

NATURE WORKING GROUP



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia



Meeting #4 2023 Post Meeting Papers

Via Zoom – 30 November 2023, 12:00pm to 1:30pm AEST / 2.00pm to 3:30pm NZST

Contents

Meeting minutes

Action Register

Attendees

Attachments

- 1) Meeting Slide Deck
- 2) Special Presentation Slides
- 3) StockWatch Report

Agenda

Item	Action required
1. Welcome – Claire Molinari (Co-Chair, CareSuper) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledgement of CountryPrinciples of Participation in Working GroupsLast Minutes approvedPrinciple Partner Announcement of ISS ESG and Pollination	To note any amendments to the Minutes, contact Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)
2. Special Presentation: Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Reforms – recording here Brendan Sydes, National Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Australian Conservation Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act which is the key Commonwealth environmental law operates concurrently with state and territory laws, covering nine “matters of national environmental significance”. Process underway for reforming the legislation now, replacing it with new laws.Drivers for reform have included multiple points across the Independent Review of the EPBC Act, 2021 State of the Environment Report, Global Biodiversity Framework, ALP election commitments and, consensus across government conservation groups and industry that the Act is not working well.	For more information, please contact Brendan Sydes (National Biodiversity Policy Advisor)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature Positive Plan was released in December 2022 which was the response to the annual review with key reforms. • Notably this included the promise for new legislation and a draft national environmental standard to develop in the first half of 2023, public consultations, with Bills being introduced by Parliament by end of 2023. However, the consultation is now underway on reforms and Bills into Parliament as early as possible in 2024, however do not have clarity on this. • ACF perspective on the positives of the reforms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the embedding of red lines into the standards, things that cannot be approved by the new EPA for example “critical protection areas”. ◦ Modernisation of the framework of the threatened species recovery strategies. • Areas for improvement highlighted are around Ministers call in powers, offsets including payment in lieu of offsets, project assessment and approval process and climate. <p>Special Presentation: Nature Repair Market – recording here</p> <p>Michael Cornish, Policy Lead at Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the legalisation has gone through a lengthy process with several amendments (6 out of the 7 recommended by ALCA) adopted including that proponents would have sovereignty over where their biodiversity certificates would be used for offsetting and the recruitment to provide publication of market information. • Senate Inquiry remaining ALCA recommendations remain wholly or partly unaddressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A biodiversity investment strategy to articulate Government policy into the market. This would articulate some set of Government policy priorities into the market by way of market signals. ◦ Replacing Greenhouse and Energy Auditors with Biodiversity Auditors. ◦ Exclude offset from the Nature Repair Market. We do not currently have an environment offset strategy; we need to wait for the EPBC reforms first. Concerns in addition that it might not actually be affecting nature repair and might result in net zero outcome. • Senate Inquiry extended to 18th April 2024, so the Bill is pending this. • State biodiversity Acts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ NSW Independent review include that the framing of these acts can no longer sit around the idea of sustainable development, we must commit to nature positive. The second key component to highlight is the primacy of environmental legislation needs to be recognised. ◦ Hydrogen, renewable energy (HRE) and nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeing increased competition for land for conservation which is driving land value prices. ▪ How do we do renewables with nature? Need to have data to enable proper planning and identify the areas that really do need protection and others that might be more appropriate for development. We need the help of business to fully develop these datasets. 	<p>For more information, please contact Michael Cornish (Policy Lead at Australian Land Conservation Alliance)</p>
<p>3. Industry Updates</p> <p>StockWatch Report (Jono Broome, Morningstar Sustainability)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution Mining Ltd: Put in an application for the expansion of their gold mine. Claims have been submitted that the expansion would negatively affect bird 	

