

4 SYDNEY

This chapter discusses different ways of approaching a geographical analysis. Then it focuses on the distribution of the homeless population in Sydney.

4.1 NUMBERS AND RATES

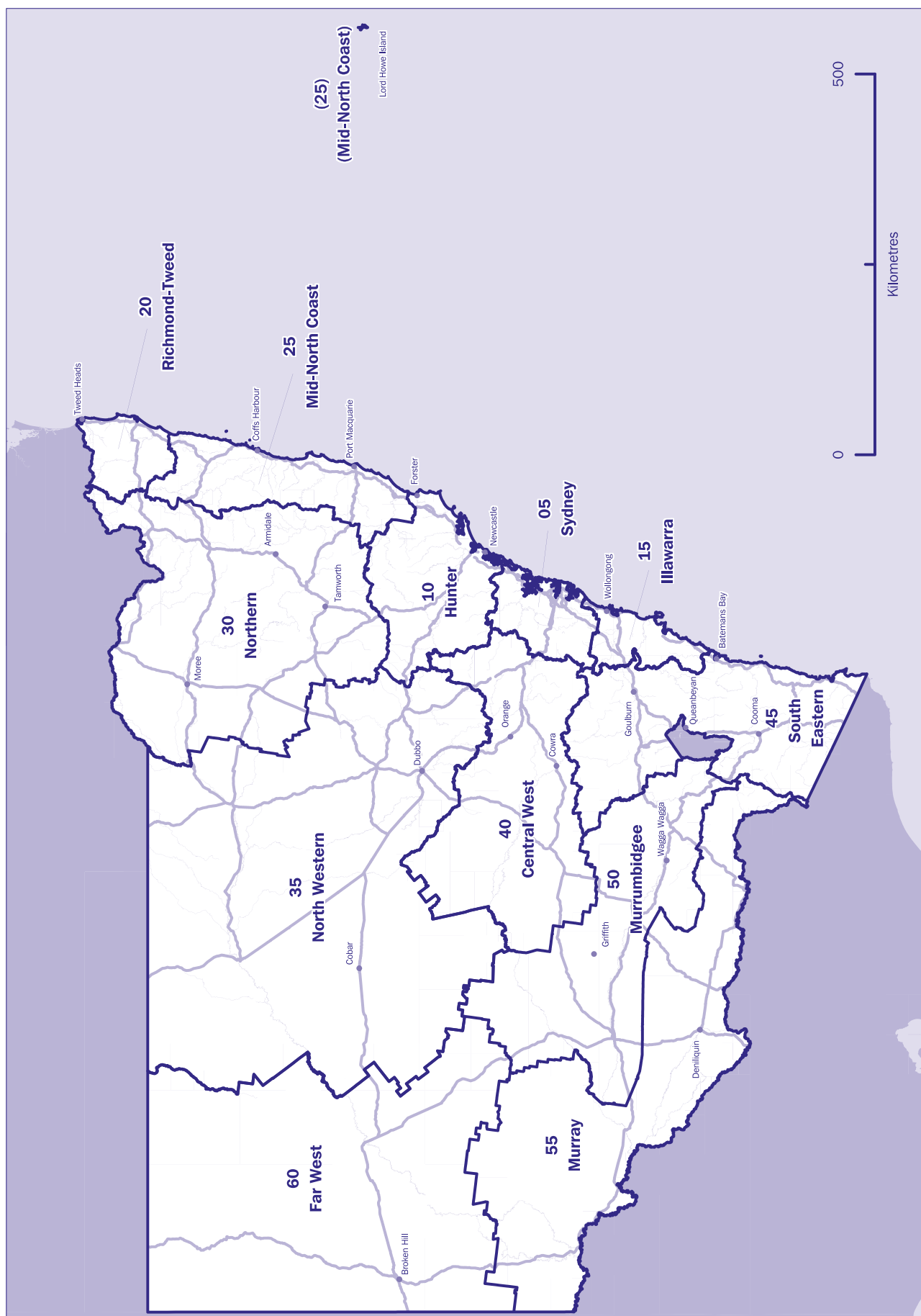
There are two ways of approaching the geographical spread of the homeless population and both are important. First, there is the number of homeless people in particular communities on census night. This is the 'raw' count and policy makers always need to be aware of these figures.

