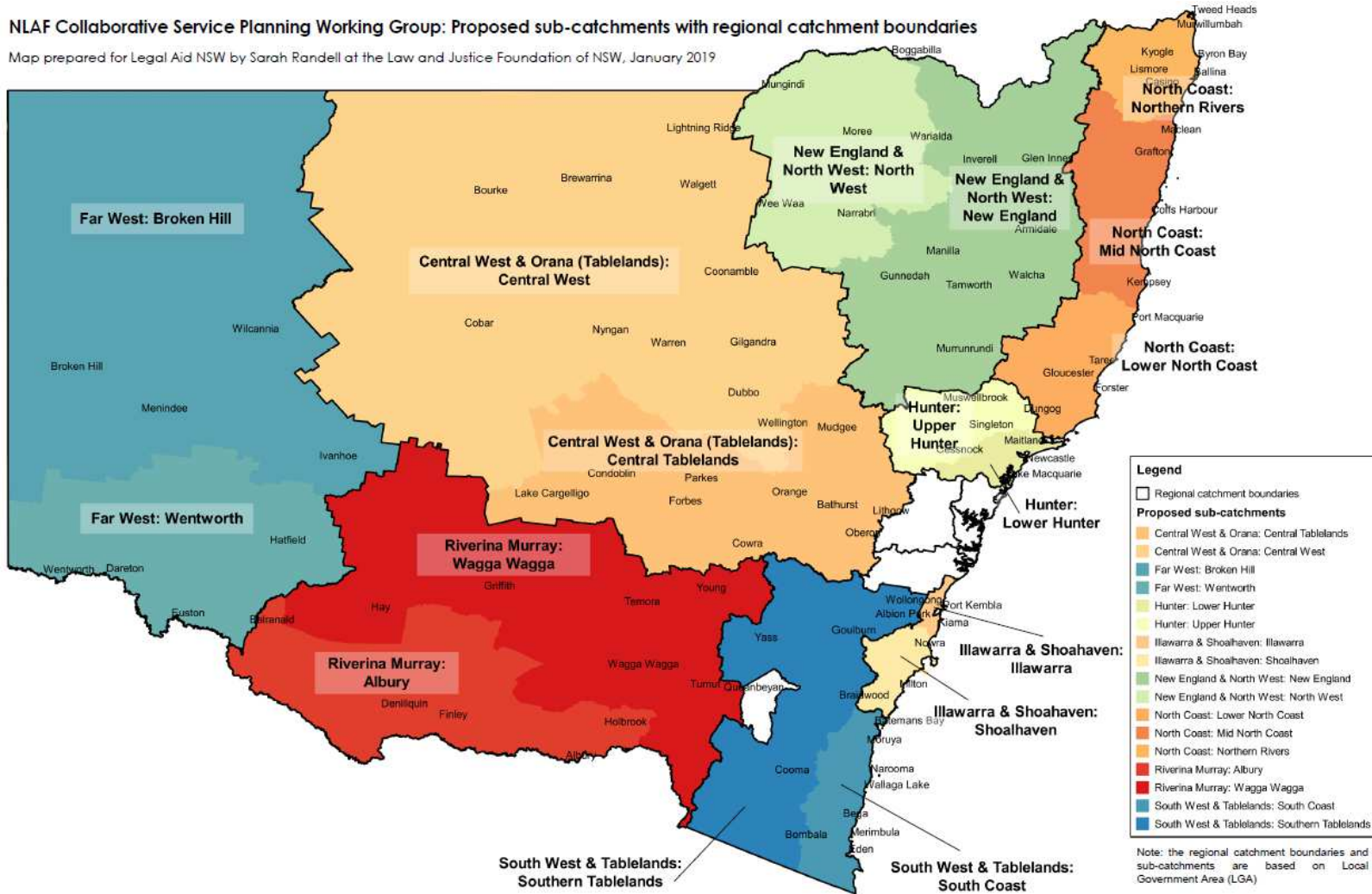
[TAB F](#) – Table of proposed regional and metropolitan catchments and sub-catchments included in the initial [discussion paper](#).