<p>life in the area. This is the largest lake of its kind in the state and home to up to 50,000 water birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHP Group Ltd: Following the 2015 Mariana dam disaster in Brazil, protest in front of the UK Embassy in Brazil as part of the group action lawsuit. Reports that the federal Government of Brazil will be filing a compensation request for USD20 Billion. • Rio Tinto Ltd: A mine in Madagascar which last year had two tailings discharge incidents, impacted the fishing population in which many people rely on for livelihoods with now some local groups signing a petition with 78,000 signatures to request to have an independent audit of the mine. • For more information, read the full StockWatch Report attached below. <p>Sustainable Business Network Program (Sam Rowland, Sustainable Business Network)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not-for-profit working across nature, climate and waste under the umbrella of circular economy. • Regenerate Nature Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to support organisations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss ○ Undertook user research focusing on understanding the barriers, enablers and motivations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss working with communities, landowners and indigenous peoples to understand what they need to increase the scale and pace of the nature work. ○ Seven Programme Initiatives some of which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Nature Alliance set up as of last month to see how they can collaboratively increase investment for positive nature outcomes ▪ Developing a platform which connects investors to business ready nature projects ▪ Business and Nature Symposium in May 2024, action focused to discuss the relationship between business and nature ▪ Communications Campaign around the value that nature action adds to business ▪ Nature training programme primarily focused on SME ▪ Community of Practice Groups being set up • For more information, read the full Presentation attached below and the report available here. <p>Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures: Next Steps (Estelle Parker, RIAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australasian Launch 12th December 2023 (in-person), all members of Nature Working Group would have received an invitation for this. • TNFD globally are working on guidance on SMEs for LEAP will be available in 2024 • TNFD is moving to phase two which is uptake of the framework. The early adopters will be announced in Davos, currently 20 globally so far and growing. As an early adopter you start disclosing in FY24 or you can commit to start disclosing in FY25, not necessarily for all the recommendations but building up overtime. You can register your intention to start adopting here • Global TNFD training module planned for development. 	<p>For more information, please contact Jono Broome (Morningstar Sustainalytics)</p> <p>For more information, please contact Sam Rowland (Sustainable Business Network)</p> <p>For more information, please contact Estelle Parker (RIAA)</p>
<p>4. Subgroup updates</p> <p>Nature Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated workplan ongoing and will be shared shortly, RIAA will email toolkit team members to set up a first date in January. If you have interest in being a part of the development of the toolkit then please feel free to reach out. 	<p>For more information, please contact Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)</p>

<p>5. Other Business and Updates</p> <p>RIAA Staffing Updates (Estelle Parker, RIAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Executive Managers Estelle Paker and Dean Hegarty are stepping up as Co-CEOs at RIAA on the 12th December 2023 with the departure of current CEO Simon O'Connor. Jess Rowe has recently joined RIAA as the New Working Groups Manager. Isabella Marotta will be moving on from the position of Working Groups Officer to another role within RIAA in the Communications department. <p>Update from the Co-Chairs on the 2024 Working Groups (Claire Molinari, Co-Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics suggestions or themes to cover in the meetings for next year as well as any feedback on the timing and length of meetings. 	<p>For more information, please contact Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)</p>
<p>6. Wrap-up and Close – Shara Lohrasb (Co-Chair, CEFC)</p> <p>Next Meeting – March 15, 2024 – register here</p> <p>Thank you all for your contributions, collaboration and participation in 2023 and we look forward to working together in 2024.</p>	<p>register here</p>

Action Register

Ref	Action	Delegation	Status
New			
32-23	Register for Nature Working Group Meeting #1, 2024 here	All	Pending
31-23	For topics, suggestions, themes for 2024 Working group Meetings please feel free to share with Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)	All	Pending
30-23	For questions related to the Nature toolkit and expressions of interest to get involved please contact Claire Molinari (Co-Chair, CareSuper) and Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)	All	Pending
29-23	For more information on the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Next Steps please contact Estelle Parker (RIAA) and the event details related to the launch available here .	All	Pending
28-23	For more information on the Sustainable Business Network Programme please contact Sam Rowland (Sustainable Business Network)	All	Pending
27-23	For more information, please contact Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)	All	Pending
26-23	For more information Nature Repair Market presentation please contact Michael Cornish (Policy Lead at Australian Land Conservation Alliance)	All	Pending
25-23	For more information on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Reforms presentation please contact Brendan Sydes (National Biodiversity Policy Advisor)	All	Pending
Previous			
24-23	Register for Nature Working Group Meeting #4 here	All	Complete
23-23	For more information on nature in Aotearoa New Zealand, please contact Gael Ogilvie (Tread Lightly Advisory)	All	Ongoing
22-23	For more information on the Morningstar Sustainalytics StockWatch report, please contact Jono Broome (Morningstar Sustainalytics)	All	Ongoing

21-23	For more information on the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, please contact Guy Williams (Pollination)	All	Ongoing
20-23	To note any amendments to the Minutes, please contact Antonia Bowlen (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
19-23	Register for Nature Working Group Meeting #3 here	All	Complete
18-23	To express interest in the Leaders Group, please contact Antonia Bowlen (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
17-23	To become involved with a Nature Toolkit, please contact Antonia Bowlen (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
16-23	For more information about the RIAA Conference Aotearoa New Zealand 2023, please contact Antonia Bowlen (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
15-23	For more information on nature in Aotearoa New Zealand, please contact Greg Munford (NZ Super)	All	Ongoing
14-23	For more information on Australian Directors' Duties, please contact Laura Waterford (Pollination)	All	Ongoing
13-23	For more information on Directors' Duties and Nature-related Risk, please contact Nicola Swan (Chapman Tripp)	All	Ongoing
12-23	Register for Nature Working Group Meeting #2 20 July 2023 here	All	Complete
11-23	To participate in External Reference Group, please contact Jane Hutchinson (Pollination) or Blathnaid Byrne (CBA)	All	Ongoing
10-23	To participate in Subgroup 3, please contact Carly Hammond (New Forests)	All	Complete
9-23	Engage with the nature-related opportunities case study, email Antonia Bowlen (RIAA) for template	All	Ongoing
8-23	To participate in Subgroup 2, please contact Claire Molinari (Care Super)	All	Complete
7-23	To participate in Subgroup 1, please contact Emily Davies (EY) or Madeline Combe (Altiolem)	All	Complete
6-23	To express interest in sponsorship of Nature Working Group in 2023, please contact Min Wah Voon (RIAA)	All	Complete
5-23	For more information on Nature in NZ, please contact Greg Munford (NZ Super)	All	Ongoing
4-23	For more information, please contact Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)	All	Ongoing
3-23	For more information on Altiolem's report please contact Madeline Combe (Altiolem) and Audrey van Herwaarden (ACF)	All	Ongoing
2-23	Engage with the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network here	All	Ongoing
1-23	View the Chubb Review here	All	Ongoing

