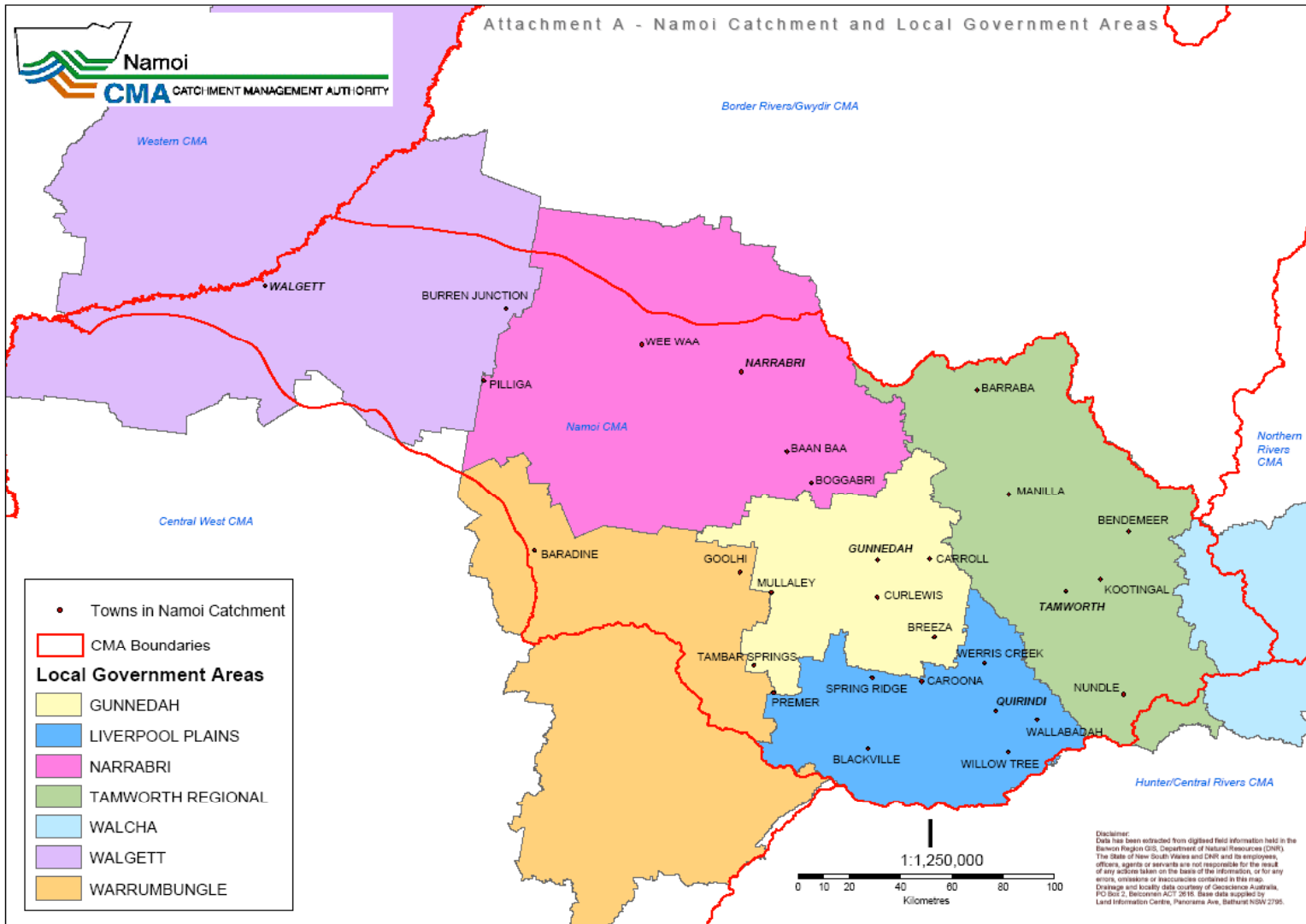




## Namoi Regional Organisation of Councils (NamoiROC)

- 17 + ROCs in NSW, covering vast majority of councils.
- Activities - advocacy, group purchasing, regional projects, submissions, planning.
- Major objective - to speak with one voice on behalf of region & address issues which cross council boundaries – most issues!
- NamoiROC Members - Walcha, Tamworth, Liverpool Plains, Gunnedah, Narrabri Councils plus Namoi CMA – unique ROC.





# Regional Planning

- Discussions with RDs of State Agencies; researchers; mining companies; universities all point to need & support for:

*regional strategic planning*

- Problems – councils financially stressed, under-resourced; state department silos; complex planning system; poor communication; “it might not happen” attitude. Difficult when infrastructure has long lead times.



# Our Aims

- not to “judge” one land use over another but to understand risks of mining & take actions to minimise these;
- to maximise benefits and minimise costs to our communities;
- to consider broad range of environmental, social and economic effects of mining & mine closure, & plan for these.



# Where are we up to?

- Agreement “in-principal” to form tri-partite arrangement between NamoiROC, Regional Department of Premier & Cabinet (represent all State Agencies) & industry (mining companies).
- 9 recommendations to the NSW State Planning Inquiry.



# Some Recommendations

- Cumulative impact studies - socioeconomic *and* environmental;
- Potential impacts to be identified *before* mine commences, not after;
- Lobby for effective and timely reporting (mining companies) & compliance mechanisms (State Agencies)
- Effective, regular communications from State Agencies with regional organisations & communities;
- Look for ways to grow diverse economies, including small business to reduce reliance on big business
- Retain as many “big business” benefits to the region rather than letting them flow out



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