

Walumarra Legal Centre



The Walumarra Legal Centre has been established by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) to provide free legal services to Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs).

This step has been taken by NSWALC to address calls from the network for direct and timely legal support, particularly with respect to employment law, property and commercial matters, non-claimant native title applications and to support LALCs with respect to social housing.

The Legal Centre has been piloted for the past 10 months, with staff from NSWALC's legal team volunteering in the Legal Centre to provide an estimated 250 hours of free legal support to LALCs over this period. We are currently recruiting a Principal Solicitor and Senior Solicitor, with the intention of being fully staffed by early July 2026.

To meet the demand for legal support in the transition, NSWALC will continue to fund Justice Connect until 30 June 2026 to secure pro bono (i.e. free) legal support from private law firms for LALCs on a range of legal matters. NSWALC is working with Justice Connect to arrange a transition plan for existing matters.

Requests for legal support up to 30 June 2026 should continue to go to Justice Connect.

As a wholly owned subsidiary entity of NSWALC, supported by NSWALC Legal staff, there are certain matters where the Legal Centre cannot provide legal services to Local Aboriginal Land Councils, including:

- Appealing the refusal of Aboriginal land claims and representation as respondents in native title claimant applications, noting that this will continue to be managed by the NSWALC legal team supported by Chalk & Behrendt who provide a high quality of service;
- funding arrangements between NSWALC and a LALC; or
- making an application for land dealing approval, elections, appointment of administrators or any other matter related to NSWALC's regulatory powers.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Legal Centre at contact@walumarra.org.au