

ANNUAL REPORT

23/24



Australian Land
Conservation Alliance

A growing force for nature

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“Nature doesn’t begin and end at the border of our national parks. Private land is where a large percentage of critical habitats are found, it’s where some of our most endangered animals live. Which means it has to be a central focus of our conservation ... So thank you for everything you do, caring for your home, protecting nature on private land. It’s critical work, it’s nation building work, and it has the full support of the Australian government.”

The Hon Tanya Plibersek, PLC23 Ministerial Address



About ALCA

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) is the peak national body for private land conservation. We represent a growing membership of diverse organisations working to conserve, manage, and restore nature on privately owned and managed land.

We are at the helm of an expanding sector that is addressing some of the most critical challenges of our time. This work is pivotal in restoring and safeguarding endangered ecosystems, expanding protected areas, controlling invasive species, mitigating climate change, and enhancing community and landscape resilience.

ALCA's purpose is to represent its members and supporters to grow the impact, capacity, and influence of private land conservation. We play a crucial supporting and enabling role by advocating for good policy, securing significant investment, fostering a capable sector, cultivating a pipeline of leaders, and, at the core, building a community that understands and values the role of private land conservation.

ALCA and its members work towards a vision of a healthy, resilient Australia, where nature thrives and is cared for by empowered people and resilient communities.

Together, we are a growing force for nature.

Our goals

ALCA's work is guided by the four goals of our Strategic Plan.

-  **Goal 1:** A highly capable, networked and coordinated sector

-  **Goal 2:** Ambitious policy and regulation that empowers private land conservation

-  **Goal 3:** Australia's private land conservation is driven by public and private investment

-  **Goal 4:** People value nature

Our values

ALCA's values shape our organisation's identity and guide the way our people think and act in their work.

Collaborative	Inclusive	Trusted	Dynamic	Enduring
We enable collective impact by bringing people together	We value diversity in conservation	We act with and build relationships upon respect and integrity	We drive action through ambition and enquiry	We are focused on delivering long-term impact



ALCA recognise and respect the deep, ongoing relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with land, sea and water and the enduring persistence, knowledge and connection built over tens of thousands of years.

We recognise that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nature and culture are inextricably connected. We acknowledge and value the role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to play in managing Country today and their right to self-determination.

ALCA and our members understand that building trusting relationships and collaborations is a priority in our journey of partnership and reconciliation. There is much to be done together.

ALCA remains committed to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and groups associated with our organisation and its members. This includes staying informed through participation in initiatives like the Reimagining Conservation Forums.

To better understand how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups might wish to engage with us, ALCA has formed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group. This past financial year the Working Group has guided ALCA's CEO and the Board on its membership expansion to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. We will continue to invite new members to ALCA and seek to fill positions across ALCA's Board and Committees.

Fostering representation through membership and other forms of engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, and embracing cultural representation within the private land conservation sector, strengthens our collective efforts.



Message from the Chair

Nature loss and climate change are not distant threats; they are urgent realities happening now. We can no longer rely on the idea that the future will be better than the past. And so, we must think about the future in different ways.



Broader society is beginning to recognise nature loss as a material and existential risk. These risks – these threats – compel us to rethink our relationships with nature, our duty to future generations, and to act with urgency and resolve.

We need long-term vision and transformative leadership combined with urgent and sustained action. The importance of leadership across all levels of government and corporate and civil society cannot be overstated. When it comes to establishing the foundations that enable broader environmental impact, and fortify a movement, leadership by government is imperative.

There is growing expectation and demand for Australia to fulfil its leadership potential and obligations to nature and people. Action is needed now across many dimensions – from on-ground effort, to governance and institutional change. This is what makes ALCA's work so important. Our role is unique and transformative. Our purpose is to grow the impact, capacity and influence of private land conservation to achieve a healthy and resilient Australia. As a peak body, we provide the influence and coordination necessary to mainstream the role of private land conservation, to elevate the status of nature in our structures, institutions and laws, and to help drive nature up and beyond its historical compartmentalisation.

A great strength of private land conservation is its inclusivity. It recognises that to create systemic change, we need collective action. I am proud to chair such a forward-looking organisation as it enters its next stage of growth and impact. ALCA and the sector's footprint continues to expand; our reach and influence grows both in Australia and internationally, our relationships and collaborations deepen and diversify, and our governance becomes more sophisticated.

The vast biodiversity outcomes, trailblazing partnerships, and world class conservation initiatives and collaborations demonstrated across the sector will be instrumental in bridging science and knowledge with the policies and investments necessary to drive effective nature action.

We are committed to growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in ALCA's governance and membership. Through our deliberate and staged membership expansion, we proudly welcomed Nari Nari Tribal Council, NRM Regions Australia, and North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance as the most recent ALCA members in 23-24. The diversity

of our backgrounds is a great strength. Expanding our membership and leveraging the knowledge, expertise, and experience of ALCA's members will accelerate the development of solutions that benefit both people and the environment.

