

NSW Aboriginal Land Council's report on implementation of plan of action in response to *Investigation into dealings involving Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council land.*

Please indicate which applies:

✓ **This is a final report; the plan of action is fully implemented**

This is an interim report; a further report will be provided in twelve months

As previously advised, the scope and scale of recommendations made in investigation reports varies considerably, as do the plans of action public authorities develop in response.

The Commission recognises a single template may not be effective for reporting on the implementation of all action plans. In view of this, NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) is invited to use a reporting format that best illustrates the comprehensiveness of the implementation of the plan of action.

The Commission asks that proposed report formats are discussed with the ICAC's corruption prevention representative named in the cover letter. The ICAC corruption prevention representative will advise if the report format has the Commission's endorsement.

However if NSWALC prefers to adhere to an established format, the following may be used as a guide.

Report (interim and/or final)

Recommendation 13

That the NSWALC and the registrar consider whether the corruption prevention recommendations made in this report should be applied to other LALCs and whether the NSWALC and registrar should collaborate to develop an education program that addresses the findings and recommendations in this report.

Each action plan item
NSWALC collaborated with ICAC to deliver corruption prevention workshops for LALCs across the state in 2023. These workshops were conducted as part of a specific project, separate from ICAC's regular training program, and were held between April and September 2023.
ICAC offered ten sessions of 3.5 hours each, two sessions per zone. LALCs were grouped to ensure wider access and increased opportunities for participation. A total of 29 LALCs participated in six workshops, as detailed in the table below.

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NSWALC will organise another training round for LALCs who could not participate. The training will be delivered in the 2024/25 financial year, allowing sufficient time for LALCs to complete NSWALC's mandatory governance training for new boards, which is required after the recent statewide elections. It's important to note that NSWALC cannot force LALCs to take part in this training.

LALCs often need to manage multiple competing priorities with limited resources. This can sometimes affect their ability to participate in training programs. In addition to the second training round, NSWALC intends to invite ICAC to conduct information sessions for LALCs at Regional Forums. This approach enables NSWALC to leverage LALC attendance at these forums to address capacity-related issues.

Table 1

Zone	Region or LALC	Date	Attended	LALCs
Eastern Zone	Gandangara LALC only	16/5/23	16	Gandangara
Northern Zone Tamworth	Northern Region	24/5/23	6	Guyra Moombahlene Wanaruah Coonabarabran Armidale
Northern Zone Coffs Harbour	Mid North Coast	13/6/23	6	Bunya Kempsey Thungutti
Eastern Zone	Sydney Newcastle	16/6/23	8	Metropolitan Gandangara Awabakal Bahtabah Biraban Darkinjung Karuah
Western Zone Dubbo	All of Western		7	Coonamble Weilwan Piliga Dubbo
Southern Zone Wagga Wagga	Wiradjuri	20/7/23	8	West Wyalong Condobolin Albury Murrin Bridge and Councillor Hampton
Southern Zone Online	South Coast	16/9/23	3	Bateman Bay Eden
Eastern & Northern Zone*	Sydney Newcastle & Mid North Coast	29/11/23	4 3 8	Worimi Karuah Mindaribba

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*The Commission invited Awabakal, Karuah, Mindaribba, Worimi and Biraban LALCs to attend a half-day corruption prevention workshop on 29 November 2023 at the Murrook Cultural Centre, Williamstown, as part of their Rural and Regional Outreach Program.

Recommendation 14

That the NSW Aboriginal Land Council extend the questions concerning 'Property' in the Risk Assessment System to include "Is the LALC in discussion(s) with any third parties about potential land dealings in which any agreement(s) would be conditional on the LALC obtaining necessary approval under the ALR Act?"

Each action plan item

NSWALC has been proactive in including the following question in the Self-Reporting and Assessment (SRA) under the new Community Outcomes delivery model and is weighted "extreme" risk under the new process:

- Since the last reporting period, has the LALC contemplated entering into a land dealing or any dealings that involve land that require NSWALC approval?

If answered affirmatively this will trigger involvement from the Land & Property Unit and the Zone Office, giving NSWALC as much vision over the process as possible and the opportunity to provide support and assistance as and when required.

The first reports under the new Community Outcomes Delivery Model were due on 28 January 2024, and as such, it is too early to accurately analyse the data to determine the effectiveness of this approach.

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