# Proposed Regional Catchments and sub-catchments

TAB A

NLAF Collaborative Service Planning Working Group: Proposed sub-catchments with regional catchment boundaries

Map prepared for Legal Aid NSW by Sarah Randell at the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, January 2019

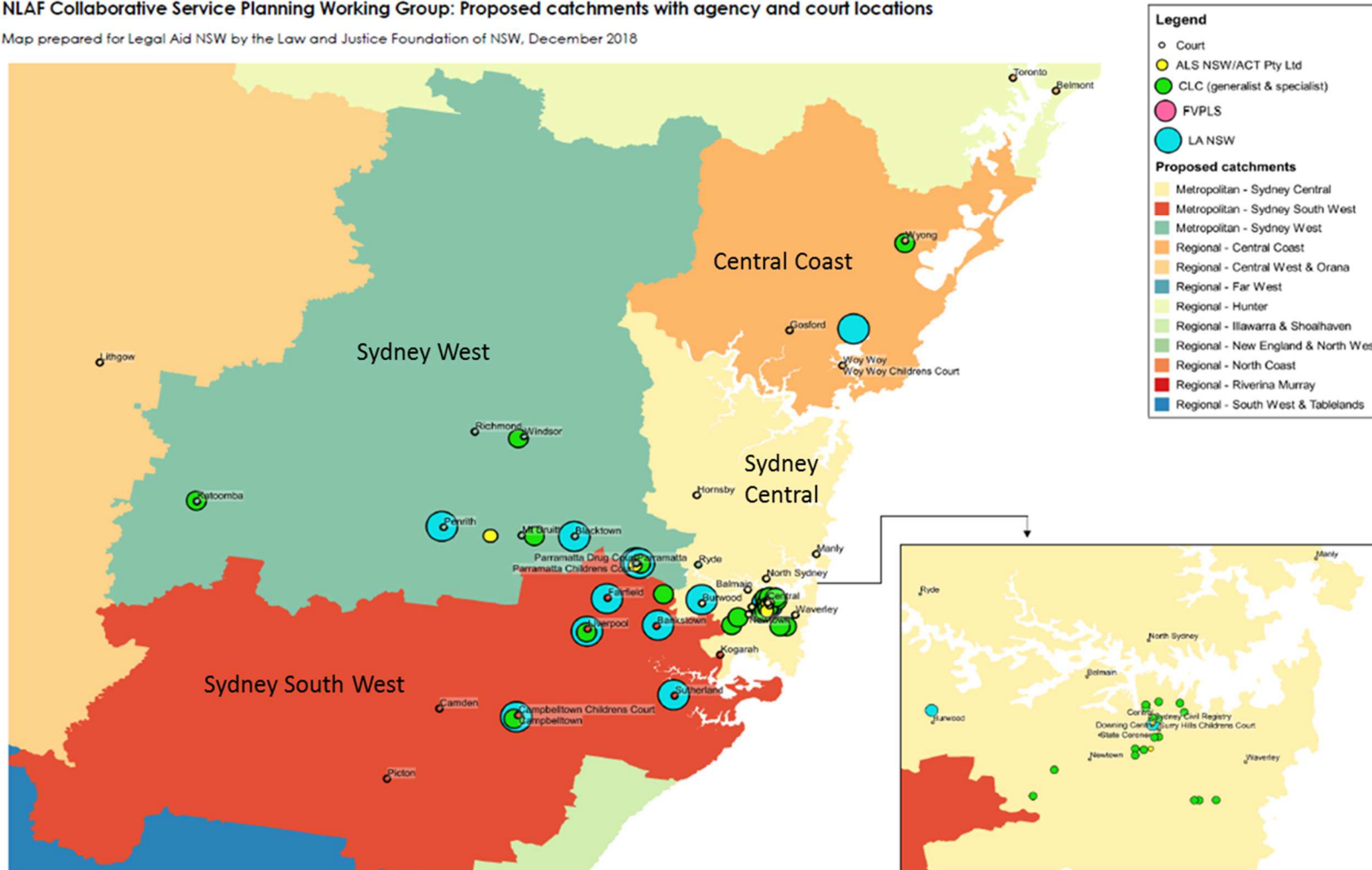


# Proposed Metropolitan Catchments

TAB B

NLAF Collaborative Service Planning Working Group: Proposed catchments with agency and court locations