This year, ALCA was awarded a multi-year grant from the Ian Potter Foundation to support our capacity building efforts. This funding, together with existing commitments from Rendere Environmental Trust, State Trustees of Victoria, Equity Trustees, and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is helping support ALCA's next stage of impact. It recognises the trust and credibility we have built over many years and will create pathways to enhance our strategic actions, deepen our networks, and develop relevant and credible work to support our cause. We look forward to further harnessing the knowledge, influence, and support of fellow change-makers.

Through its Board, ALCA leverages a wealth of experience to drive the organisation's vision and purpose, of which the Directors have strong lived experience and identification with. The Board benefits from this deliberate focus on diversity and supports ALCA's success through its capacity for influence and advocacy. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their ongoing work and dedication to ALCA's vision. This reporting period we farewelled Heather Campbell and Alison Rowe and acknowledge their contributions as ALCA Directors. We welcomed David Major and Erin Giuliani as Directors in November 2023, who will further bolster ALCA's ability to support positive, long-term impact for people and nature.

Finally, I wish to thank ALCA staff, led by CEO Jody Gunn, for their unwavering commitment to our work this past year, and extend my gratitude to ALCA's members and the sector we represent.



Left: A dusky woodswallow perches in a tree on a property funding conservation management through biodiversity and carbon opportunities with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and the Clean Energy Regulator. Photo by Vince Bucella, supplied by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Message from the CEO

Nature is the foundation of our existence. It supplies the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the resources we rely on. It nurtures our health and well-being, enriches our cultures, strengthens our communities, and drives our economy.



We are facing unprecedented environmental challenges that are worsening and accelerating. This year, more species were added to the national threatened species list than ever before, and Australian communities are experiencing the exacerbating impacts of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, bushfires, and floods. The social and economic costs of environmental decline are mounting.

Healthy ecosystems contribute billions to the global economy, and roughly half of Australia's AUD \$1.7 trillion Gross Domestic Product directly depends on nature. Yet less than 0.1 % of the federal budget is invested in looking after it – far below the estimated AUD \$7 billion per year needed to bridge the conservation finance gap.

While Australia has shown increasing ambition to address the devastating nature crisis, real progress requires decisive action. Without this, ambition is unfulfilled potential. Protecting and restoring our natural environment must be realised as a critical public good that demands whole-of-government investment and broad public support.

In this year's annual report, you will see how ALCA, by fulfilling our purpose and strategic plan, is empowering the private land conservation sector to build on its proven track record of addressing Australia's most pressing environmental challenges.

This year, we have strengthened our ability to leverage the on-ground experience, expertise and solutions from across our membership and the sector. We are increasingly recognised as a trusted advisor on nature risk, action and opportunity for business, government, philanthropic and industry stakeholders. In doing so, we are gaining traction in influencing policy and legislative reform and strengthening the institutional frameworks that help move nature ideals into tangible outcomes.

ALCA's engagement with national and global agendas has promoted collective purpose, knowledge exchange, and increased ambition. By harnessing the strengths of our sector across various Australian and international networks, we have elevated the profile of private land conservation and our role as a peak body.

In October 2023 we delivered our largest Private Land Conservation Conference to date, under the theme "Unite for Nature". The conference is now established as Australia's premier land conservation event. We also made major advancements to our future conference strategy by developing a bid to host the International Land Conservation

Network's Global Congress in Australia in 2027. Having the backing of our expert members, long-term supporters, and enduring conference sponsors ANZ and NAB, the Melbourne Convention Bureau, the Australian Government, and our own bid team, helped us to build a strong bid case.

We convened our Board and members to review our strategic plan, and confirmed it remains highly relevant to emerging challenges and opportunities. Feedback demonstrated that our work has enhanced collaboration and learning across sectors and within our membership; that members value our advocacy, capacity-building offerings, and policy agenda, and our ability to represent diverse sector needs. We heard that our work to develop conservation finance literacy, progress key areas of legislation, and engage with global investment drivers is instrumental in focusing investment on lasting outcomes.

I am proud to lead our small, high-performing team and growing membership, and an action and solutions-focused sector united by ambition, determination, and urgency. While the challenges are significant, they are not insurmountable. Reflecting on our achievements and potential, I am confident in our ability to create the future we need and want.

This endeavour will require continued leadership and courage, qualities our sector consistently demonstrate. We will continue to forge high-integrity partnerships with the private sector and support and elevate its sustainability ambitions. We will keep engaging positively and proactively with government leaders to make a strong case for our sector. When resourcing aligns with the urgency of the challenge, we can scale the social, economic, and environmental outcomes that our sector is already delivering.

For in Australia and around the world, there has never been a more urgent or serious need to protect, manage, and restore nature.



Jody Gunn

CEO
Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Left: Coastal saltmarsh on a covenanted property at Corner Inlet in south east Victoria. Photo by Annette Ruzicka, supplied by Trust for Nature.



