



# FACT Sheet

## CROWN LANDS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (Statutory Review) BILL 2026

### What is happening?

The NSW Government has introduced the *Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2026* without consultation with the Aboriginal Land Rights network.

While described as “minor”, it includes changes that will significantly undermine the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALRA).

### Why this matters:

The ALRA allows LALCs to claim Crown land that is:

- Unused
- Not needed
- Being used unlawfully

This land supports housing, jobs and economic development.

### Current reality:

- 43,500+ unresolved land claims
- Determinations at historic lows
- Barriers to housing and land activation

### Key Issue 1: Lease = “lawful use”

(Section 5.20B(4))

#### What it does:

Says a lease alone (without any physical activity on the land) makes land “lawfully used”.

#### Why this is a problem:

- Could block land claims, even where land isn’t genuinely used
- Goes against the High Court (Quarry St) decision

### Key Issue 2: Retrospective powers

(Sections 5.20B(1), (3) & 3.29)

#### What they do:

Allow government to retrospectively validate unlawful leases/licences, making them lawful.

#### Why this is a problem:

- Laws applied retrospectively
- Could be used to defeat existing land claims
- Removes accountability for unlawful decisions

### NSWALC position

- These provisions are **discriminatory**
- Laws should not override **High Court decisions**
- Crown land should be **managed lawfully from the start**
- Land rights must be **protected, not weakened**

NSWALC is calling for deletion of:

- 5.20B(4)
- 5.20B(1) & (3)
- 3.29

### What LALCs can do

- ✓ Share with Board and members
- ✓ Contact your local MP
- ✓ Raise impacts on your land claims
- ✓ Stay engaged – updates will follow

