



fact sheet



NSWALC Election 2019

1. When is the NSWALC Election?

30 November 2019.

2. Who is up for election?

Nine Councillors will be elected to the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council for a four-year term, one for each of the Aboriginal Land Council Regions across the state.

These Councillors will then elect a Chair and Deputy Chair.

3. Who can vote?

Aboriginal people over 18 who are voting members of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) enrolled as at the date rolls close 9 September 2019, can vote.

You can only be a voting member of one LALC at any time, and only vote once in the NSWALC Councillor election.

Contact your Local Aboriginal Land Council to find out if you are enrolled to vote. The LALC membership roll contains a record of each member of that council.

4. How do I enrol to vote?

If you would like to vote but are not a LALC member you will need to become a member of your LALC before the rolls close on 9 September 2019.

To become a member, you will need to apply, in writing, to your LALC.

To find out more about becoming a LALC member visit: <http://alc.org.au/land-councils/getting-on-a-roll.aspx>. The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)* also contains information about becoming a LALC member and members' voting rights.

To find out who your LALC is visit: <http://alc.org.au/land-councils/lalc-boundaries--contact-details.aspx> or contact NSWALC on 02 9689 4444.

5. Can non-voting members vote at NSWALC Councillor elections?

No. To be entitled to vote for a Councillor to represent your region, you must be enrolled as a voting member of your LALC (Section 121 (5), *ALRA*).

Non-voting members who wish to vote in the NSWALC Councillor election will need to apply to have their voting status changed prior to the close of rolls. Please contact your LALC, Zone office, or Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* for more information.

Key Dates

- **Close of rolls** – 9 September
- **Nominations open** – 8 October
- **Nominations close** – 5 November
- **Election day** – 30 November

6. Can inactive members vote at NSWALC Councillor elections?

Yes. The only consequence of being declared an inactive member under section 57A of the *ALRA* is that the person will not be counted as a voting member for the purpose – and only for the purpose - of determining the number of members that need to attend a meeting to achieve a quorum for the meeting.

7. Does the two meeting rule apply to NSWALC Councillor elections?

No. The two meeting rule (requiring voting members to have attended at least 2 Council meetings in the previous 12 months) only applies to LALC Board elections (Section 55(4A), *ALRA*).

8. Can members who are suspended vote in the NSWALC Councillor elections?

No.

9. Will voting members who don't vote be fined?

No. Voting in NSWALC elections is voluntary.

10. What is the nomination process to become a candidate?

To nominate, candidates must:

- Be listed on a certified roll as a voting member for a LALC located in the region where they wish to be a candidate,
- Be nominated by at least 6 people (other than the candidate) who are entitled to vote, and
- Complete relevant Electoral Commission forms and pay a \$50 deposit to the Electoral Commission by the close of the nomination period 5 November 2019.

For more information about nominating, contact the NSW Electoral Commission by phone 1300 135 736 or website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

11. How do I vote?

Voting members can vote:

- In person on Election Day at a polling place in your region,
- By post. You will need to apply to the NSW Electoral Commission, in writing, by 22 November 2019 to be able to vote by post, during the voting period.

12. Can I vote from interstate or overseas?

Yes. You can vote by postal vote.

13. Can I work at the election and still vote?

Yes. The NSW Electoral Commission runs the election and will be offering opportunities to work as an election official on election day and during the election period. Working at an election is a great opportunity to learn new skills and meet people, while you also play a valuable part in contributing to democracy. Staff receive training, support and a competitive pay rate.

More information

Please direct all queries about the election to the NSW Electoral Commission:

Phone: 1300 135 736

Website: www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Please note: While all care has been taken in the preparation of this document, it is not a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. Information and dates are correct as at time of publishing, however may be subject to change. This Fact Sheet is current as of **April 2019**.