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**MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING**

**OVERVIEW**

Membership of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) is the key to

- getting involved in the New South Wales land council network,
- voting at local aboriginal land council meetings and elections, and
- standing for election yourself.

A person is recognised as a LALC member only if their name is listed on the [membership roll](#) of that LALC. Membership of more than one LALC is allowed, but members can have [voting rights](#) at only one land council.

Membership decisions are made by the voting members of the LALC.

The provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act that concern membership are in [Part 5, Division 2](#), sections 53 to 60.

**WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?**

An adult Aboriginal person can apply to become a member of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) on the grounds that he or she

- lives within the LALC area ('residence') or
- has an association with land in the LALC area ('association') or
- is an Aboriginal Owner in relation to land in the LALC area (i.e. listed on the [Register of Aboriginal Owners](#)).

An 'Aboriginal person' is defined by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act as someone who:

- is of Aboriginal descent
- identifies as being Aboriginal, and
- is accepted as an Aboriginal person by the Aboriginal community in which they live.