

Agricultural Services

Framework 2021 - 2026



**Local Land
Services**



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More information

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing November 2021. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.



The Framework purpose and context

This framework outlines the direction and defines the objectives for Local Land Services in the delivery of Agricultural Services across NSW. It provides guidance for regional Local Land Services to develop actions aligned to national, state and regional industry needs to support the key framework objectives.

Local Land Services is a customer focused, outcomes orientated organisation that provides a broad range of services to producers and communities across NSW. This framework sets out the priority areas that Local Land Services will directly focus our agriculture service resources into over the next five years. The Framework also describes the important role we play in assisting producers manage the risks associated with climate variability and significant climatic and market business disruptor events. The third part of the Framework outlines

the important partnerships we will build to assist in resolving industry scale issues and increase adoption across NSW.

Like all organisations we have defined resources, in order to create the maximum benefit for landholders, communities and industry we see the best opportunity to influence positive outcomes as targeting resources and effort into shared priorities. The priority areas in this framework are aligned directly to achieving industry objectives and meeting the outcomes of the Local Land Services and Department of Regional NSW Strategic Plans.

The framework will be reviewed after two years to ensure that priority and focus areas are still aligned to industry needs and Local Land Services core services.



Our role

The increased productivity and sustainability of our industries occurs through practice change at the local and farm level. These changes result in improved management strategies, practices, decision making, innovation and adoption of new technologies. Local Land Services is the premier NSW government organisation for delivering agriculture extension, advisory and capacity building services.

Local Land Services provides services to producers to increase farm productivity and enhance natural assets and on ground assistance in preparation for, during and post major business disruptors. In addition we contribute to resolving industry scale issues. Our agricultural services extend across NSW and provide significant value to landholders, industry, local communities and the economy.

Priority selection

The objectives, key results and deliverables of this framework have been determined through considering the priorities from industry strategic plans identifying industry priorities and assessing them in regard to three main criteria. This assessment provides the basis for the areas we will directly invest resources in and those we deliver in partnership with other organisations.

Alignment to agricultural services: Local Land Services provides a wide range of services to producers in NSW including: biosecurity and animal health, natural resource management, pest and weed and vegetation management. We will continue to provide these services to producers, however they are not captured in this framework which focuses on Agricultural Services.

Market Failure: Agriculture is a busy space with lots of government and non-government organisations playing a role. We recognise the valuable role that private industry plays in supporting agricultural industries in NSW. To avoid duplication of services and resources and achieve the best outcomes from the NSW Government's investment we will distinguish priority areas where suitable services already exist and where there is a gap or market failure.

Value / Impact: The third criteria used to assess priorities is the potential impact and value that can be realised through investment of our agricultural services.

What are we aiming to achieve through our agriculture services?

Agricultural businesses and industries contribute significantly to the prosperity of local communities and the NSW economy. Data from the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences puts the gross value of agricultural production in New South Wales at \$11.7 billion in 2018/19, which was 19 per cent of the total gross value of agricultural production in Australia (\$60 billion).

Over the last two decades, Local Land Services (and those of its predecessors) has been instrumental in increasing on farm productivity and sustainability: Our agricultural services will assist producers and industries meet important challenges facing the agricultural sector. This has been achieved through our highly skilled and experienced Agricultural services staff. Local Land Services will continue to invest in the development and training of our staff to ensure that producers receive the best quality advice and service.

Sustainable productivity: On the back of a growing world population and expendable income, the demand for agricultural products continues to grow. A key challenge for agricultural enterprises is to remain viable amid increasing land and production cost, while continuing to increase their productivity in a sustainable way that does not deteriorate natural assets.

Natural assets: Agriculture occupies a vast amount of land across NSW and land managers are responsible for sustainable environmental management. Agriculture prospers through maintaining a healthy environment, enhancing the condition of on farm natural assets, increasing productivity and contributing to better environmental outcomes for all. There has, and will continue to be, increasing consumer and public demand for sustainable products and improved animal wellbeing. This has been strongly recognised and is a primary focus area for many agricultural industries.