Second, homelessness can be expressed as a rate per 10 000 of the population. This statistic is required for comparing communities of different sizes. For example, the number of homeless people will always be greater in Sydney than in a regional centre because of the difference in population size, but the rate of homelessness may be the same in both communities.

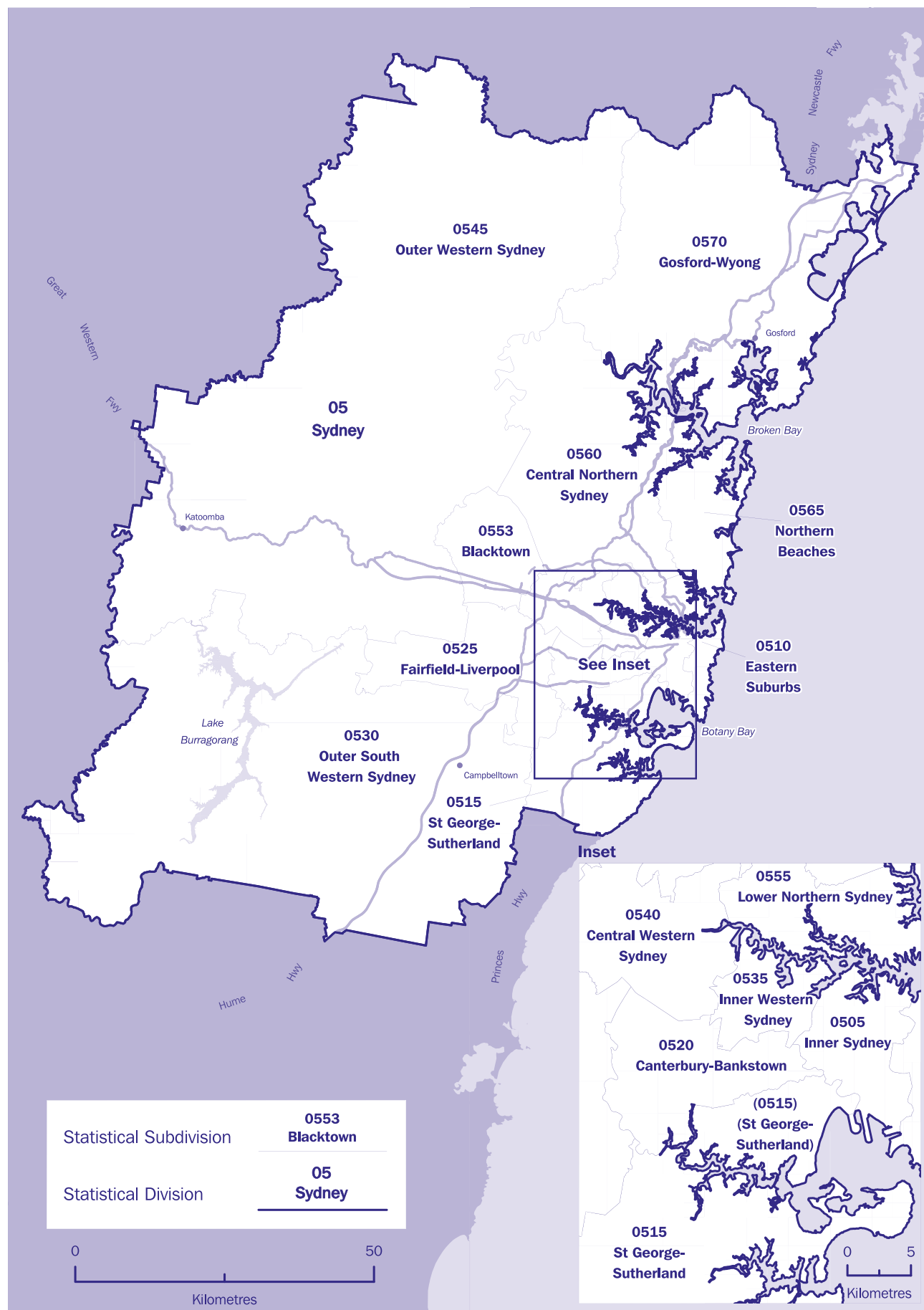
However, it is important to be cautious when interpreting rates for two reasons. First, the rate of homelessness in a particular area does not tell us how many in that community became homeless. For example, the rate of homelessness in Lismore quantifies the number of homeless people in relation to the Lismore population, but it does not tell us whether those people came from Lismore, other parts of New South Wales or from interstate. Homeless people move around and the numbers in particular areas partly reflect the services that are available.

