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ARTICLE

Neighbour disputes: ADR opportunities for councils in NSW – *Frances Richards*

The Productivity Commission has recently recommended that councils have dispute management plans and employ alternative dispute resolution more extensively. This article examines opportunities for councils to increase the use of alternative dispute resolution for resolving neighbour disputes. The author researched the publicly available data on neighbour disputes, interviewed representatives of selected city and regional councils and researched the published literature on neighbour disputes and alternative dispute resolution. This article describes opportunities, benefits and constraints for local government in referring parties to neighbourhood disputes to alternative dispute resolution services; and best practice for local government in referring parties in dispute to alternative dispute resolution services. 59

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