

LALC Priority Program – Fact Sheet

LALC Priority Program

The LALC Priority Program focuses on the outcomes and prioritisation of claims that are most important to LALCs and local communities.

Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) identify Aboriginal land claims for priority assessment by Crown Lands.

The LALC Priority Program was designed to ensure Crown Lands supports the rights and interests of LALCs across NSW. The program aims to empower LALCs to make informed decisions on land claims through the provision of information and transparency around processes, along with support that is tailored to the unique needs, interests and aspirations of each LALC.

How the program works

1. Participation is voluntary.
2. When a LALC commences with the program, a Community Engagement Officer is assigned for ongoing engagement.
3. The LALC is provided with a complete list of claims in their area (past claims and determined

outcomes), accompanied by a wall map for their region.

4. Crown Lands provides preliminary advice on the likelihood of claim outcomes when information is available for a desktop review. Additionally, the LALC may wish to request planning, environmental, and/or land status native title information about specific parcels.
5. Priority claims are identified and submitted by the LALC.
6. Priority claims are assessed in accordance with the statutory claims determination process under s36 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.
7. The frequency and type of engagement is shaped around the needs and interests of LALCs and there are no strict timeframes or program deadlines.

Strategic Context

Accelerating the realisation of Aboriginal land rights and native title in partnership with Aboriginal people is a key priority under the 10-year Crown Land 2031 State Strategic Plan.

The program is designed to work toward this priority and ensure the self-determination of Aboriginal communities is realised in alignment with the intent of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983.

The program also directly contributes to Closing the Gap target 15 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land.

Available supports

The information that can be provided to a LALC via the LALC Priority Program includes:

- Land claim information – information on all claims in a LALC’s area, including past claims and their outcomes
- Mapping and GIS spatial analysis to help identify land of interest
- Desktop claim review – preliminary advice on likely outcomes of land claims
- Early identification of potential issues such as contamination, restricted access, or encroachments
- Environmental – information on biodiversity and conservation constraints and opportunities
- Native title – information on current claims/determinations and considerations within a LALC’s boundary

- Exploring and communicating alternative pathways and opportunities for land access and/or management
- System/Technology – provide guidance on where to access information and resources on land claims.

Community Engagement Officers

Community Engagement Officers are at the centre of the LALC Priority Program, providing the connection between a LALC and the department.

Community Engagement Officers work with LALCs to identify how departmental services and information can be accessed to meet LALC objectives, and to enable LALCs to make informed decisions about which claims to prioritise.

Community Engagement Officers are Aboriginal employees who provide a culturally safe and attuned approach to relationship building and engagement with LALCs.

More information

Contact Crown Land:

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- www.crownland.nsw.gov.au
- 1300 886 235