23/24 activity highlights

Proudly welcomed three new organisations

membership expanded to 19

Inaugurated **two new policy** events, our Policy Breakfast & Budget Brunch

Co-authored Protecting Australia's Nature: Pathways to protecting 30 per cent of land by 2030 & authored **The Private Land Conservation opportunity to deliver for 30 by 30**

ISSUED 13 MEDIA RELEASES

APPOINTED TO THE

Nature Finance Council; and the Nature Positive Economy Cooperative Research Centre's Bid Advisory Committee

Advocated for private land conservation at the

UNITED NATIONS Climate Conference COP28

Advanced policy reforms through

28 POLICY & legislative submissions

Delivered our biggest conference yet to

400+ delegates

Delivered 7 member briefings & 4 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLES



Our members

During 2023-24, our membership grew from 16 to 19 members:



Above: Alistair Hartley (National Fire Program Officer) conducting a test burn at Pilungah Reserve, Wangkamadla Country, Qld. Photo by Bee Stephens, supplied by Bush Heritage Australia.

Our leadership

We are a membership organisation governed by a Board of Directors, critical to supporting the restoration, protection, and management work taking place within the private land conservation sector. Board subcommittees include Sector Development, Finance Risk and Audit, Policy and Government Relations, and a Nominations Committee. The Board and committees meet regularly providing transparency and collaboration at the most senior levels of the member organisations.

The following Directors served on ALCA's Board during 2023-24:



Tim Allard DIRECTOR & DEPUTY CHAIR (Nov 2019 – current)	Heather Campbell DIRECTOR (Nov 2019 – May 2023)	Erin Giuliani DIRECTOR (Nov 2023 – current)	James Hattam DIRECTOR (Nov 2019 – current)	Tim Hughes DIRECTOR (Nov 2019 – current)
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Doug Humann AM DIRECTOR (Nov 2019 – current)	David Major DIRECTOR (Nov 2023 – current)	Victoria Marles AM DIRECTOR & CHAIR (Jan 2023 – current)	Corinne Proske DIRECTOR (Nov 2022 – current)	Alison Rowe DIRECTOR (Nov 2023 – Jan 2024)
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GOAL 1: Sector development

ALCA's sector development agenda is focused on building a highly capable, networked, and coordinated sector to meet the growing demand for nature protection and nature-based solutions.

To prepare the sector, we foster collaboration and coordination within and beyond our community through knowledge sharing, networking, and capacity-building opportunities. We also prioritise enhancing our members' policy literacy and engagement and advancing key initiatives to scale private land conservation efforts.

This year we welcomed Nari Nari Tribal Council, NRM Regions Australia, and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance to our membership. This is part of our ongoing, staged membership expansion strategy to include the broader diversity of private land conservation, including the views and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups caring for Country. Membership expansion supports the development of effective nature solutions that bring forth the knowledge, experience, and deep expertise of our members.

ALCA's membership convenings have continued providing touchpoints for a connected and well-briefed sector. Throughout the year, Working Groups and Communities of Practice brought members together to share knowledge on critical topics, provide advice on key projects, and advance areas of practice. They are critical to driving policy agendas, building sector capability and collaboration on major themes or issues that stand to impact private land conservation in Australia. In 23-24, the Markets working group and Global Biodiversity Framework working group saw generous engagement and input by members; and Policy Forums and Communications Communities of Practice met regularly to advance respective focus areas.



ALCA Executive Roundtables were convened quarterly and strengthened relationships between the Board and Members. Roundtables provide a space to address shared organisational and sector-wide challenges, increase collective understanding, and provide strategic insights by and access to external stakeholders.

External Briefings to Executive Roundtables included:

- The UN Global Compact Network Australia – Dr Evan Center
- Fire and seasonal outlook by Professor John Woinarski
- A big picture finance perspective – Kristy Graham, Australian Sustainable Finance Institute
- First Nations conservation, land management and restoration – Scott Anderson, Greening Australia
- Global trends in land conservation – Jim Levitt and Chandni Navalkha, International Land Conservation Network.

ALCA member briefings were delivered by ALCA management and external presenters, who shared expert insights on emerging topics and issues.

Briefings were provided about:

- Farming for the Future
- National Environmental Science Program's Adapt Land & Sea Project
- Invasive Species Council fire ant update
- Rabbit Free Australia update
- Climateworks Centre's Natural Capital Measurement Catalogue
- Biodiversity Council's second annual Biodiversity Concerns Survey
- Australia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- EPBC Act reforms

Left: A Reimagining Conservation Forum field trip to Mona Mona (Djabugay Country) showcases how cultural practices are restoring Country and emphasises to delegates the importance of collaboration and cultural competence in conservation efforts. Photo by Seth Sedon, supplied by NAILSMA.



GOAL 1: Sector Development

To meet the demand for sector-wide solutions that strengthen and expand a skilled workforce, ALCA is developing an internship program and accompanying technical platform designed to address workforce gaps. The program will create clear, consistent pathways for young people to gain valuable, high-quality experience, helping them successfully transition into the conservation workforce.

As the peak body, ALCA is uniquely positioned to lead the development of this program, connecting interns with host organisations in a way that benefits all parties through a centralised solution. In FY24, the program was in its design and development phase, with plans to pilot in 2025. ALCA thanks its supporters including the Rendere Environmental Trust, Albert George and Nancy Caroline Youngman Trust, and the Vincent Fairfax Foundation for support during these early phases.