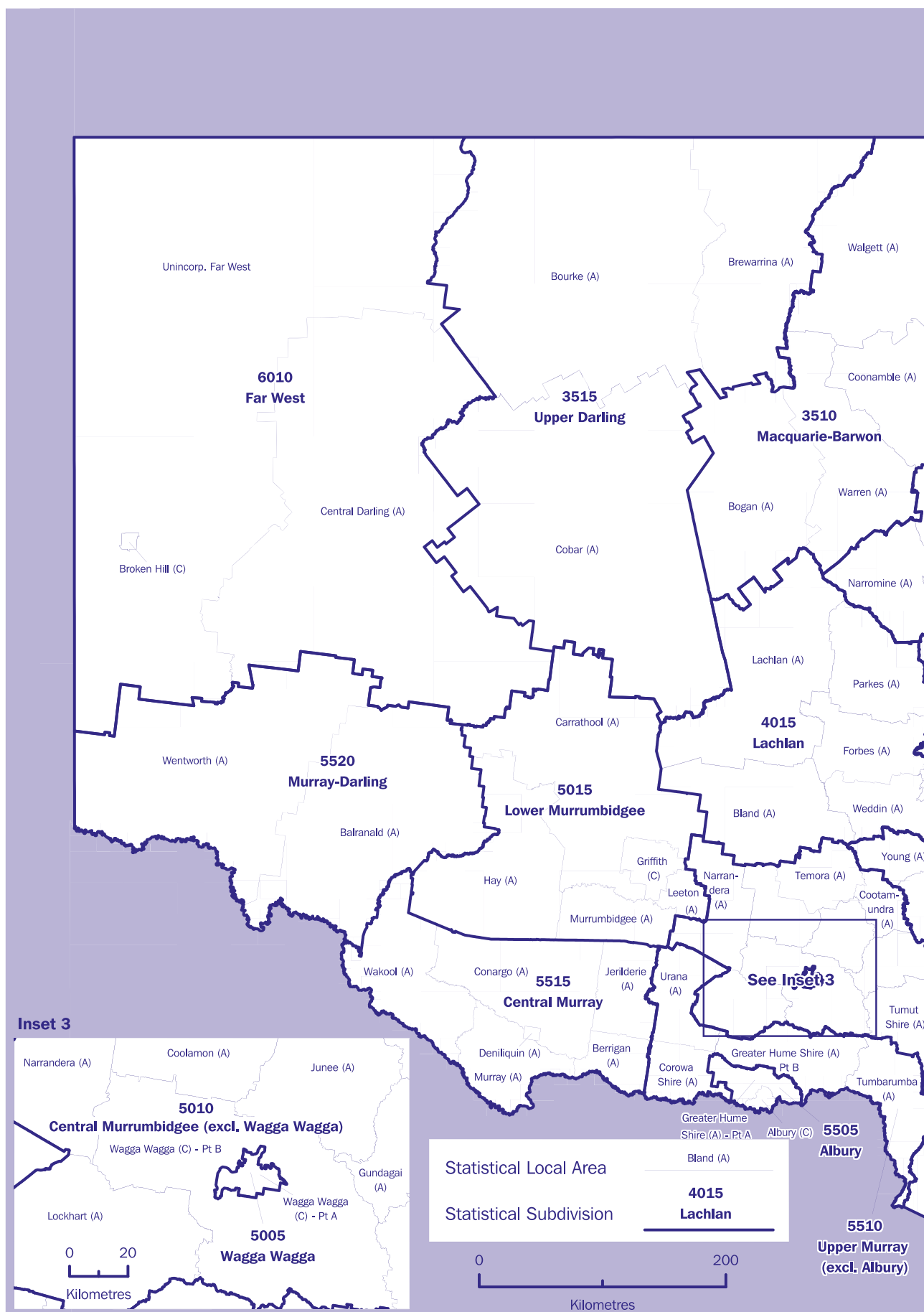
Second, it is important to be cautious when interpreting rates for geographical areas with small populations. Suppose that policy makers have the resources to fund one new SAAP service and they are evaluating the competing claims of two communities. In a small town of 2000 people the rate of homelessness was 100 per 10 000, whereas in a regional city of 30 000 it was 30 per 10 000. Should the resources go to the rural community or to the regional city?