Attendees (58)

	First Name	Last Name	Company
1	Abi	Curtis	UNPRI

2	Alex	Mason	Duxton Capital Australia
3	Alex	Safran	kernelwealth NZ
4	Amber	Sun	Cbus Super
5	Arnav	Prasad	HESTA
6	Bill	Hartnett	Bill Hartnett ESG Advisory
7	Brendan	Sydes	Australian Conservation Foundation
8	Bridgette	McDonald	Pamoda Consult
9	Briony	Doyle Galovic	Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)
10	Christine	Laban	KPMG
11	Claire	Molinari	CareSuper
12	Conlan	Mackenzie	Rest
13	Dan	Simpson	ANZ
14	David	Whittaker	NORTHCAPE CAPITAL
15	Dragana	Timotijevic	AMP - Platforms
16	Els	Termaat	Loftus Peak Pty Limited
17	Elyse	Weatherby	Future Super
18	Estelle	Parker	Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)
19	Gael	Ogilvie	Tread Lightly Advisory
20	Greg	Munford	NZ Superfund
21	Guro	Bonesvoll	Apostle Funds Management
22	Harry	Agnew	Perpetual Asset Management Australia
23	Helen	Skinner	ANZ New Zealand Investments Limited
24	Indy	Sukma	PwC Australia
25	Isabella	Marotta	Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)
26	Jacqueline	Stokes	Magellan Financial Group
27	Jane	Hutchinson	Pollination Foundation
28	Jess	Rowe	Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)
29	John	Moutsopoulos	KPMG Australia
30	Jono	Broome	Morningstar Sustainalytics
31	Jordy	Finch	ACSI
32	Joshua	Edmunds	RIAA
33	Julia	Leske	ISS ESG
34	Kaitlin	Priestley	Pinnacle Investment Management Group
35	Kana	Thorpe	Straight Up
36	Kate	Brownsey	Pathfinder Asset Management
37	Larissa	Taylor	Savoir Consulting: ESG, Sustainability, Food & Agribusiness
38	Lili	Pechey	NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED (NAB)
39	Louise	Jacobsson	KPMG Australia
40	Mellisa	Ma	Pollination
41	Michael	Cornish	Australian Land Conservation Alliance
42	Nathan	Crombie	Cbus (United Super)
43	Nicola	Macgregor	Adamantem Capital
44	Nicole	Sexton	Individual
45	Page	Perry	Pollination
46	Peter	Balsarini	Argonaut Limited
47	Peter	Brooke	Platypus Asset Management
48	Priya	Patel	TelstraSuper
49	Rachel	Tinkler	Mint Asset Management
50	Rebecca	Mather	Mercer

51	Rena	Zhu	EY
52	Romy	Faulkner	ASCI
53	Sam	Rowland	Sustainable Business Network
54	Stacey	Sellwood	Rest
55	Terusha	Ramchund	Koda Capital
56	Tim	King	Melior Investment Management
57	Vanya	Sturm	Platypus Asset Management
58	Veda	FitzSimons	Pollination

RIAA's Nature Working Group

Meeting #4 - Thursday 30 November



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia



Co-Chairs of RIAA's Nature Working Group



Claire Molinari, Head of ESG at CareSuper

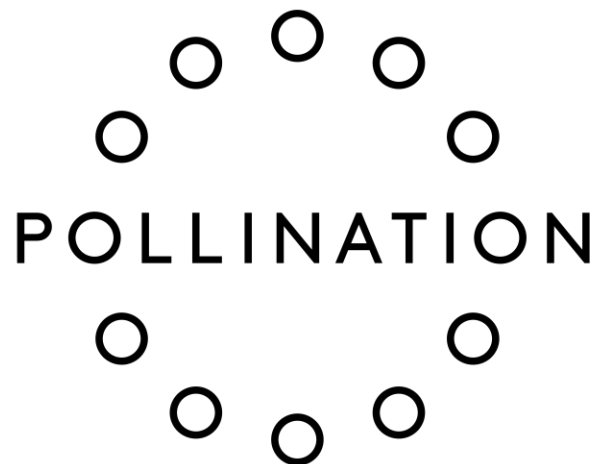


Guy Williams, Director at Pollination Capital Partners Pty Limited

Principles of Participation

- Confidentiality - Chatham House Rule
- No self-promotion
- Declaration of conflicts of interest
- Representation
- Collaboration between members
- Positive change in practice/policy
- Not to engage in or discuss competitively sensitive information
- Apolitical