This year, ALCA strengthened its relationships with key global alliances, including the Land Trust Alliance and the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) in the United States, and expanded our reach and learnings through a number of global engagements.

In September 2023, we attended the Land Trust Rally in Oregon, the world's largest gathering for private land conservation. This event offered an opportunity to connect with international networks and discuss shared challenges.

ALCA also worked with the ILCN on a bid to host the 2027 Global Congress in Melbourne, marking the first time the event would be held in the Southern Hemisphere. Bringing this influential event to Australia will enhance global conservation partnerships and knowledge sharing.

With support from the Australian Government, we attended COP28 in Dubai in December 2023, representing Australia's private land conservation sector and advocating for its role in global climate solutions.

“ALCA plays an invaluable role in providing a national voice for the important contribution that the private land conservation sector plays in protecting, restoring and conserving the precious natural assets of the Australian landscape. Their work across sectors, sharing knowledge and informing decision making, is ensuring the role of private landowners, as nature stewards, is part of the conversation.”

Liz O'Brien, CEO, Queensland Trust for Nature

A new era for our national conference

ALCA's flagship conference returned to face-to-face delivery for the first time since 2019. The four-day program included field trips, workshops, the Conservation Finance Intensive, a dynamic exhibition space, a policy breakfast, conference dinner, and two full days of conference programming.

The conference has firmly established its place as Australia's premier land conservation event and an important capacity-building event for our sector.

400+ registered delegates convened under the 2023 theme of “Unite for Nature”, reflecting heightened urgency and cross-sector ambition. The high calibre of Australian and international speakers included keynote addresses from WWF international Special Envoy Marco Lambertini, Fundación Tierra Austral Executive Director Victoria Alonso, and Threatened Species Commissioner Dr Fiona Fraser. Strong political representation included The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water; Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment in the ACT; and Federal Senator David Pocock.

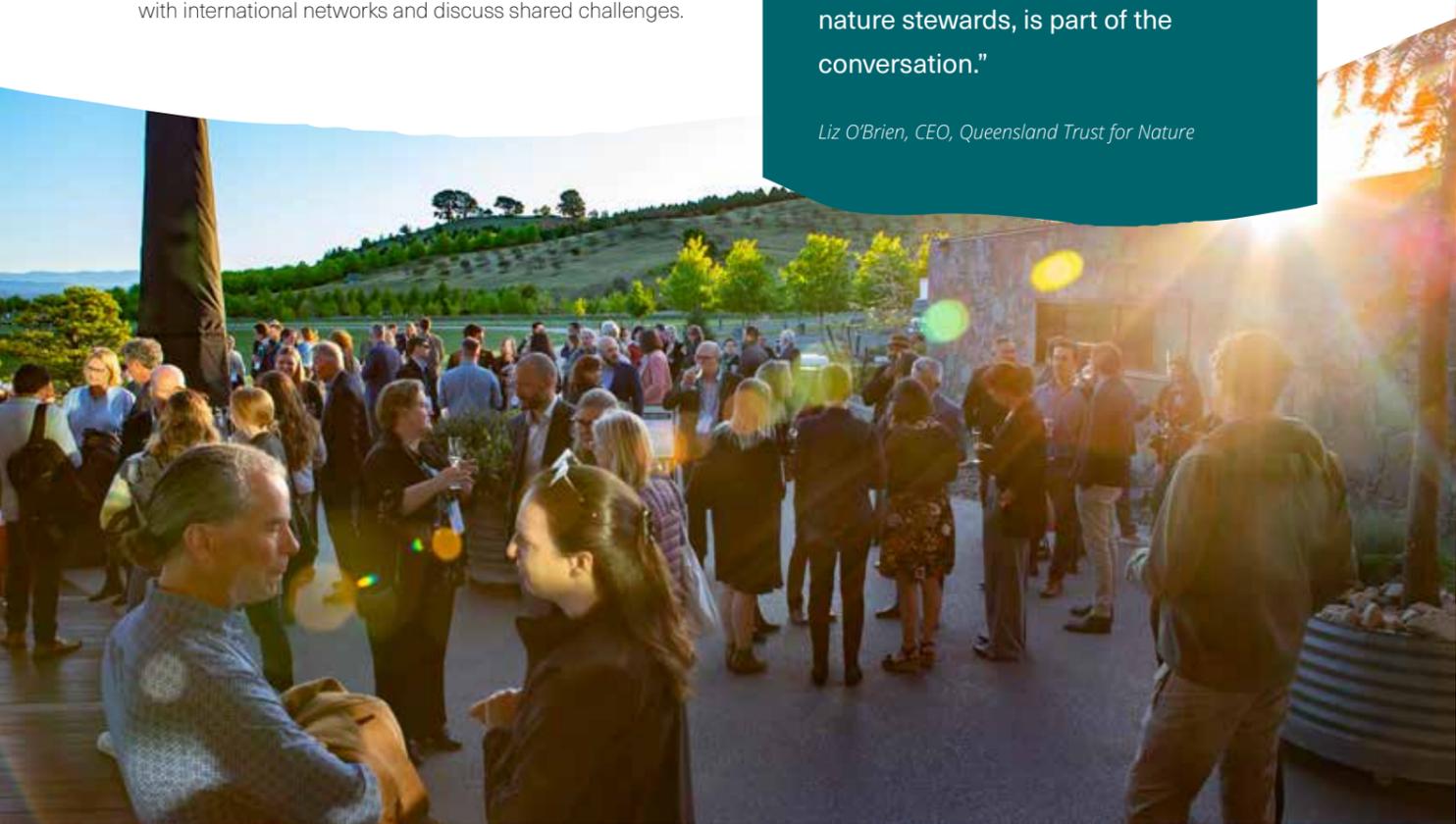
- 4 days, 409 delegates, 32 workshops, plenaries + concurrent sessions, 154 speakers + facilitators
- 100% of delegates rated the quality and diversity of speakers as good to excellent
- 98% of delegates rated the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's knowledge, voice and perspectives as good or higher