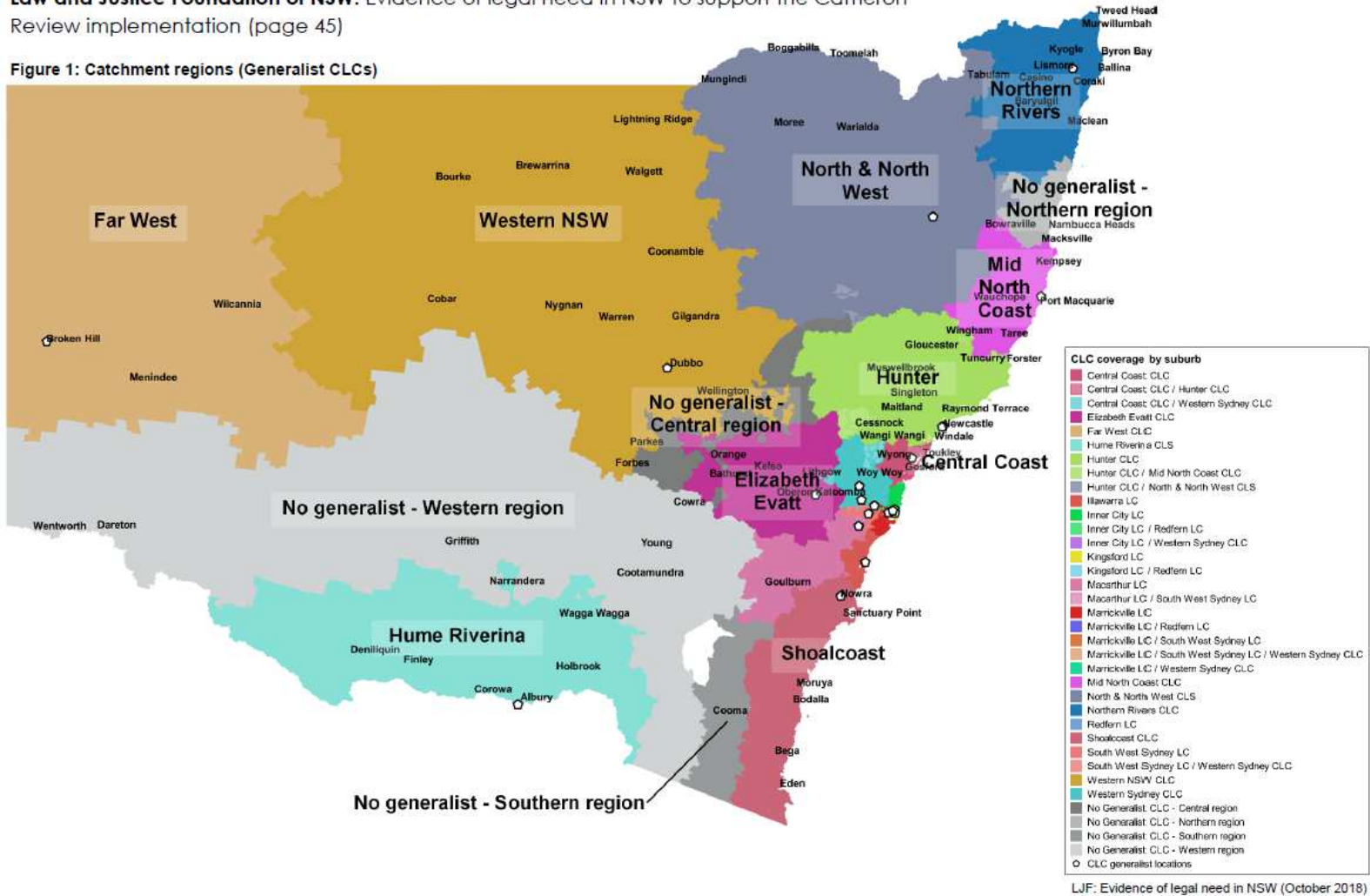
Map prepared for Legal Aid NSW by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, December 2018