RIAA's Nature Working Group welcomes Pollination as a Principal Partner for FY24



RIAA's Nature Working Group welcomes ISS as a Principal Partner for FY24



Special Presentation and Q&A: Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Reforms & Nature Repair Market



Brendan Sydes, National Biodiversity Policy Advisor at Australian Conservation Foundation



Michael Cornish, Policy Lead at Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Industry Updates

- StockWatch Report (Jono Broome, Morningstar Sustainalytics)
- Sustainable Business Network Program (Sam Rowland, Sustainable Business Network)
- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures: Next Steps (Estelle Parker, RIAA)



SUSTAINALYTICS

SUSTAINALYTICS

Nature Related Controversies Monitoring

November 2023

Jono Broome – Associate Director, Client Relations

Jono.broome@morningstar.com



Sustainalytics Controversies Monitoring

1 Low 2 Moderate 3 Significant 4 High 5 Severe

Evolution Mining Ltd. – Gold – Australia



Category 1 – Conservation group Lake Cowal Foundation has raised concerns about Evolution Mining's Cowal gold mine expansion over potential impacts on the lake and its waterbirds. A submission filed with the NSW Department of Planning claims that the expansion would negatively impact the number of birds, the number of species, or the diversity of birds recorded along the transect closest to the mine.

BHP Group Ltd. – Diversified Metals Mining – Australia

- Update on Mariana dam disaster (Brazil) and legal proceedings

BHP

Media outlets reported that hundreds of people protested in front of the UK's Embassy in Brazil on 6 November 2023 in their attempt to pressure the British authorities to seek justice for the victims of the collapse of the Samarco Dam. Just days earlier, a group of Germano dam victims gathered outside the Adelaide Convention Centre to protest at BHP's annual general meeting. Meanwhile, it has been reported that that Brazil's federal government will be filing a compensation request for BRL 100 billion (USD 20 billion) in damages from Samarco Mineração for the 2015 Mariana dam collapse.

Rio Tinto Ltd. – Diversified Metals Mining – Australia

RioTinto

Category 3 – In September 2023, media outlets reported that supporters of Madagascar fishers affected by fish poisonings from QMM mine tailings releases would present a petition with 78,000 signatures to QIT Minerals Madagascar (QMM) and Rio Tinto investors requesting an independent audit of the QMM mine. The two tailings discharge incidents at the QMM mine in 2022 resulted in fish deaths, a fishing ban, and months of conflict. [Supporters of Madagascar fishers demand audit of](#)

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Industry Updates

- Sustainable Business Network Program (Sam Rowland, Sustainable Business Network)
- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures: Next Steps (Estelle Parker, RIAA)

Subgroup Update

- Nature Toolkit (Claire Molinari, CareSuper)

Other business and updates

- Introducing Jess Rowe, RIAA's new Working Groups Manager (Estelle Parker, RIAA)
- Update from Co-Chairs on the 2024 Working Groups (Claire Molinari, Co-Chair)

Working Group Member Portal

All Working Group meeting minutes and recordings are uploaded to the RIAA Member Portal.

Access the portal using your Glue Up credentials here:



First Round of Working Group Meetings for 2024

First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group, Thursday 15 February - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZST

Human Rights Working Group, Thursday 29 February - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZST

Nature Working Group, Friday 15 March - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZDT

View full list of [RIAA's events here](#).



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia

**RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALASIA**

Level 2, 696 Bourke St
Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australia

+61 3 7068 9456

info@responsibleinvestment.org
responsibleinvestment.org



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia

National nature law reform – update for RIAA Nature Working Group



Brendan Sydes - National Biodiversity Policy Adviser
brendan.sydes@acf.org.au

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Key Commonwealth environmental law:

- Operates concurrently with state and territory laws
- Covers nine “matters of national environmental significance” (World Heritage, threatened species etc)

