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ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS

LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS
OVERVIEW

The key to participation in the land rights network in New South Wales is membership of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). There are 121 LALCs, covering most of New South Wales, in nine regions ([see map](#)). Each region has a representative (a Councillor) on the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) who is directly elected by the voting members of the LALCs in that region.

As at 1 June 2009:

- The total number of voting members is 17,094
- The total number of non-voting members is 3,108

An area of a LALC is constituted under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act once a formal notice is published in the NSW Government Gazette. The relevant provisions are set out in [Part 5, Division 1 of the Act](#). LALCs can [contact the Office of the Registrar](#) to request a copy of the Gazette notice for their LALC.

A LALC constituted under the Act is a 'body corporate'. The corporate name of a LALC is 'Local Aboriginal Land Council' preceded by the name of the area of the Council.

LALC OBJECTS AND FUNCTIONS

The objects of LALCs are 'to improve, protect and foster the best interests of all Aboriginal persons within the Council's area and other persons who are members of the Council' ([see section 51 of the Act](#)).

The functions of LALCs are set out in the Act in [Part 5, Division 1A, section 52](#).

LALC functions relate to:

- Claiming vacant Crown land
- Land acquisition
- Land use and management
- Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Financial stewardship
- Other functions required under the Act or the Regulation

LALCs are also required to prepare and implement **Community Land and Business Plans** ([see Part 5, Division 6 of the Act](#)) in consultation with:

- LALC members,
- persons who have a cultural association with land in the land council's area and
- other stakeholders

[Information about Community Land and Business plans](#) is available on the NSWALC website.

