



Job Title:	Lawyer
Classification:	L1-L2
Branch:	Legal Branch
Reports to:	Principal Legal Officer

Primary Objectives

The Lawyer will provide legal advice in relation to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)*, the *Native Title Act 1993 (NTA)* and other legislation and laws affecting relevant Aboriginal peoples and groups in the Northern Land Council's (NLC) jurisdiction.

Duties

1. Act as the legal representative of:
 - (a) Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional claim to land or compensation in respect of an area of land or waters within the area of the NLC;
 - (b) Aboriginal people and groups and, where relevant, Aboriginal Land Trusts, Prescribed Bodies Corporate and other Aboriginal associations in relation to the use, management, occupation or development of their lands and seas (including uses for national parks, tourism, public services, townships and commercial enterprises);
 - (c) NLC in the negotiation of exploration and mining agreements under the ALRA and the NTA;
 - (d) Aboriginal people and groups in relation to the protection of sacred sites; and
 - (e) Aboriginal people and groups in relation to fulfilling their aspirations for self-determination and social, cultural, economic and environmental development.
2. Provide legal advice on matters in connection with the general administration and management of the NLC, Aboriginal Land Trusts, Prescribed Bodies Corporate and other Aboriginal associations.
3. Work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to ensure the effective delivery of NLC's statutory functions under ALRA and NTA.
4. Maintain awareness of all laws and legislation of the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory which affects the functions of the NLC.
5. Participate as part of a team of legal practitioners employed by the NLC to ensure the provision of adequate legal services to the NLC and its constituents and other Aboriginal associations and their constituents.

Legal Services

The range of legal services and legal representation to be provided involves the exercise of initiative and professional judgment in the application of legal professional knowledge and skills in law and legal practice to:

1. Perform legal professional work as an individual or as a member of multi-disciplinary team;
2. Participate in conferences and consultations in Darwin and in remote areas:
 - (a) to represent the NLC, Aboriginal associations or Aboriginal communities and groups in negotiations, arbitration and conciliation with respect to the proposals for the use, development and acquisition of land for or on behalf of Aboriginal people; and
 - (b) to obtain instructions, ascertain facts and prepare statements and reports relating to matters of a legal nature.
3. Identify the need for external legal assistance and prepare briefs to counsel and other materials;
4. Prepare material for legal proceedings or commercial negotiations and to conduct legal proceedings or lead commercial negotiations, if required;
5. Interpret legislation and provide legal advice on leases and agreements;
6. Provide advice and reports on significant decisions of courts and tribunals involving or potentially affecting the NLC;
7. Provide advice on legal questions and prepare or direct the preparation of discussion papers on legal aspects of policy proposals and proposed legislative amendments; and
8. Initiate, plan and conduct legal research projects of considerable breadth, complexity or significance.

Work Health and Safety Responsibilities

1. Take care of your health and safety at work and that of other NLC's employees.

2. Report any maintenance requirements, hazards, accidents, injuries or incidents to your Supervisor immediately.

Essential Criteria

1. Qualified legal practitioner admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of a State or Territory of Australia.
2. A minimum of 3 years' post admission experience in legal practice (and an outstanding candidate of lesser post admission experience may be considered).
3. Highly developed oral, interpersonal, written and legal research skills.
4. Experience in commercial and corporate matters, including negotiating contracts and commercial documents.
5. Possession of a "C" Class licence and ability to operate 4WD vehicles.

Desirable

1. Knowledge of the ALRA, NTA and other relevant legislation affecting the interests of the NLC and its constituents.
2. Experience in briefing counsel and litigation and in providing written legal advice.
3. Knowledge of Aboriginal culture and society and the issues affecting Aboriginal people in the NT and an ability to communicate effectively with Aboriginal people.
4. Experience in working in a multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural organisation.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to fulfil, to the best of my abilities, the above-listed duties and responsibilities:

Signature of Employee

Print Name

Date

Note: From time to time, it may be necessary to amend this position description in response to the changing nature of our work environment. Such change may be initiated as necessary by the Manager of this position or as part of the Performance Development process. Any change will be made in consultation with the incumbent.

Approval

Position	Name	Date Approved
Human Resources Manager	Rebecca Sirilas	