Drivers for reform

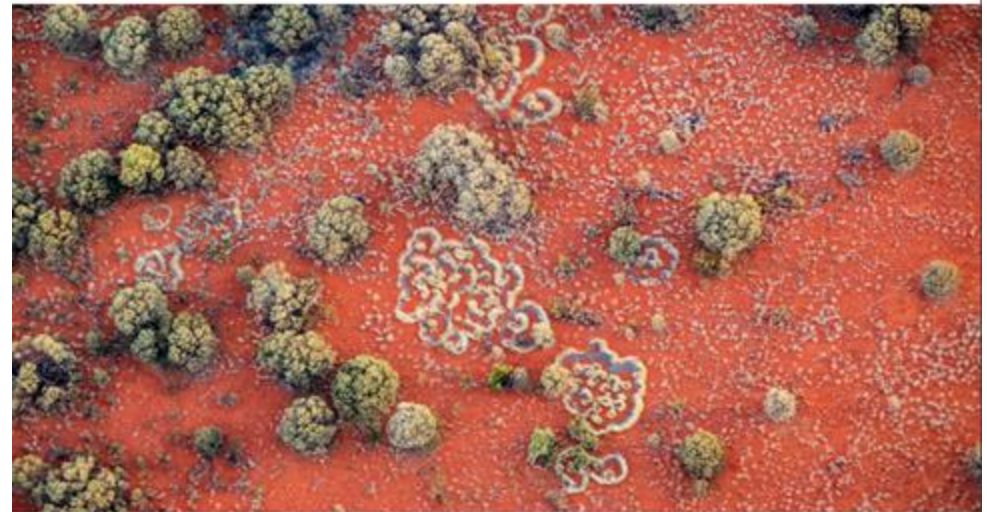
- Samuel review of the EPBC Act
- 2021 State of the Environment Report
- Global Biodiversity Framework
- ALP election commitments
- Consensus across government, conservation groups and industry that the Act is not working well for anyone!

Independent Review of
the EPBC Act

Independent Review of the EPBC Act – Final Report

October 2020

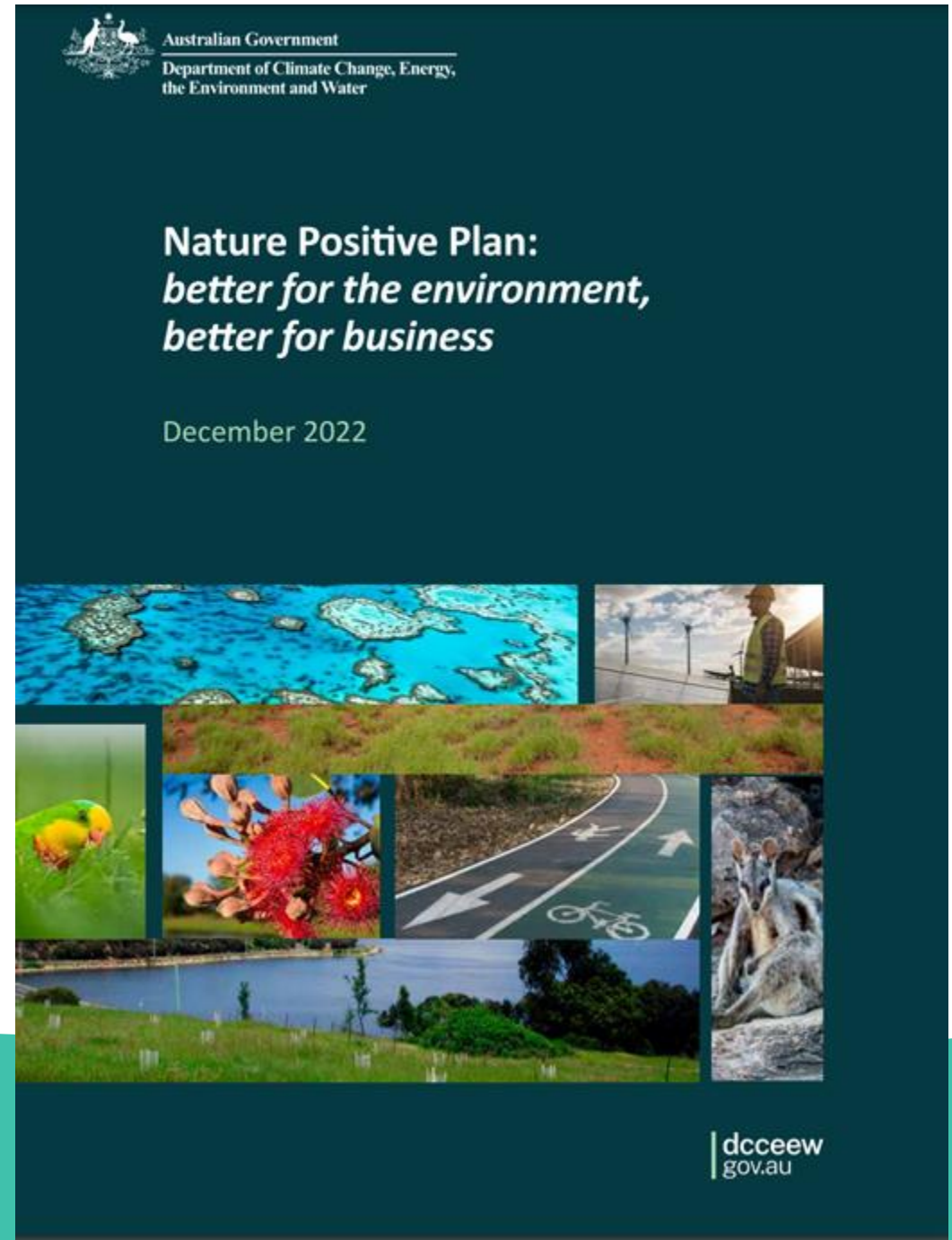
Professor Graeme Samuel AC



The Review acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their cultures and their elders past, present and emerging.