In the rural community, there would have been 20 homeless people ($20 \times 10\,000/2000 = 100$ per 10 000), whereas in the regional city there would have been 90 homeless people ($90 \times 10\,000/30\,000 = 30$ per 10 000). When policy makers allocate resources, they have to consider both the number of homeless people in a community and the rate of homelessness, as well as local intelligence about what is happening 'on the ground' in order to match services with expressed need.

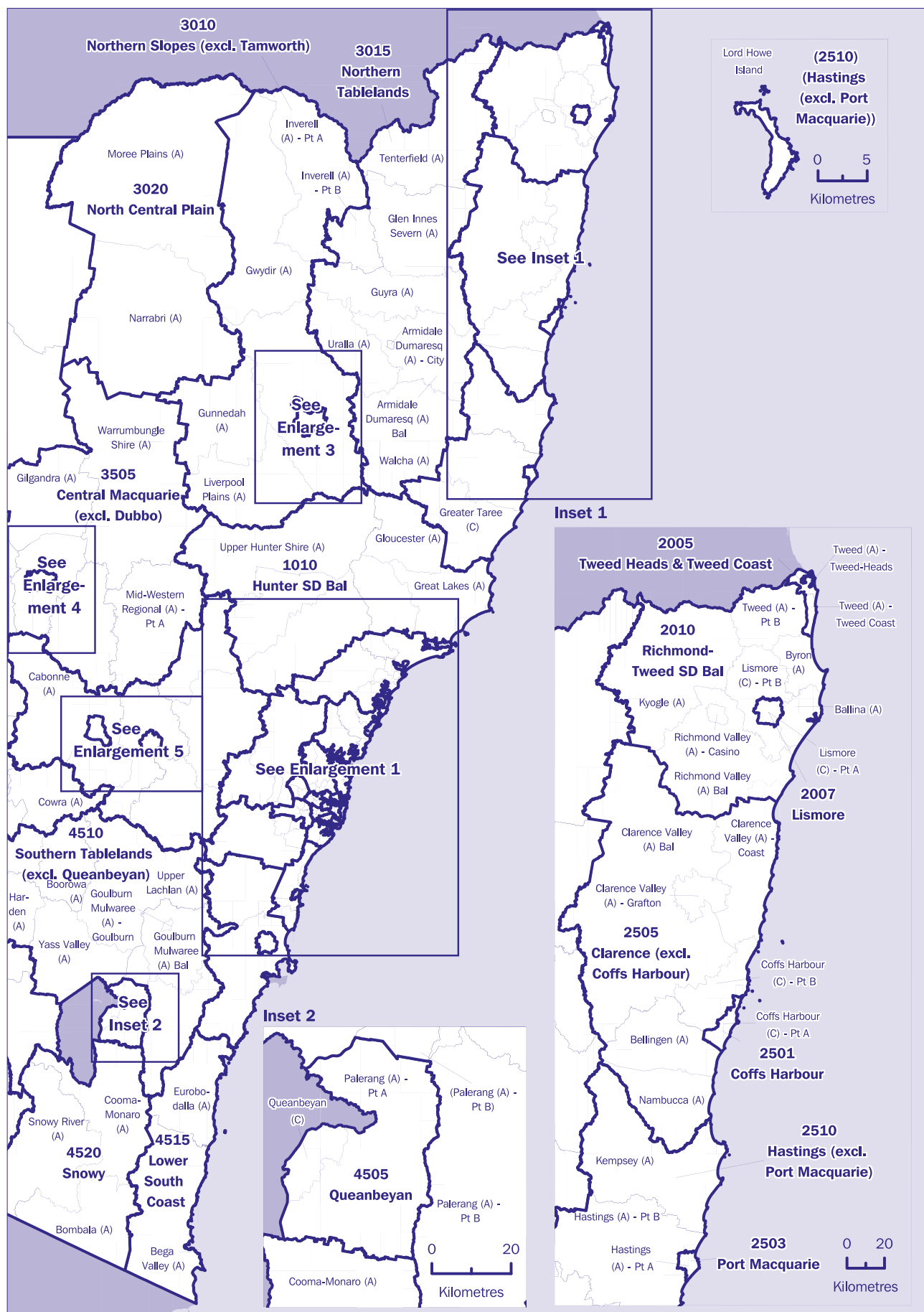
MAP 1: NEW SOUTH WALES, Statistical Divisions

