CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Job Description : Senior Lawyer

POSITION TITLE:	Senior Lawyer – Community Development
POSITION NUMBER:	LE015
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:	SOA
POSITION LOCATION:	Alice Springs
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Special Counsel/Legal Practice Manager
LAST REVIEWED:	10 August 2026

KEY FUNCTIONS

The Legal Section of the CLC provides legal representation and advice to traditional Aboriginal owners and native title holders in relation to a variety of legal matters under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) (**Land Rights Act**) *and the exercise of native title rights and matters arising from the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* (**Native Title Act**).

The Legal Section of the CLC also provides legal advice and assistance to the Community Development Unit. This position primarily works with the Community Development Unit to prepare agreements related to the delivery of community development project.

SPECIFIC ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

1. Conduct specific community development work as assigned by the Senior Lawyer - Projects
2. Provide commercially oriented advice, draft and settle contracts and assist in the processing of requests from the CLC Community Development Unit to the Legal Section.
3. Mentor and supervise the work of other lawyers in relation to community development work.
4. Engage in effective consultations with and take instructions from traditional Aboriginal owners and native title holders directly or via the Community Development Unit as required.
5. Provide effective negotiation and advisory skills in relation to commercial matters arising from land access agreements with parties seeking access to Aboriginal land.
6. Provide legal advice, represent and assist traditional Aboriginal owners and Native Title holders in matters arising from the acquisition, use, occupation and management of Aboriginal Land under the Land Rights Act and land to which the Native Title Act applies.
7. Provide advice to CLC in respect to the performance of its statutory functions under the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act.
8. Assist and advise concerning economic development on Aboriginal land, including developing corporate structures, drafting contractual arrangements and scrutinising financial matters.
9. Assist in the development of appropriate skills experience and expertise of CLC staff, and in particular Aboriginal staff members.
10. Disseminate information according to the CLC Council guidelines and to the CLC's constituent communities.
11. Establish and maintain effective liaison with other operational sections within the organisation.
12. Assist in the development of appropriate skills, experience and expertise of Aboriginal staff.
13. Other duties that are safe, legal, logical and responsible with being within limits of employee's

skill, competence and training consistent with the classification structure.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*
- *Native Title Act 1993*
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*
- *Legal Profession Act*
- *CLC Corporate Plan*
- *CLC Enterprise Agreement and Code of Conduct*
- *CLC Risk Management Plan*
- *Industrial Relations Legislation*
- *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- *Work Health & Safety Act 2011*
- Workers Compensation Legislation
- Anti-Discrimination and Privacy Legislation
- CLC Policies and Procedures

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- Reports to and receives direction from Special Counsel/Legal Practice Manager
- Works collaboratively with all other staff of the Legal Section in making positive contributions to the CLC's performance
- Works closely and collaboratively with other operational sections of the CLC in performing the functions of the position and to ensure effective coordination with CLC policy development and achievement of organisation goals
- Develops and maintains good working relationships with CLC constituents, partner organisations, and government and non-government agencies relevant to the functions of the positions.

EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

Financial authorisation as per the CLC Purchasing and Procurement Policy

SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

1. Qualified to be admitted as a legal practitioner in the Northern Territory with at least five years post-admission experience in providing commercial, land and property, and native title legal advice.
2. Experience in commercial, contractual negotiation and/or property law matters.
3. Ability to work under pressure and with limited supervision and have an adaptable, flexible and proactive approach to work.
4. Highly developed written and oral communication skills.
5. Good interpersonal skills with an ability to communicate effectively with people, particularly Aboriginal people.
6. Ability to work with limited supervision to achieve results.
7. A current NT driver's licence and the ability to operate four-wheel drive vehicles safely in remote localities.
8. Must hold (or be capable of holding and apply for) an Ochre Card from SafeNT and undertake a National Police Certificate assessment if required.

DESIRABLE

9. Knowledge of the Land Rights Act, the Native Title Act and other legislation relevant to traditional Aboriginal owners and native title holders in the Northern Territory.
10. Ability to communicate with Aboriginal people and to advise and seek instructions in a culturally appropriate way.
11. Knowledge and understanding of the overall context in which the Central Land Council operates.
12. Knowledge of Aboriginal society and culture and an understanding of relevant contemporary issues.
13. Knowledge and experience of Aboriginal people in the Central Australian setting will be highly regarded.
14. Commitment to Aboriginal self-determination.
15. Ability to communicate with Aboriginal people and to advise and seek instruction in a culturally appropriate way.
16. Knowledge of legislation relevant to traditional Aboriginal owners and native title holders in the Northern Territory.