Key reforms

- National Environmental Standards
- A new national Environment Protection Agency:
 - Assessments and approvals
 - Regulation, compliance and enforcement
- Regional planning
- Conservation planning reforms (recovery of threatened species)
- Climate commitments - no trigger, disclosure of scope 1 and 2 emissions for new projects



Timing

The promise:

- New legislation and draft national environmental standards to developed in the first half of 2023, public consultation on each, with Bills being introduced by Parliament by end of 2023

The reality:

- Consultation now underway on reforms, but in stages and targeted stakeholders only
- Now being told Bills into Parliament as early as possible in 2024

National Environmental Law
(the package – **current consultation in red**)

Matters of National Environmental significance

National Environmental Standards

Matters of
National
Environmental
Significance

Regional
Planning

Restoration
actions and
contributions

First Nations
engagement and
participation

Community
Consultation

Data

Conservation planning

Listing reforms

Recovery strategies

Protected areas

Management
plans

Environmental approvals

Environment Protection Australia

Approval of single actions

Ministerial call ins

Exemptions

Strategic
assessments

Proceed with
conditions

Regional
plans

Accredited
states and
territories

Accredited Cth
agencies

Data and information
(Environment Information Australia)

Compliance and enforcement

Governance including statutory committees

Some positives

“Unacceptable impacts” - new up front protections

“Critical protection areas” (critical habitat)

Threatened species recovery strategies

Areas for improvement

Minister's call in powers

Offsets including payments in lieu of offsets

Project assessment and approval process

- Community rights
- Community Consultation and engagement standard

Climate!



Thankyou



ALCA environmental law reform update

*RIAA Nature Working Group
30 November 2023*

Overview

- ALCA – a snapshot
- Nature Repair Market
- State biodiversity Acts
- Hydrogen, renewables and nature

ALCA – a snapshot

- 17 members (and growing)
- Influencing > 3 million km²
- > 4,000 landholders
- > 70,000 supporters
- Combined annual turnover > \$325 million
- > 950 staff

ALCA – a snapshot



Development of the legislation

Exposure draft -> Bill in Parliament

- ALCA: approx. 40% strike rate

Amendments in the House

- 6 of the 7 recommended by ALCA
- Landholder/proponent sovereignty for offsetting [*Spender*]
- Publication of market information by Dept [*Steggall*]

(Nb. Can provide further detail offline)

Senate Inquiry

Of the six key recommendations in ALCA's submission, only 3 now remain wholly or partly unaddressed :

1. A Biodiversity Investment Strategy to articulate Government policy into the market
2. Replacing Greenhouse and Energy Auditors with Biodiversity Auditors
- 3. Exclude offsets from the Nature Repair Market**
 - Reputational taint to voluntary market
 - Timing of offset reforms

Where are we now?

- **Coalition**

- Opposed Bill in House
- Also opposed to offsets, but for different reasons
- **Tried to bring on Bill in Senate to then force a delay/deferral...**

...which rules out pro-Coalition amendments Govt might have considered

- **Greens**

- Opposed Bill in House
- Opposed to offsets
- ...but no final position in Senate

Outstanding issues

OFFSETS

- Why are offsets important to Govt?
- Separate offset methodologies (i.e. quasi-separation of voluntary and compliance markets)
- Timing issues with EPBC reforms
 - Environmental Offset Standards still under development

Where to next?

- Senate Inquiry extended to 18 April 2024
- Potential Greens support would require Govt to explicitly exclude offsets...
- Govt could choose to revisit inclusion of offsets in market later with EPBC reforms?
- Negotiations continue...

Further questions

- Whither offsets?
- Whither market demand?
 - Compliance / offsets?
 - Govt procurement?
 - TNFD?
 - ESG / philanthropy / voluntary market?

State biodiversity Acts

NSW: [Independent review](#), Ken Henry:

...the objects of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 are already obsolete. **The crafting of the Act was... guided by principles of sustainable development. Those principles are no longer fit for purpose.** ...the natural environment is now so damaged that we must commit to 'nature positive' if we are to have any confidence that future generations will have the opportunity to be as well off as we are.

