

# Members – Help make your LALC strong

## Make decisions that make a difference

Members who make sure the best decisions are made, make a difference to their LALC. The best decisions are those that are realistic for the LALC and that benefit the LALC community, not just some people or families.

Good decisions have outcomes that are fair, accountable and equitable, and make the LALC stronger.

Decisions that aren't in the best interest of the community waste LALC time, money and other resources. They bring down the community's trust in the LALC and can hurt the reputation of the LALC. LALCs can end up being put under Administration.

## Don't bend the rules

Cutting corners can seem easier than following rules and policies. But people can take advantage of this for their own benefit.

Here's an example...

The chairperson and the CEO are signatories on the LALC's cheque account. The chairperson is out of town for a couple of weeks, so she signs a few cheques just in case something needs to be paid for. The CEO countersigns the cheques and cashes them for himself. He prepares the financial reports for the LALC, and he knows the Board doesn't check all the details too closely.

## Psst! Did you hear about...?

Rumours, whispers and the grapevine: sometimes gossip is true, sometimes it isn't. Don't be left to guess what's happening – find out!

- Go to LALC meetings. Have your say and listen to others. You might not agree with everyone but it can help you understand their view.
- The more you know, the more you can join the discussion. You can also see if someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes.
- Is someone telling you how to vote? Or bullying you into voting a certain way? Don't let them! Stand your ground.

If you miss a meeting, go to the LALC and ask to read the minutes. The minutes usually include who said what and how a decision was made.

## Keep the focus on the community and think of the future

Make decisions for the long term not the short term. Think of the kids in the community and the kids they'll have down the track. If members think only of their own family or what they can get right now, their LALC might not be around in the future. A lot of the complaints the ICAC receives about LALCs is about people making decisions that favour their family.



INDEPENDENT COMMISSION  
AGAINST CORRUPTION

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Monday to Friday

## What is the role of the ICAC?

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) helps public authorities, including LALCs, to prevent corruption from occurring.

To help stop corruption, the ICAC also provides advice and training to LALCs and other NSW public sector agencies. This is to help agencies identify corruption risks and put measures in place. The ICAC can also investigate serious and systemic corruption.

## Where to go for help?

If you're worried about the way your LALC is making decisions, talk to your Board, the Zone Office or NSWALC. You can also contact the Office of the Registrar of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Plus, the ICAC has a corruption prevention advice service. You can call us on 1800 463 909 (toll free) or (02) 8281 5999 during business hours. We also have a TTY number that hearing-impaired callers can use on (02) 8281 5772. You can also:

- email a question to [icac@icac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:icac@icac.nsw.gov.au)
- go to our website at [www.icac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au), and take a look at “conflicts of interests” and “gifts and benefits” at [www.icac.nsw.gov.au/preventing-corruption/knowning-your-risks](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/preventing-corruption/knowning-your-risks).