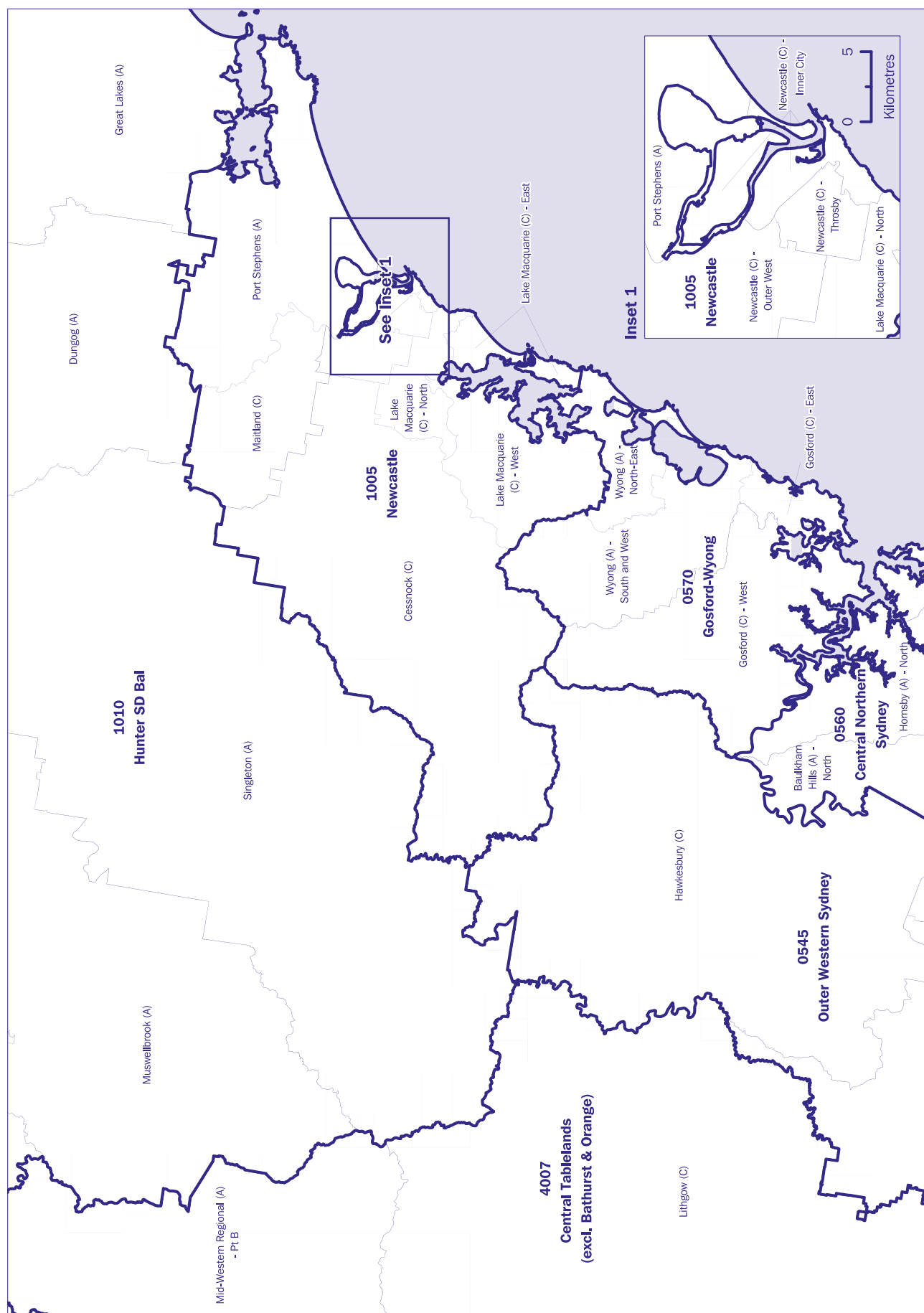
MAP 2: NEW SOUTH WALES, Sydney Statistical Division