...the fact of humanity's dependence upon the quality of the biosphere, in both social and economic dimensions, is as immutable as the laws of physics. **The case for giving primacy to environmental repair is inescapable. Our future depends upon it.**

Hydrogen, renewable energy (HRE) and nature

- Increased competition for land
- Fractured approach to HRE legislative frameworks across jurisdictions
- The opportunity: transition *with* nature, not instead of it

Further questions

- How to do renewables *with* nature?
- We need data – where's it coming from?
 - Environmental Information Australia
 - Regional planning?
 - Wilderness Inventory
 - We need the help of business to fully develop the right datasets

Questions?



More questions? Contact: michael@alca.org.au



*Image by Jeff Finley
on Upsplash*



Who is Sustainable Business Network?



Not-for-profit, operating for 20 years

Work across nature, climate, and waste

Extensive training and capability-building for business

Technical & connector - business, govt, community, Tangata whenua, philanthropy, landowners, NGOs





Regenerate Nature Programme

HOW TO SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS
TO HOLT AND REVERSE BIODIVERSITY LOSS

RESEARCH TO CREATE INITIATIVES TO:

Increase the investment into on-the-ground restoration and regeneration projects

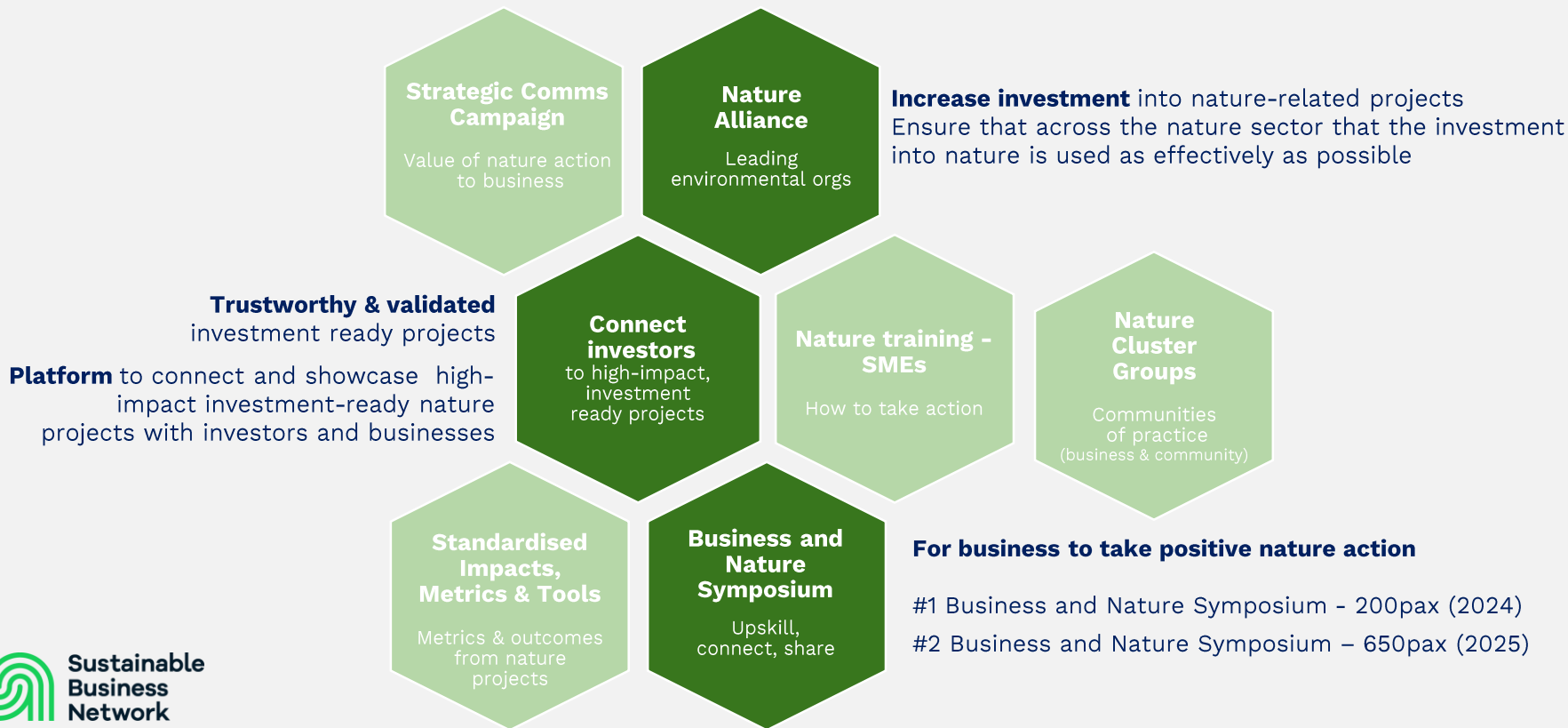
Support businesses to transform their business practices for positive nature outcomes





Seven Interconnected Programme Initiatives

Dark green = priorities



Opportunities to work together?



