



New South Wales
Aboriginal Land Council

ELECTION 2024 OUR COMMUNITY. OUR VOICE.

Saturday 24 February 2024

When is the NSWALC Election?

24 February 2024.

What positions are up for election?

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

The results of the election will be declared on **12 March 2024**. The councillors who are elected will then elect a Chair and Deputy Chair.

What is the nomination process to become a candidate?

To be nominated as a candidate a person must:

- Be a voting member of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (**LALC**) in the region where they wish to be a candidate,
- Not be disqualified from holding office as a councillor of NSWALC,
- Be nominated by at least 6 people (other than the candidate) who are entitled to vote, and
- Complete the relevant Electoral Commission nomination form and pay a \$50 deposit to the Electoral Commission. The nomination form and the \$50 deposit must be submitted to the Electoral Commission before nominations close at **12 noon on 30 January 2024**.

Are there any requirements for candidates who are Board or staff members of Local Aboriginal Land Councils?

LALC Board members and staff members are able to nominate as candidates for the NSWALC election.

Candidates who are LALC Board members or staff members need to ensure that they campaign in their personal capacity. Candidates must not use LALC resources for their personal campaign purposes or they will risk breaching their legal duties to the LALC under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)*.

If elected, any LALC Board and staff members will need to resign from their positions at their LALCs to avoid becoming disqualified from holding the office as a Board member or staff member of their LALC role under the *ALRA*.

How do I vote?

You can only vote once in the NSWALC councillor election.

Voting members can vote:

- **In person** on Election Day at a polling place in your region from 8am-6pm,
- OR
- **By post.** Postal vote applications open on 8 January 2024, and close at 6pm on 19 February 2023.

If you are out of your region on election day, and you applied for a postal vote, you can drop the completed postal vote into any polling place.



Apply here for
a postal vote here

Can I vote from interstate or overseas?

Yes. You can vote by postal vote.

Can members who are suspended vote in the NSWALC councillor elections?

No.



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Who can vote?

Aboriginal people who are enrolled as voting members of a LALC as at the date rolls close can vote.

You can only be a voting member of one LALC at any time.

Contact your LALC to find out if you are enrolled as a voting member.



Find your LALC

How do I enrol to vote?

LALC membership rolls close on **6 December 2023** for the purposes of the 2024 NSWALC Election.

To apply to become a member of a LALC, you first need to apply to the LALC in writing.



Become a
LALC member

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).

The closing date to update your voting member status is **6 December 2024**.

Can inactive voting 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 member 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 LALC meeting to achieve a quorum for the meeting.

Does the two meeting rule apply to NSWALC councillor elections?

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

Will voting members who don't vote be fined?

No. Unlike political elections, voting in NSWALC elections is voluntary. Council elections are an opportunity for all voting members to have their say and vote for their representatives in our continued fight for Aboriginal rights in NSW.

Can I work at the election and still vote?

Yes. The NSW Electoral Commission is looking for people to work at this election. They encourage First Nations peoples and people who have not previously worked at an election to apply. Staff receive training, support and a competitive pay rate.

How to apply

Expressions of interest to work at the election open on **Wednesday, 1 November 2023**.

You will need to complete an online expression of interest form to apply. Submit your expression of interest by **23 February 2024**.



EOI to work at the
Election

Please contact the EOI helpdesk on 1300 135 736 for additional support or email: eoielections.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 November 2023.