# Current CLC catchments

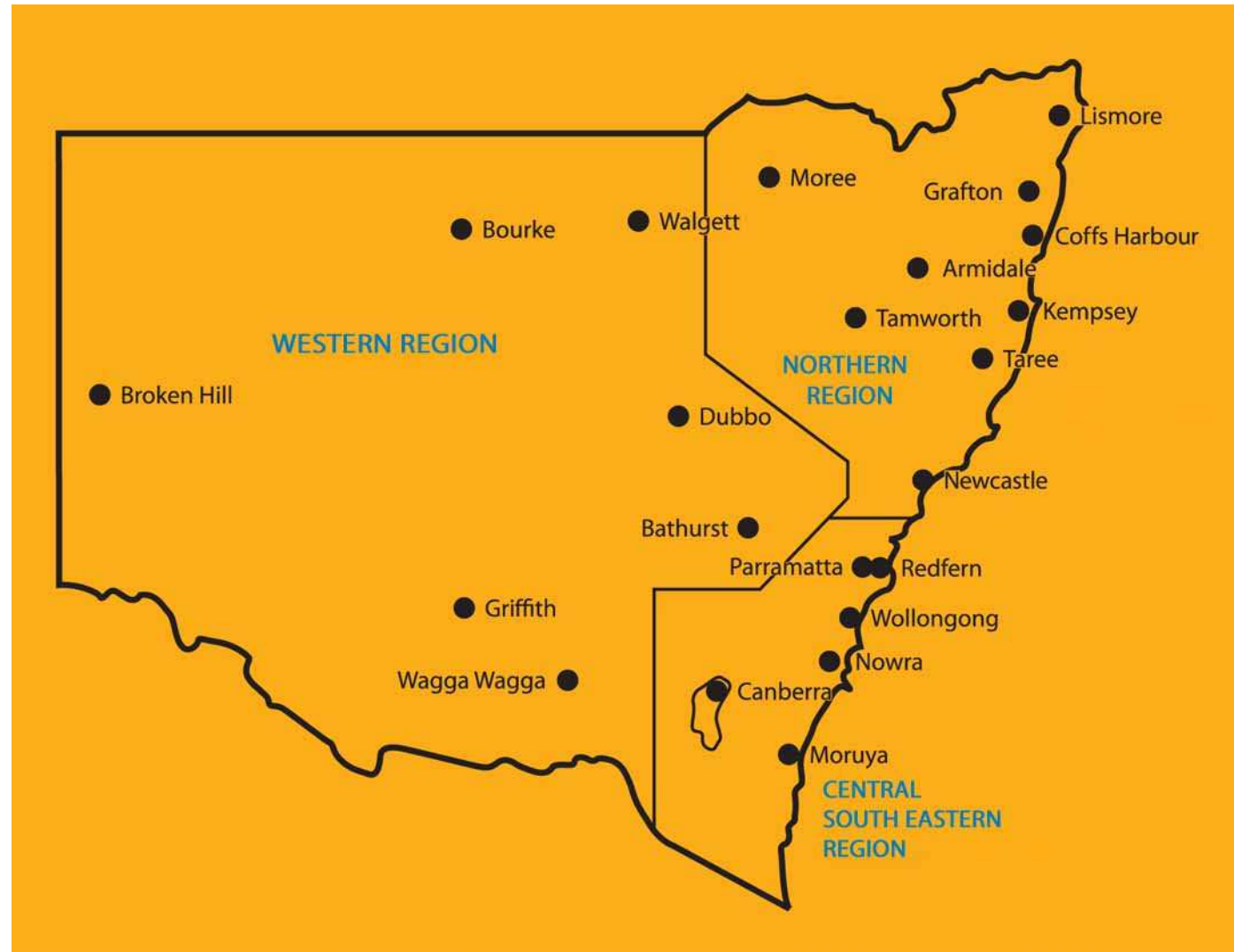
Law and Justice Foundation of NSW: Evidence of legal need in NSW to support the Cameron Review implementation (page 45)