Your organisation/ RIAA's work/ your networks

For example:

- Others doing similar work
- Investment opportunities
- Advice
- Something you need

For more information, please reach out:

Sam Rowland

sam@sustainable.org.nz

027 327 1803



Monitoring Nature Related Controversies

November 2023

Evolution Mining Ltd.

Category 1 – Land Use and Biodiversity
Lake Cowal, NSW

Summary

Conservation group Lake Cowal Foundation has raised concerns about Evolution Mining's Cowal gold mine expansion over potential impacts on the lake and its waterbirds in New South Wales, Australia. The inland lake in western New South Wales is the largest of its kind in the state and during breeding season it is home to up to 50,000 water birds. The Lake Cowal Foundation filed a submission with the NSW Department of Planning in response to Evolution Mining's application to expand its operations in the area. According to the submission, the expansion would be within three kilometers of the main bird breeding areas of the lake, and would negatively impact the number of birds, the number of species, or the diversity of birds recorded along the transect closest to the mine. The company acknowledged that there was little formal research on how noise and light affected birds, but claimed that its operations to date had not interrupted the wildlife.

Media Reports

[Environmental NGO raises concerns over Cowal gold project extension](#)
[ABC Online - 12 Sep 2023](#)

Rio Tinto Ltd.

Category 3 – Emissions, Effluents and Waste
Madagascar

Summary

In September 2023, media outlets reported that supporters of Madagascar fishers affected by fish poisonings from QMM mine tailings releases would present a petition with 78,000 signatures to QIT Minerals Madagascar (QMM) and Rio Tinto investors requesting an independent audit of the QMM mine. The petition followed two tailings discharge incidents at the QMM mine in 2022 which resulted in fish deaths, a fishing ban, and months of conflict. According to media sources, new evidence suggested the company never conducted a fully independent investigation into the root cause of the discharge incidents, as promised to civil society and investors after the incidents.

This follows claims from the Diaspora Association from the Anosy Madagascar region earlier in the year of persecution of protestors following the discharges. The Association released an open letter urging Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina and his Minister of Justice to end the persecution of protestors.

from the LUSUD association. According to media sources, LUSUD alleged that the organisation was facing repression and that two officials were informed of warrants for their arrest after they blocked the main road to Rio Tinto's QMM mine in Madagascar. LUSUD also raised concern over the March 2022 wastewater spill that allegedly caused fish deaths and compromised the means of subsistence of the local populations. The Diaspora Association stated that some of the resolutions adopted in the company's social license to operate were not respected, and called for the intervention of the government to obtain the release of those imprisoned and their compensation.

Media Reports

[Supporters of Madagascar fishers demand audit of QMM mine](#)
[Ecologist - 6 Sep 2023](#)

[Disapora association expresses concern over persecutions of protesters](#)
[Ecofin Telecom - 7 Aug 2023](#)

BHP Group Ltd. and Vale SA

Update on Mariana dam disaster (Brazil) and legal proceedings

In November 2018, dissatisfied with the redress available in Brazil, a group comprising individuals, businesses, churches, municipalities and utility companies who had suffered loss from the 2015 Mariana/Fundão dam disaster brought an action in England against BHP Group. More than 700,000 Brazilians, alongside municipalities and indigenous groups have joined the lawsuit and the trial is expected to start in October 2024. This tailings dam collapse was the largest ever recorded and led to 19 deaths, destroyed villages and pollution spreading over 600km of watercourses.

Update

Media outlets reported that hundreds of people, including members of the Dam Affected Movement, protested in front of the UK's Embassy in Brazil on 6 November 2023 in their attempt to pressure the British authorities to seek justice for the victims of the collapse of the Samarco Dam in Mariana and the punishment of BHP in the group action lawsuit. The protesters filed a document demanding a dialogue between the victims and the British Embassy to guarantee their rights.

Just days earlier on the 1st of November 2023, a group of Germano dam victims gathered outside the Adelaide Convention Centre to protest at BHP's annual general meeting. Among the protesters were also representatives from Brazilian communities, including Edertony Jose da Silva whose community members and the more than 700,000 others seeking damages in the group action lawsuit. The protesters alleged that the company's record profits were based on Brazilian lives.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that that Brazil's federal government, alongside the states of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, will be filing a compensation request for BRL 100 billion (USD 20 billion) in damages from Samarco Mineração (the joint venture of BHP and Vale) for damages caused by the 2015 Mariana dam collapse. Vale stated that it hasn't yet been informed by authorities of the request, and that it intended to defend itself against the request and present its position and its defense during the legal process at the opportune time.

Media Reports

Hundreds of people protest in front of UK Embassy in Brazil
Mediarun Search - 6 Nov 2023

Germano dam victims protest at company's annual general meeting
In Daily - 1 Nov 2023

Brazilian government seeks USD 20 billion in damages for dam collapse
Seeking Alpha - 19 Oct 2023