- 86% of delegates said the conference fulfilled their reasons for attending (The top reasons for attending PLC23 were to network and make new connections; and to build capacity, learn new skills and acquire new knowledge.)
- 82% of workshop attendees rated the usefulness and relevancy to their work as 'very good' to 'excellent'.



“What an incredible effort to bring together such a diverse and rich array of stakeholders, who have been able to benefit from meaningful engagement, participation and cross-pollination over the last 3 days.”

PLC23 delegate (business sector)



Left: PLC23 delegates at a networking event.

Policy and regulation

ALCA's policy and regulation agenda seeks to inform, guide and influence key policy issues to expand the impact of private land conservation and its benefits for Australian communities and nature. This means strengthened environmental laws at both Federal and State level, increased resourcing for organisations delivering critical outcomes for nature, delivering our international commitments to nature, helping to shape the regulation of developing environment markets, and helping to scale and orient the efforts of corporations and philanthropy towards nature.

"Policy analysis and synopsis is a huge missing resource in many organisations. My organisation relies heavily on ALCA for this."

Budget Brunch attendee

This year saw the continuation of highly active contributions to government policy, with ALCA providing 28 policy submissions (17 Commonwealth, and 11 State government submissions).

The passage of the Nature Repair Act and subsequent development of the Nature Repair Market has been a key area of focus and success. ALCA actively recommended six of the seven successful amendments in the House of Representatives, appeared at the Senate Inquiry into the legislation, and successfully argued for the Senate's exclusion of environmental offsets from the initial design of the Market.

Broader Federal environmental law reforms – EPBC Act reform – has seen less success, with the initial Government reform package focusing only on the establishment of Environment Protection Australia and Environment Information Australia, rather than the necessary full suite of holistic reforms. ALCA continues to actively encourage the progress of environmental law reforms through Parliament.

Two policy events were inaugurated – ALCA's Policy Breakfast as a new annual conference fixture, and ALCA's Nature Budget Brunch as a public webinar.

This year also saw a range of key administrative policy wins, including the inclusion of key environmental indicators – as advocated by ALCA – within the Federal Government's inaugural National Wellbeing Budget; helping to shape the National Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) Framework; and working in tandem with other environment advocates to strengthen of Australia's priority Global Biodiversity Framework indicators under Australia's Strategy for Nature.

State-level advocacy saw the commencement of Victorian land tax exemptions for Trust For Nature conservation covenants on 1 January 2024 and the passage of legislation in South Australia reconfirming conservation by elevating it into the objects of the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989.

ALCA continued its tight focus in policy publications, leading with its flagship collaboration with Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy Australia, and WWF-Australia: Protection Australia's Nature: Pathways to protecting 30 per cent of land by 2030, and a supplementary ALCA-authored publication, The private land conservation opportunity to deliver for 30 by 30, as well as a Policy Note on Enhanced Protection Conservation Covenants. These

state clear cases for investment and policy levers that would enable and drive investment, and continue to be important tools to drive discussions and engagements across Federal and State governments.

Overlapping agendas: Policy and Investment

ALCA's four pillars of strategic work inevitably overlap, and this is particularly true of its Investment, and Policy and Regulation efforts.

In addition to progress in the development of the Nature Repair Market, corporate disclosure of nature-related financial risks – long advocated by ALCA – has met with early success, with legislation introduced to the Federal Parliament to provide ASIC with new regulatory powers for nature and other sustainability reporting (successfully passing Parliament in September 2024). The legislation sets out a framework that can, in future, be applied to nature investment to promote transparency, standardisation, and better risk management – this would then make it easier for investors to consider environmental impacts in their decision-making.

This sustainability disclosure legislation has been supported by the Federal Government's release of its Sustainable Finance Roadmap, which seeks to integrate ALCA-advocated nature-related objectives, and the inclusion of ALCA's CEO on the Federal Government's newly-created Nature Finance Council. The Council is an advisory body established by the Australian Government to promote private investment in nature. This appointment ensures that our sector's expertise is represented in high-level discussions on developing a nature-positive economy.