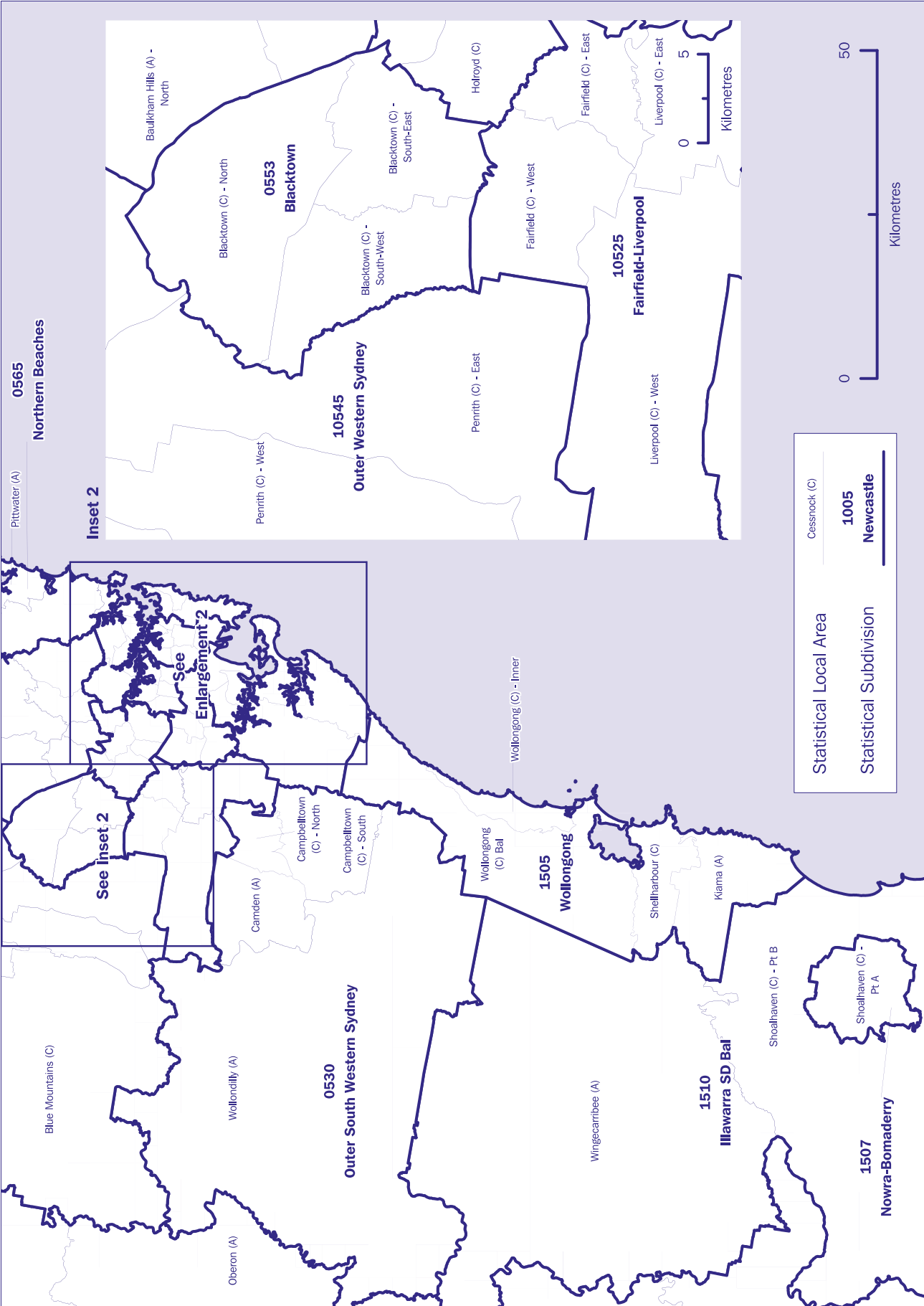
MAP 3: NEW SOUTH WALES, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