Figure 1: Catchment regions (Generalist CLCs)





## Current ALS catchments



## TAB D

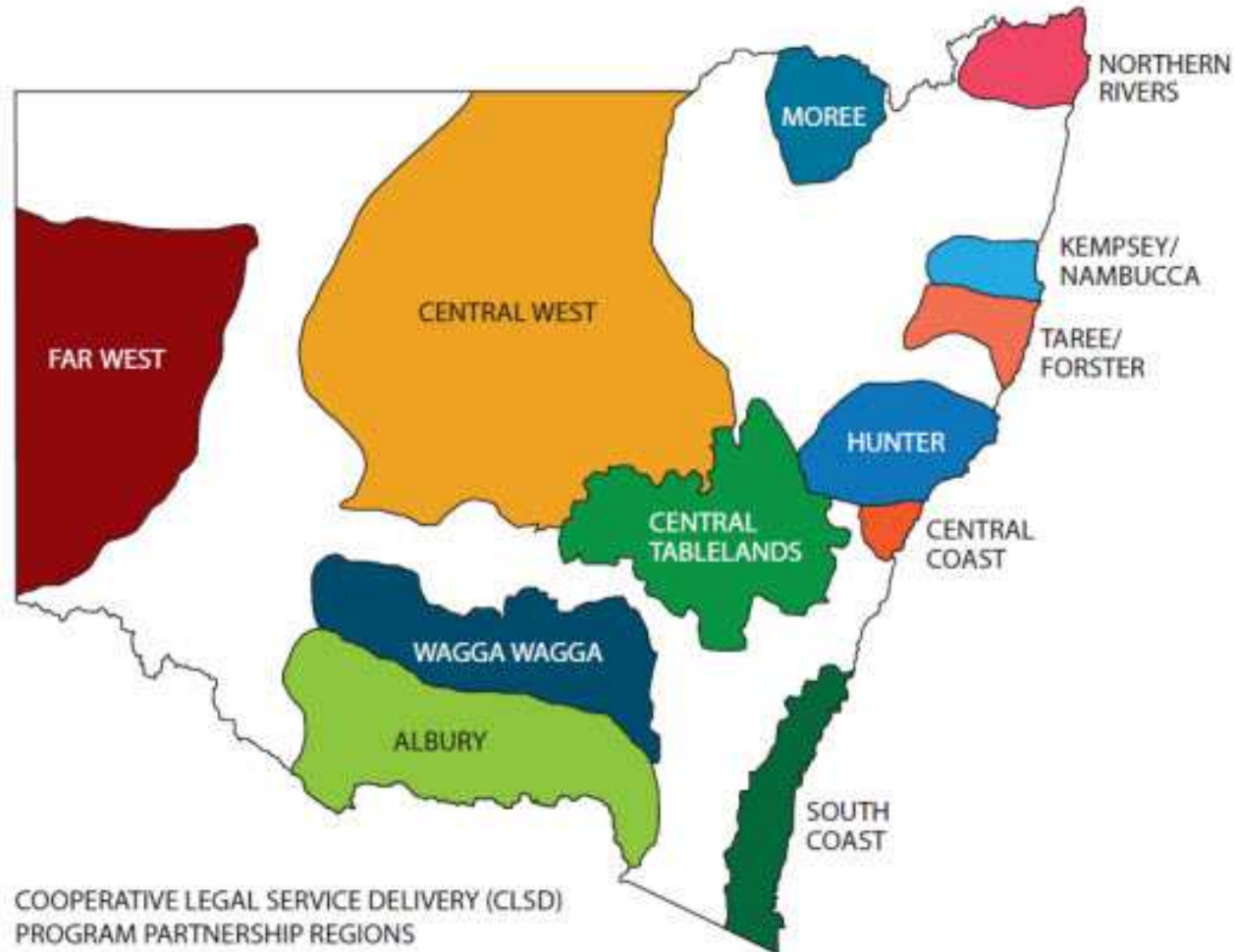
Please note, this map is not the most current map of ALS catchments.