Contributing to policy developments in finance taxonomies, a maturing Australian carbon market, and on other environmental investment drivers also remain important areas of ALCA focus.

Left: QTFN Land Assets Manager Ben Heathwood at Aroona Station. Photo by Georgie Braun, supplied by Queensland Trust for Nature.



Investment

ALCA's investment agenda seeks to mobilise the financial resources needed to scale private land conservation across Australia in recognition of its vital role in halting and reversing nature loss.

This involves attracting and driving both direct and indirect investment flows into conservation, including government, private, and philanthropic funding. Closing the estimated conservation finance gap of at least AUD \$7 billion per year remains a central challenge, and ALCA has helped to champion efforts to develop a range of innovative financing mechanisms, including national conservation funds and environmental markets, as well as investment-enabling policies and regulation.

ALCA continues to lead the way in conservation finance, playing a pivotal role in building sector-wide understanding of the financial mechanisms and opportunities available for nature conservation.

In 2023-24, ongoing interest and the increasing need for expertise saw ALCA's annual Conservation Finance Intensive again sell out. The event attracted high-level participation from stakeholders across the non-profit, private, and public sectors, with participants reporting invaluable networking opportunities and significant gains in their understanding of the dynamics driving environmental markets.

“ALCA plays an invaluable role in convening multi-sector engagement, including with investors, in nature protection and restoration and providing tangible leading-practice case studies.”

Estelle Parker, Co-CEO, Responsible Investment Association Australasia

ALCA's leadership in conservation finance and policy advocacy continues to amplify the role of nature in a resilient economy. As the world begins to recognise nature loss as a material financial risk, Australian investors are increasingly looking for ways to engage with nature-positive opportunities. ALCA has been at the forefront of positioning the Australian private land conservation sector as a key delivery agent for high integrity and measurable outcomes for nature.

We participated in cross-sector events like Women in Banking and Finance & ANZ's Environmental Sustainability & The Imperative of Inclusion event, an Impact X Investing in Nature roundtable; participated in the Do No Significant Harm Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Advisory Group and Responsible Investment Association Australasia's Nature Working Group; and, off the back of our submission to the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework at the end of last financial year, we continued our engagement in the evolution of the TNFD as a Forum Member, and attended the December 2023 launch of the TNFD in Sydney. These efforts have all been important to advance nature interests in cross-sector investment dialogue.

In addition, ALCA joined the Nature Positive Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), and was invited to join the CRC's Bid Advisory Committee. The CRC aimed

to partner with research institutions to advance research and commercialisation programs focused on developing compliance frameworks and voluntary market initiatives for nature. Whilst the bid was ultimately unsuccessful, the collaboration has still built momentum for further investigations into scaling investment in nature-positive solutions and driving environmental market growth and innovation across Australia.

ALCA continues to be a vocal advocate for the integration of conservation objectives into emerging and maturing environmental markets, particularly carbon markets. When the development of the Integrated Farm and Land Management method stalled, ALCA joined in interventions with the Federal Government to ensure the continuation of the Environmental Plantings carbon method, due to sunset in late 2024. ALCA also contributed to the Carbon Market Institute's Industry Forum in exploring the intersection of nature and climate markets in a session entitled: 'Deep Dive: Nature & Climate Repair Markets'.

This range of efforts are examples of ALCA's proactive approach to preserving critical mechanisms that empower private landowners to engage in conservation action. ALCA's contributions to these dialogues and discussions ensure that conservation remains a central consideration as environmental market structures evolve.



*Left: Northern bettong trapping in the Lamb Range. Photo by Brad Leue, supplied by Australian Wildlife Conservancy.
Above: Part of the SeedX native seed production area established at Greening Australia's Jarrega property in Western Australia. Photo by Jesse Collins, supplied by Greening Australia.*

People

To transform the way that people value and thereby act for nature, ALCA's people-focused agenda works to raise awareness and build broad support for private land conservation. This means increasing public recognition of the long-term benefits of private land conservation, and amplifying the policy, regulation and investment requirements needed to effectively safeguard Australia's natural environment.



All areas of our strategic efforts are driven by enhancing our profile and impact. As a peak body we have a unique opportunity to leverage and build our influence amongst a diversifying audience base.

Over the past year, our visibility has grown significantly – our LinkedIn audience nearly doubled, our newsletter open rate rose by 26%, and we saw over 10,000 unique visitors to the ALCA and ALCA Conference websites. This growth shows that more people are engaging with our mission and we are broadening the conversation around nature and private land conservation.

ALCA works to expand our reach and change the perception of nature, moving it beyond a narrow “environmental” issue to one that emphasises its whole-of-society value. In addition to engagements noted in previous sections, we have also provided support or advice to a breadth of cross-sector events, programs and working groups including the National Environmental Science Program's Resilience Landscapes Hub Steering Committee, and the Watertrust Australia Advisory Committee. The demand for our expertise is testament to ALCA's reputation as offering valuable solutions and trusted counsel.

