



# FACT Sheet



## CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2026

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

On 19 June 2026, the NSW Government released proposed amendments to the *Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2026* following sustained advocacy by NSWALC, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal communities across NSW.

Following consideration of the proposed amendments, NSWALC has resolved to continue opposing the Bill in its current form while acknowledging that important improvements have been secured through the advocacy efforts of the Network.

### A KEY WIN

The Government has agreed to remove proposed section 5.20B(4).

This provision would have deemed the granting of a Crown land lease to constitute a lawful use of land for the purposes of other legislation - the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

Its removal is a significant achievement and demonstrates the impact of coordinated advocacy by NSWALC and the Network of Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

### WHY DOES NSWALC REMAIN CONCERNED?

While some improvements have been made, the Bill continues to contain provisions that may negatively impact Aboriginal land rights.

Key concerns include:

- Retrospective validation powers that may allow otherwise invalid Crown land holdings to be validated after the fact.
- Consultation requirements that are insufficient to allow for meaningful consideration by Aboriginal Land Councils.
- Transfer of risks associated with contamination and environmental damage to Aboriginal Land Councils in circumstances where such harm occurred during Crown ownership.
- Ongoing concerns regarding broader provisions in the Bill relating to public interest protections, regulation-making powers and other Crown land management reforms.

### WHAT IS NSWALC SEEKING?

NSWALC will continue to advocate for the withdrawal of the Bill in its current form.

NSWALC also calls for further amendments to the Bill including:

- That any decisions made to validate or change a Crown land holding that may affect Aboriginal land claims can only be made with the concurrence (agreement) of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- Where there is an undetermined land claim and before exercising powers to validate or change a Crown land holding, that the Minister must consider whether a





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community facility, service or activity is already protected through existing laws, planning controls or zoning and whether there are other ways to protect a community facility, service or activity without affecting an Aboriginal land claim.

- That Aboriginal Land Councils must receive all relevant information during consultation, including copies of any lease or licence and details of the claimed community benefit.
- That consultation periods must be a minimum of 28 days and not be reduced in regulations.
- That any land that is validated because it provides a community benefit must remain restricted to that purpose.
- That decisions to validate Crown land holdings must be made by the Minister and not delegated to another person.

## CALL FOR EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION

NSWALC calls on the NSW Government to extend the consultation period on the proposed amendments until 31 July 2026.

The proposed amendments raise significant issues for Aboriginal land rights and require meaningful consideration by Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal communities.

## WHAT CAN LALCs DO?

NSWALC encourages all LALCs to:

- ✓ Write to Minister Kamper requesting an extension of consultation to 31 July 2026.
- ✓ Review the proposed amendments.
- ✓ Lodge submissions with Government on the proposed amendments to the Bill. If you would like support with submissions, please contact NSWALC on [policy@alc.org.au](mailto:policy@alc.org.au) and we can assist.

For further information, please contact NSWALC's Strategy and Policy Unit on [policy@alc.org.au](mailto:policy@alc.org.au)

