

Job Description : Senior Lawyer - Projects

POSITION TITLE:	Senior Lawyer – Projects
POSITION NUMBER:	LE017
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:	SOA+
POSITION LOCATION:	Alice Springs
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Legal Practice Manager
LAST REVIEWED:	May 2023

KEY FUNCTIONS

The Senior Lawyer – Projects is based within the CLC Legal Section and provides high level legal services and advice to the Council, CLC staff and Aboriginal people within the CLC region.

This position provides senior-level legal services to internal units of the CLC, including Native Title work program, and to specific external projects, as required from time to time.

The position is also responsible for supervising the CLC's leasing work and coordinating and attending to requests for legal services from the community development unit and the economic participation unit. In doing so, the Senior Lawyer - Projects will supervise the leasing coordinator and two community development lawyers.

*In addition to the above, the Senior Lawyer - Projets position assists the team of legal professionals who provide legal representative and advice to traditional Aboriginal landowners and native title holders regarding a variety of matters under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) (**Land Rights Act**) and the exercise of native title rights arising from the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (**Native Title Act**)*

SPECIFIC ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

1. Represent, assist and advise traditional Aboriginal landowners, either directly or by advising other units of the CLC, in matters arising from the acquisition, use, occupation and management of Aboriginal land, under the Land Rights Act.
2. Represent, assist and advise native holders, either directly or by advising other units of the CLC, in legal aspects of the CLC's role as a native title representative body pursuant to the Native Title Act, including engaging in effective consultations and taking instructions as required.
3. Assist with the conduct of negotiations and preparation of Agreements with mining and resource companies and others seeking access to land in the CLC's region.
4. Assist and advise in relation to economic development on Aboriginal land, including developing corporate structures, drafting contractual arrangements and scrutinising commercial proposals.
5. Supervise the CLC's leasing work, including providing high level advice on leasing matters, leading the legal unit's response to major legal and policy issues relating to leasing and supervising the work of the leasing coordinator.
6. Coordinate requests for legal work and advice from the community development unit and economic participation unit, including allocating work to the community development lawyers and supervising that work, as well as undertaking community development and economic participation unit work that requires higher level advice and legal services
7. Supervise, plan and coordinate the performance of the leasing coordinator and the community

development lawyers in accordance with the CLC's organisational objectives. Including responsibility for:

- recruitment
 - managing staff performance, including under the *Legal Profession Act*
 - learning and development
 - work health and safety
8. Provide advice to the Council in respect to the performance of its statutory functions under the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act.
 9. Provide advice to the CLC and its staff on legislative and policy issues arising from the application of key legislation affecting Aboriginal citizens (including the Land Rights Act, Native Title Act) and other Commonwealth and Northern Territory legislation and policy.
 10. Represent the CLC in courts and tribunals as required.
 11. Disseminate information according to Council guidelines to the Council's constituent communities.
 12. Other duties that are safe, legal and logical and within limits of the employee's skill, competence and training consistent with the relevant classification level.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) 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 (Cth) 2011
- Workers Compensation Legislation
- Anti-Discrimination and Privacy Legislation
- CLC Policies and Procedures

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- Reports to and receives direction from Legal Practice Manager
- Provides supervision, performance management and mentoring to leasing coordinator and community development lawyers
- Work 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; and
- 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 legal advice.
2. Well-developed negotiations skills, particularly in relation to matters associated with the commercial and other access to Aboriginal land.
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 supervise staff and work with limited supervision to achieve results.
7. Appropriate level of health and fitness to meet the rigours of remote fieldwork including driving long distances in a 4WD vehicle, changing tyres and lifting up to 20kg as necessary.
8. A current NT driver's licence and the ability to operate four-wheel drive vehicles safely in remote localities.
9. 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

1. Knowledge and understanding of the overall context in which the Central Land Council operates.
2. Knowledge of Aboriginal society and culture and an understanding of relevant contemporary issues.
3. Knowledge and experience of Aboriginal people in the Central Australian setting will be highly regarded.
4. Commitment to Aboriginal self-determination.
5. Ability to communicate with Aboriginal people and to advise and seek instruction in a culturally appropriate way.
6. Knowledge of legislation relevant to traditional Aboriginal owners and native title holders in the Northern Territory.

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