External research continues to tell us that Australians are concerned about threats to nature and want more action to look after our natural environment, yet many remain unaware of the full scale of the crisis. This year, we've strengthened our media efforts, issuing 13 media releases, including a sector statement to Parliament following PLC23 calling for stronger action and resourcing for nature preservation. We also provided rapid responses to the disappointing first iteration of the national Strategy for Nature and the 2024 Federal budget which perpetuated the undervaluing of nature. Notable media coverage included in the Herald Sun, and ABC Radio National.

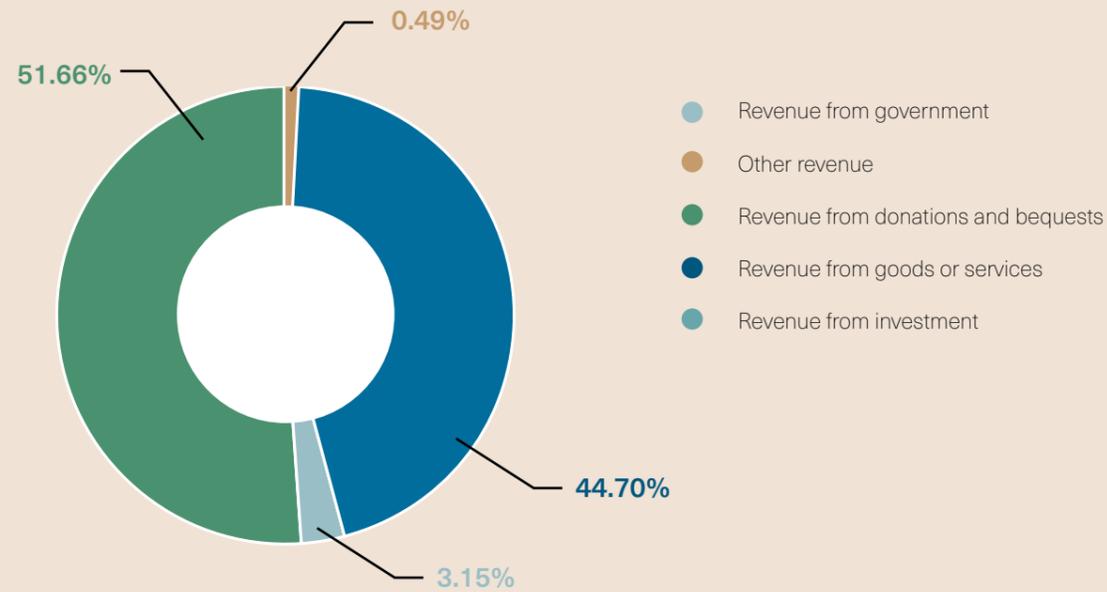
One of the key opportunities for our “People” agenda, is our sector's stories. People are at the heart of our work, and there is no shortage of compelling stories to share. Media analysis by ALCA this year shows that the sector receives significant coverage, with public discussion and framing of private land conservation largely positive. ALCA will continue to develop strategies that use storytelling to make nature loss a more urgent and relatable issue, and that are framed around opportunity, and shared values and solutions.

Left: Dr Glen Bain conducting ptunarra brown butterfly survey at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve. Photo by Dr David Hamilton, supplied by Tasmanian Land Conservancy. Above: ALCA members and staff, together with International Land Conservation Network representatives at a strategy day.

