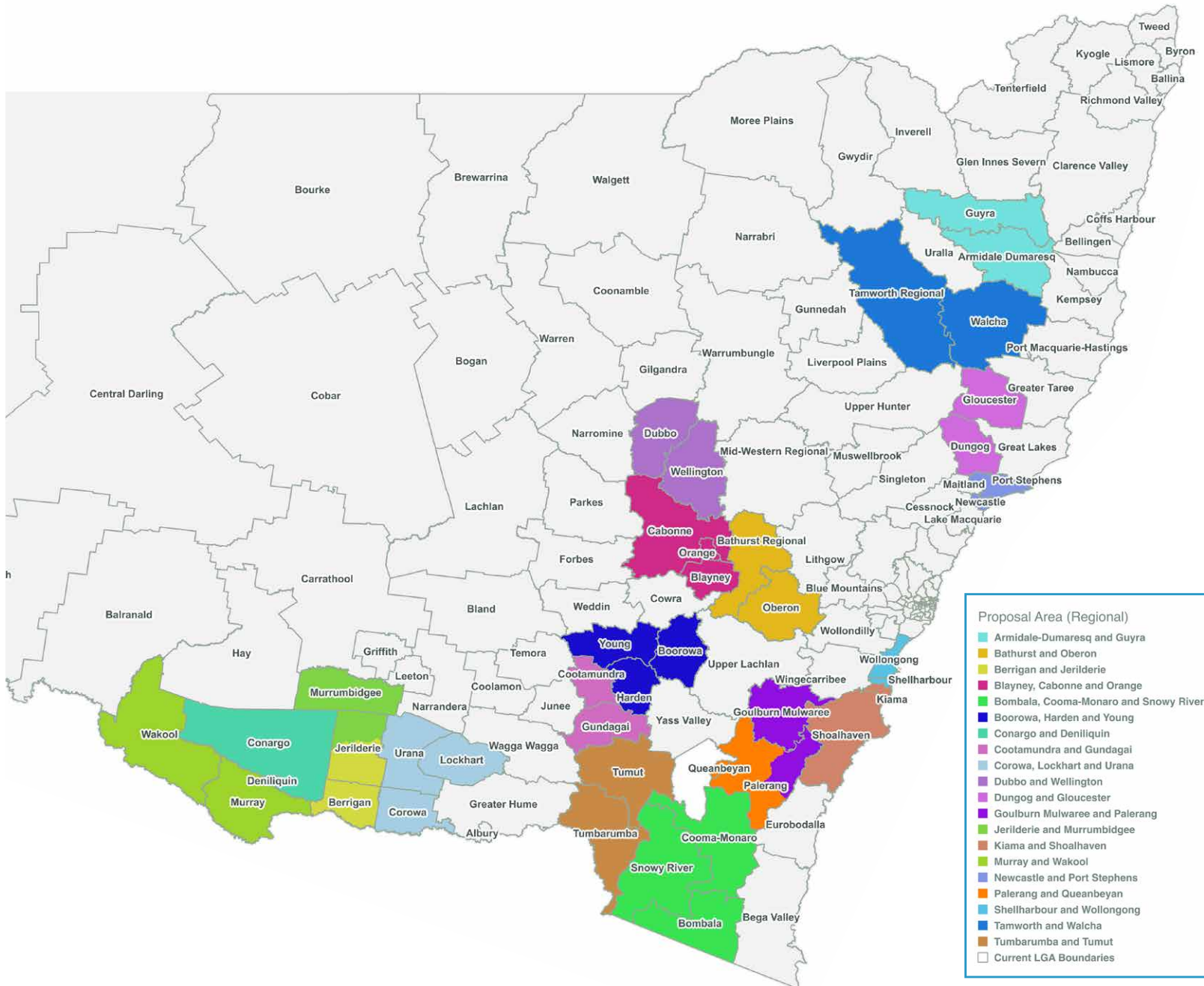


Proposed Regional and Rural Council Mergers



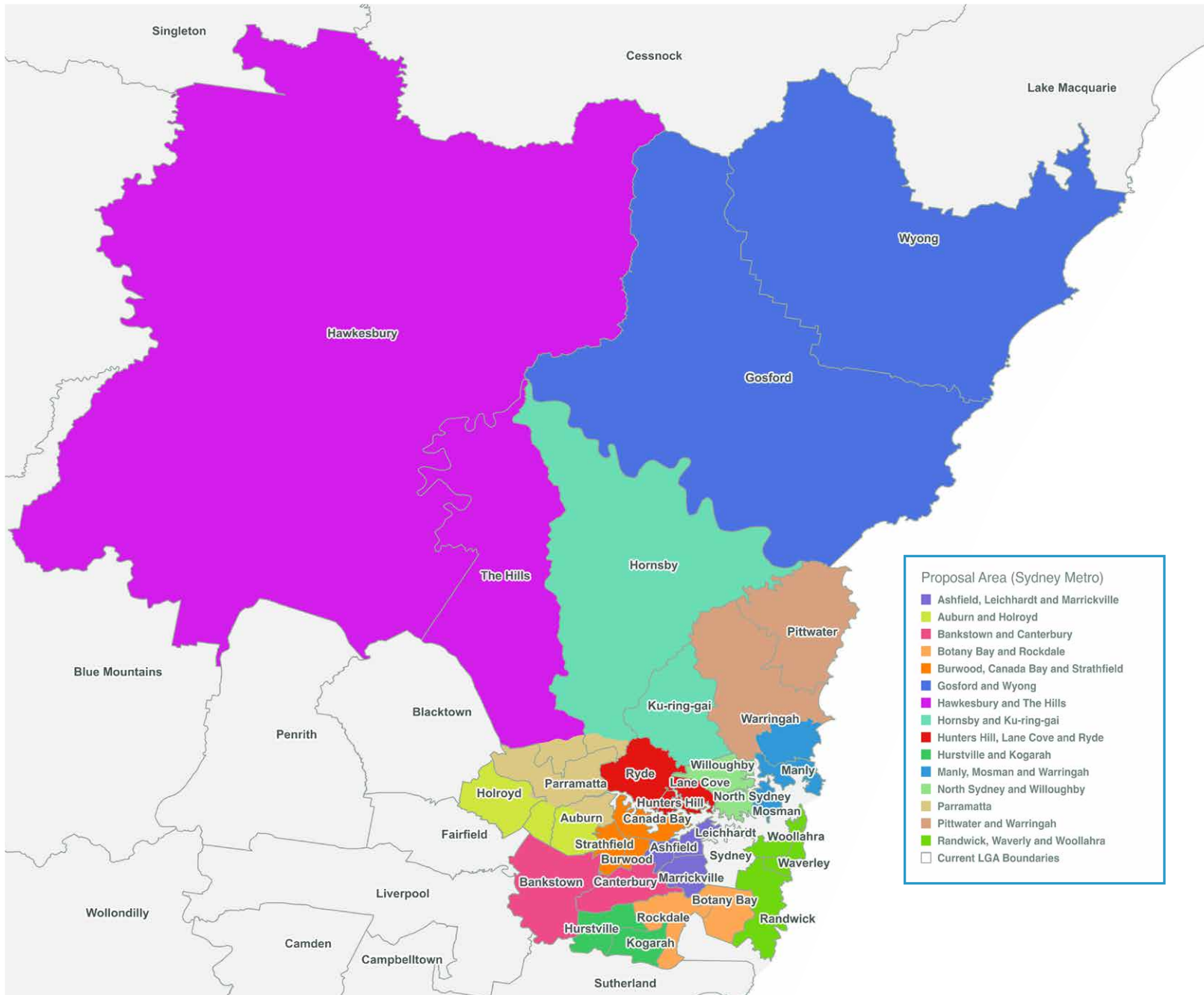
Stronger councils to help regions grow

- Reducing the number of regional councils from 109 to 87
- 20 new councils will be created by merging 42 councils
- Over \$2 billion in financial benefits for NSW over 20 years to invest in infrastructure, improve services or stabilise rates

Why these mergers?

- Unique needs and characteristics of each area – small and declining populations, growing regional centres
- No ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution
- Four years of consultation, independent assessments and identification of high priority mergers and opportunities to strengthen councils financially and strategically, and council merger preferences.
- Joining communities with common characteristics and connections

Proposed Sydney Region Council Mergers



Stronger councils to help Sydney grow

- Reducing the number of councils in Greater Sydney from 43 to 25
- 15 new councils will be created by merging 33 councils
- Over \$2 billion in financial benefits for NSW over 20 years to invest in infrastructure, improve services or stabilise rates

Why these mergers?

- Too many councils in Sydney
- No 'one-size-fits-all' solution
- Four years of consultation, independent assessments, council merger preferences, and feedback from communities and stakeholders
- Achieving as much consensus as possible
- Councils representing communities of sufficient size to deliver efficiencies and reduce red tape - population of around 150,000
- But still ensuring effective local representation - no greater than Blacktown's projected 2031 population of 473,000
- Joining communities with common characteristics and connections