Taree office has been closed.

Grafton office will soon be closed and relocated to Coffs Harbour.

## Current CLSD regions

## TAB E



### Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) Program

The CLSD Program supports 12 regional justice partnerships in regional and remote NSW that address unmet legal need and work collaboratively to plan services and achieve better outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

CLSD Program partnerships are located in the following regions:

- Moree
- Northern Rivers
- Kempsey/Nambucca
- Taree/Forster
- Hunter
- Central Coast
- South Coast
- Wagga Wagga
- Albury
- Central Tablelands
- Central West
- Far West

# Proposed regional and metropolitan catchments and sub-catchments

## TAB F

**Pink** = belonging to another larger regional catchment area. **Yellow** = belonging to another sub-catchment within the same larger regional catchment

Regional Catchments	Sub-catchments	Relevant court circuit	CLSD Region	Relevant office			
				ALS	CLC	Legal Aid	FVPLS
<b>Central Coast</b>	None	Gosford Wyong	Central Coast		Wyong	Gosford	
<b>Central West &amp; Orana (Tablelands)</b>	<b>Central West</b> – Bourke, Cobar, Dubbo, Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Wellington	Bourke, Brewarrina Dubbo Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Peak Hill, Gilgandra Dubbo, Walgett	Central West	Bourke, Dubbo, Walgett	Dubbo	Bourke, Dubbo, Walgett	
	<b>Central Tablelands</b> – Bathurst, Condobolin, Cowra, Forbes, Lake Cargelligo, Lithgow, Mudgee, Oberon, Orange, Parkes	Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow, Oberon Rylstone Orange, Gulgong, <b>Dunedoo</b> , Mudgee Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo	Central Tablelands	Bathurst		Orange	Forbes
<b>Far West</b>	<b>Broken Hill</b> – Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia	Broken Hill, <b>Wentworth</b> , Wilcannia	Far West	Broken Hill	Broken Hill	Broken Hill	Broken Hill
	<b>Wentworth</b> – Balranald, Euston, Hatfield		Far West				
<b>Hunter</b>	<b>Upper Hunter</b> – Muswellbrook, Singleton, Upper Hunter	<b>Cessnock</b> , Singleton, Muswellbrook	Hunter				
	<b>Lower Hunter</b> – Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie,	Maitland	Hunter	Newcastle	Newcastle (2)	Newcastle	

**Pink** = belonging to another larger regional catchment area. **Yellow** = belonging to another sub-catchment within the same larger regional catchment