Financial overview

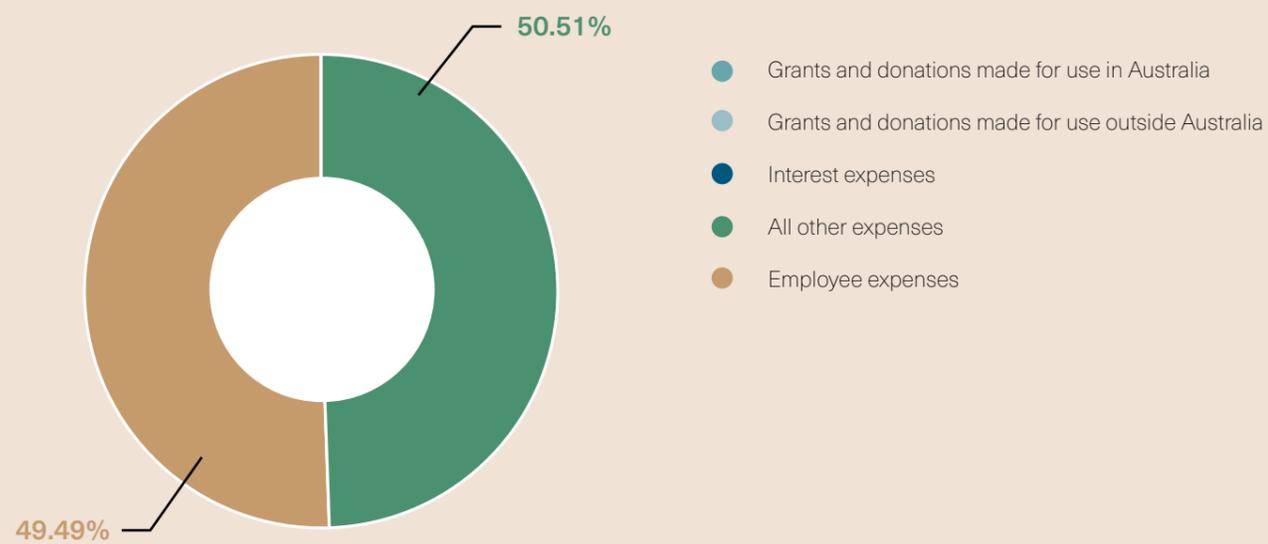
Revenue

Total revenue: \$1,874,682



Expenses

Total expenses: \$1,268,180



Thank you

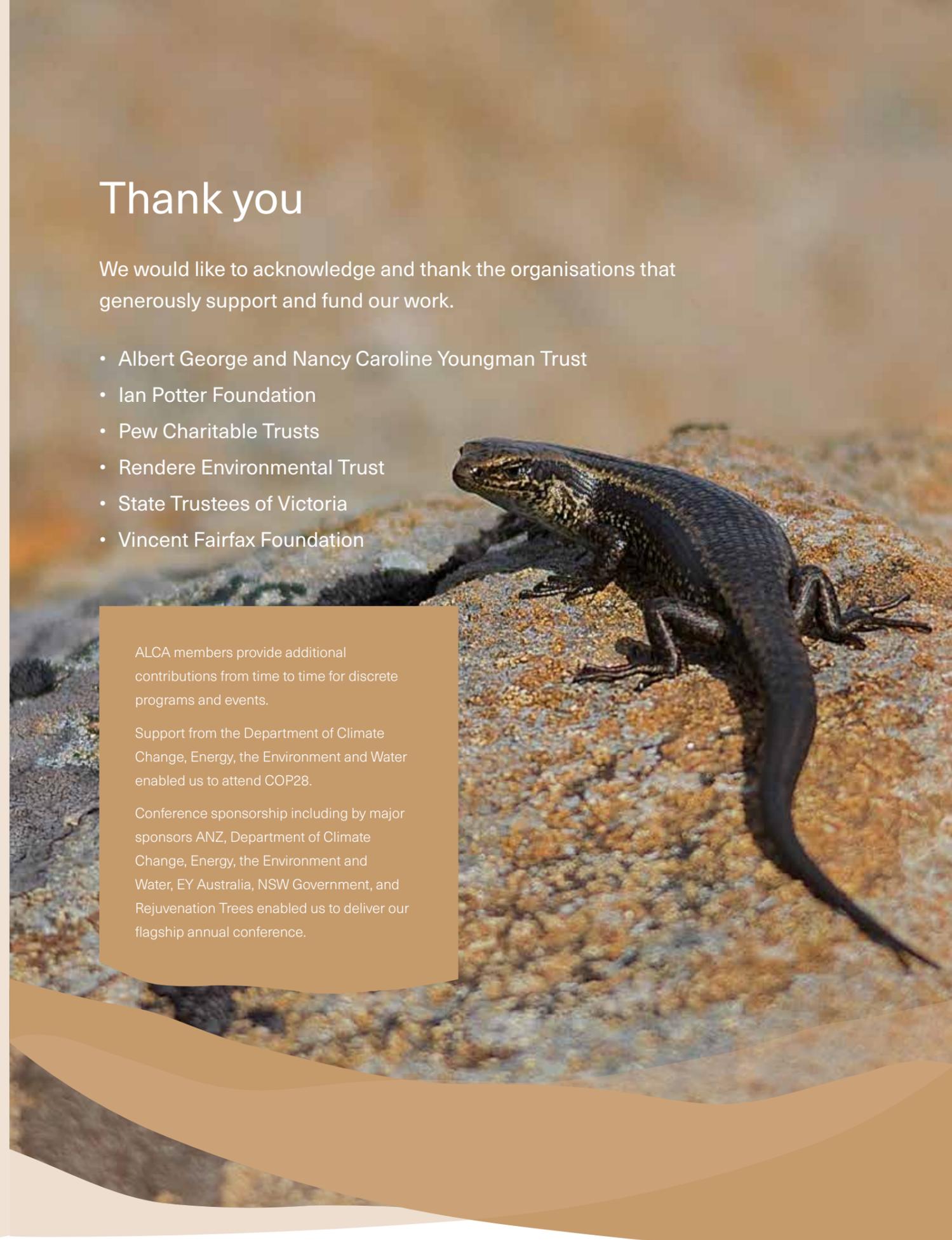
We would like to acknowledge and thank the organisations that generously support and fund our work.

- Albert George and Nancy Caroline Youngman Trust
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Rendere Environmental Trust
- State Trustees of Victoria
- Vincent Fairfax Foundation

ALCA members provide additional contributions from time to time for discrete programs and events.

Support from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water enabled us to attend COP28.

Conference sponsorship including by major sponsors ANZ, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, EY Australia, NSW Government, and Rejuvenation Trees enabled us to deliver our flagship annual conference.



Above: Southern snow skink. Photo by Peter Vaughan, supplied by Tasmanian Land Conservancy.
Back Cover: Photo by GreenCollar.



For more information visit: alca.org.au