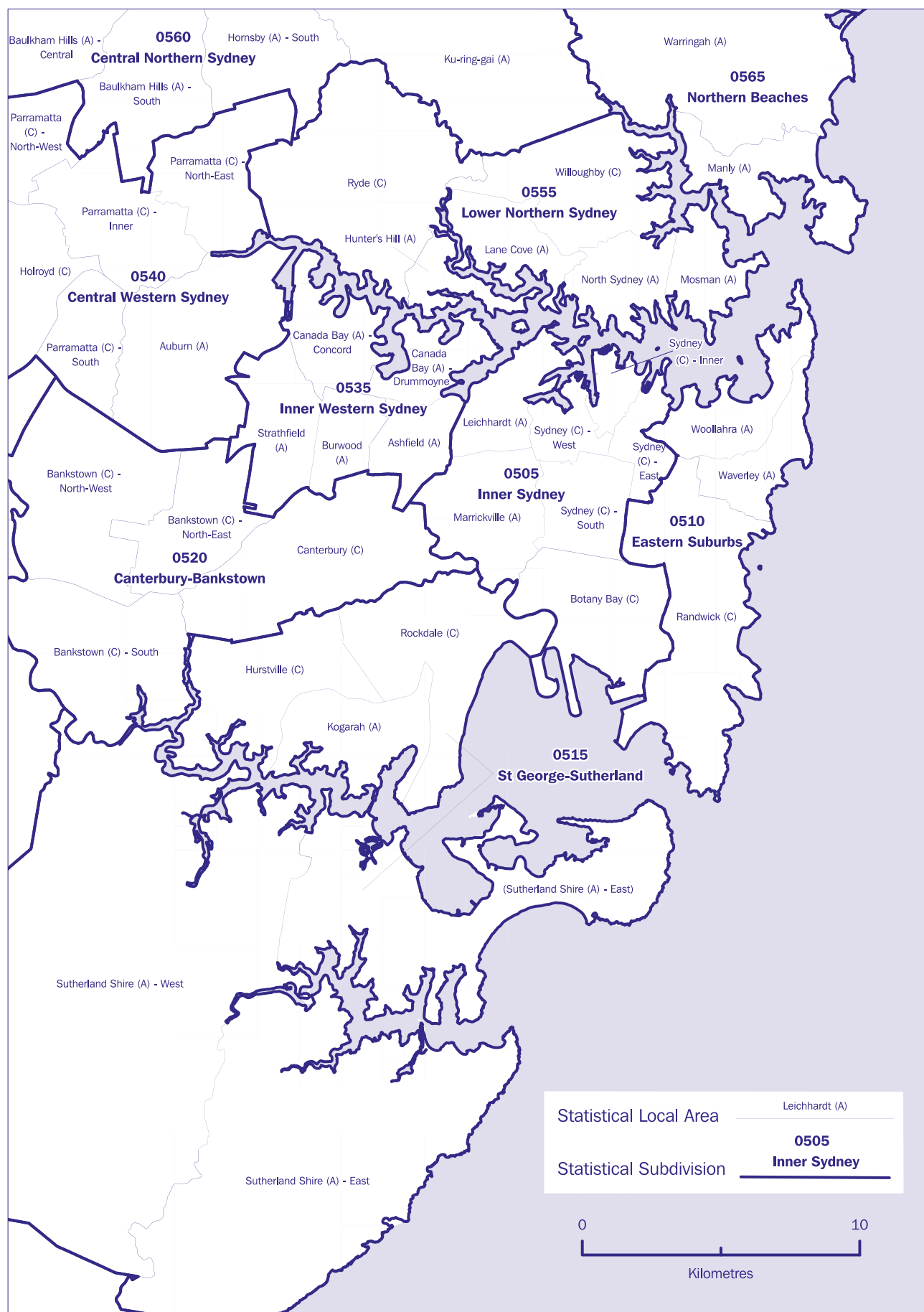
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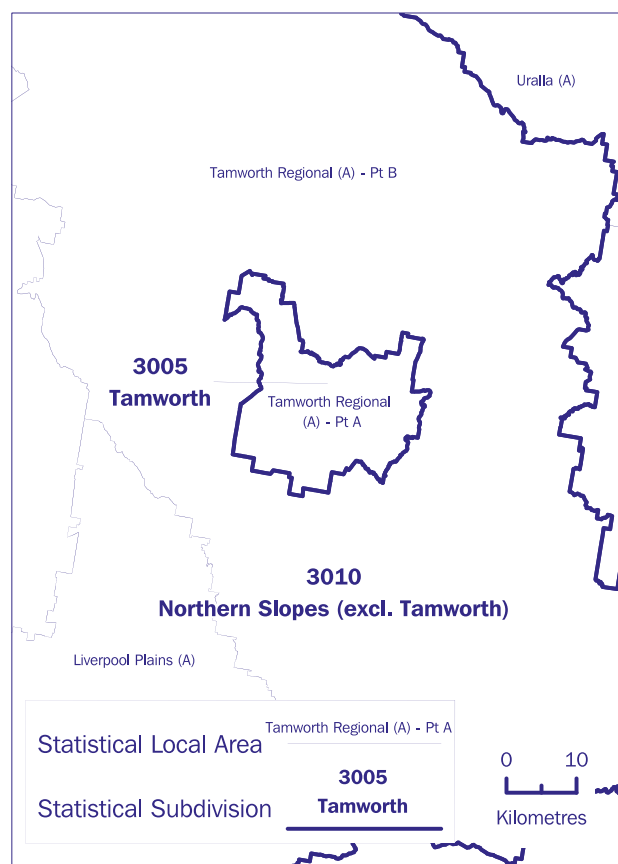
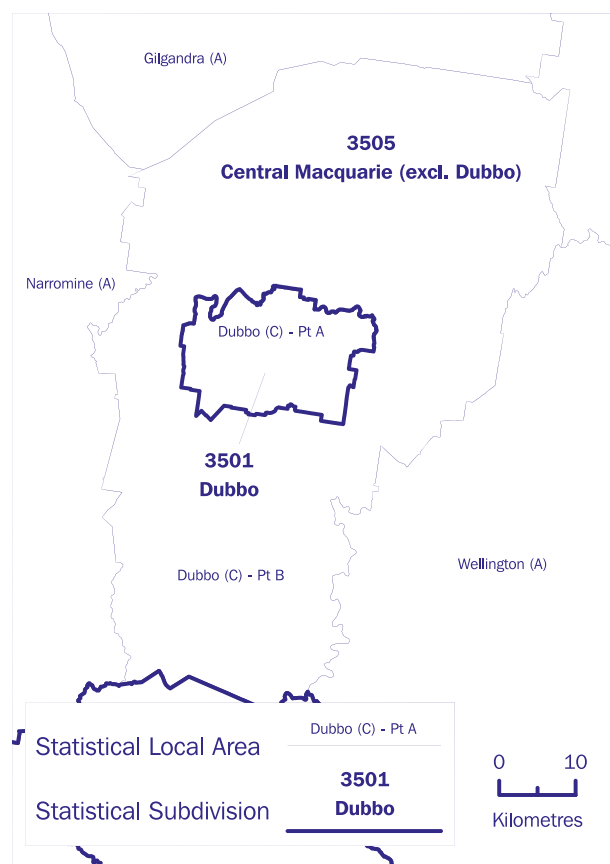


MAP 4: NEW SOUTH WALES, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargement 1

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MAP 5: NEW SOUTH WALES, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargement 2

MAP 6: NEW SOUTH WALES, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargements**Enlargement 3****Enlargement 5****Enlargement 4**