Risks associated with climate variability and market disruption: Climate variability is increasing and with it the number and severity of major disruptor events such as drought, fire, and flood. Climatic and market disruptor events have a negative effect on productivity and increase the risk of significant degradation to on farm natural assets. Managing the risks associated with major disruptors can significantly decrease the impact these events have on natural assets, the wellbeing of people and communities, recovery time and productivity.

Vision

Enhanced management, productivity and sustainability of NSW land

Outcome

Productive, profitable and sustainable agriculture

Goal

To increase on farm productivity, sustainability and resilience to climate variability and enhancing the condition of natural assets

Objectives

1

Sustainable farm productivity, enhanced natural asset conditions and improved production processes

2

Enhanced preparedness, management and recovery for climate variability and major disruptor events

3

Strategic partnerships and innovation adoption

Sustainable Farm Productivity, Enhancing Natural Assets, and Improving Production Processes

Productivity is the measure of output produced for a given quantity of inputs. Productivity increase reflects improvements in business management practices and processes and the adoption of new technologies. It is vital for producers to ensure productivity gains are sustainable and do not degrade natural assets. Through direct action and investment, Local Land Services provides extension, advisory and capacity building services to producers.

Our services support producers to adopt improved

management practices and strategies that result in increased on-farm productivity and sustainability, enhanced on-farm natural assets, improved production processes, and animal wellbeing to better meet customer and market requirements.

These outcomes will not only increase on-farm productivity but also contribute to industries meeting sustainability targets such as the red meat industry carbon net zero by 2030.

Objective 1

Increase farm productivity and sustainability, enhance natural assets, and improve production processes

Key result 1.1: Producers increase their productivity and sustainability through improved land management strategies and production processes.

Key result 1.2: Producers increase their productivity and sustainability through enhancing the condition of on farm natural assets.

Key result 1.3: Producers enhance production processes aligning to customer and market expectations.





Assisting Landholders Manage Climate Variability and Major Disruptor Events

Business disruption is an event that interferes or alters a system or environment that leads to a significant change in regular business. A disruptor has the potential of creating substantial losses to the business or system failure. Agriculture is significantly affected by climatic business disruptors such as drought, fire, flood and the introduction of a exotic animal, plant pest or disease.

However, other sudden events such as market loss or

significant change in the economic value of products, or trade disruption can also have a major influence. Our Agriculture Services play an important role assisting landholders prepare, manage and recover from major disruptor events.

Note: The delivery of other framework outcomes will be impacted or not delivered if resources need to be diverted to disruptor events and additional resources not provided.

Objective 2

Producers and businesses are better prepared for climate variability and better manage and recover from major business disruptor events

Key result 2.1: Producers are better prepared to manage risks associated with climate variability and major disruptor events.

Key result 2.2: Producers are supported when responding to major events including drought, fire and flood.

Key result 2.3: Producers have the capacity and support to quickly recover from major events and take advantage of potential opportunities.

Strategic Partnerships and Innovation Adoption

Through our regional staff network, Local Land Services is in a unique position to provide analysis, guidance and input into research, and the development of programs that drive solutions to key industry scale issues. We will build partnerships with government and industry organisations and contribute to improving outcomes for industry.

Our Agriculture Services also have expert skills in developing and delivering extension, advisory and

capacity building programs that provide producers with the understanding and skills to implement practice change and adopt new technologies.

We will look to grow our partnerships with government, industry and private organisations to help drive the adoption of new technologies, techniques, and innovation strategies.

Objective 3

Build strategic partnerships that drive solutions to industry scale issues and deliver services that lead to the adoption of innovation

Key result 3.1: Develop strategic partnerships and contribute to solutions for key industry scale issues.

Key result 3.2: Build partnerships with key research and development organisations to deliver services that increase innovation and adoption.





Framework Implementation

This Framework guides, and will be implemented through agricultural services staff across all Local Land Services regions. Programs will be developed and delivered across the state in areas applicable to the relevant production systems and industry locations.

Governance

The Executive Director, Regional Operations, is accountable for the delivery of this Framework.

The Agriculture Portfolio Lead and Business Partner are responsible for championing the implementation of this Framework, and for reporting on the progress and outcomes of the plan.

Regional General Managers are responsible for implementing relevant actions and programs, with the Sustainable Agriculture Statewide Advisory Group, a key advisory group for the development, consistency, and delivery of programs.



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