Regional Catchments	Sub-catchments	Relevant court circuit	CLSD Region	Relevant office			
				ALS	CLC	Legal Aid	FVPLS
	Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens	Newcastle Raymond Terrace, Dungog, <b>Gloucester (Lower North Coast)</b> Toronto, Kurri Kurri					
<b>Illawarra &amp; Shoalhaven</b>	<b>Illawarra</b> – Albion Park, Kiama, Port Kembla, Wollongong	Wollongong, Albion Park, Kiama, Port Kembla		Wollongong	Warrawong	Wollongong	
	<b>Shoalhaven</b> – Milton, Nowra, Ulladulla	Nowra, Milton	South Coast	Nowra	Nowra	Nowra	
<b>New England &amp; North West</b>	<b>New England</b> – Armidale, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Inverell, Murrurundi, Tamworth, Walcha	Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Walcha Gunnedah, Coonabarabran, <b>Coonamble (Central West), Narrabri, Tamworth, Wee Waa</b> Tamworth, Murrurundi, Scone, Quirindi		Armidale Tamworth	Armidale	Tamworth	
	<b>North West</b> – Boggabilla, Moree, Mungindi, Narrabri, Warialda, Wee Waa	Moree, <b>Inverell</b> , Boggabilla, Mungindi, Warialda	Moree	Moree			Moree
<b>North Coast</b>	<b>Northern Rivers</b> – Ballina, Byron Bay, Casino, Lismore, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads	Ballina, <b>Grafton, Maclean</b> Lismore, Casino, Kyogle Tweed Heads, Byron Bay	Northern Rivers	Lismore	Lismore	Lismore	

**Pink** = belonging to another larger regional catchment area. **Yellow** = belonging to another sub-catchment within the same larger regional catchment

Regional Catchments	Sub-catchments	Relevant court circuit	CLSD Region	Relevant office			
				ALS	CLC	Legal Aid	FVPLS
	<b>Mid North Coast</b> – Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Kempsey, Maclean	Coffs Harbour, Macksville, Bellingen Kempsey, Bellingen, Macksville	Kempsey / Nambucca	Grafton – moving to Coffs Harbour Kempsey		Coffs Harbour	Kempsey
	<b>Lower North Coast</b> – Forster, Gloucester, Port Macquarie, Taree	Port Macquarie, <b>Kempsey</b> , Wauchope Taree, Forster	Taree / Forster		Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie	
<b>Riverina Murray</b>	<b>Wagga Wagga</b> – Griffith, Hay, Temora, Tumut, Young	Cootamundra, <b>Cowra (Central Tablelands)</b> , <b>Grenfell (Central Tablelands)</b> , Temora, Tumut, West Wyalong, Young Griffith, <b>Deniliquin</b> , Hay, Hillston, Leeton, <b>Moama</b> Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Junee	Wagga Wagga	Griffith Wagga Wagga		Riverina Murray (Wagga Wagga)	
	<b>Albury</b> – Deniliquin, Finley, Holbrook	Albury, Corowa, Holbrook, Finley, <b>Tumbarumba</b> (Southern Tablelands)	Albury		Wodonga (Vic)	Riverina Murray (Albury)	
<b>South West &amp; Tablelands</b>	<b>South Coast</b> – Batemans Bay, Bega, Bombala, Eden, Merimbula, Narooma	Batemans Bay, Bega, Bombala, Eden, Moruya, Narooma	South Coast	Moruya			
	<b>Southern Tablelands</b> – Braidwood, Cooma, Goulburn, Gundagai, Queanbeyan, Yass,	Goulburn, Crookwell, Gundagai, Yass Queanbeyan, Cooma	South Coast		Civic (ACT)		

Metropolitan Catchments	Relevant court	CLSD Region	Relevant office			
			ALS	CLC	Legal Aid	FVPLS
<b>Sydney West</b>	Blacktown, Katoomba, Windsor, Mount Druitt, Parramatta, Penrith		Parramatta, St Mary's	Katoomba, Parramatta, Rooty Hill, Windsor	Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith	N/A
<b>Sydney South West</b>	Bankstown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Moss Vale, Camden, Picton, Sutherland		N/A	Campbelltown, Liverpool	Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Sutherland	N/A
<b>Sydney Central</b>	Burwood, Central, Downing Centre, Hornsby, Manly, Newtown, Waverley		Central Sydney, Redfern	Kings Cross, Kensington, Marrickville, Redfern, Woolloomooloo, Kensington (2), Randwick Sydney (4), Surry Hills (4), Redfern, Marrickville, Telephone Advice Line (4)	Central Sydney, Burwood	N/A