

alca
Australian Land
Conservation Alliance

Shaping what's possible

25/26 Annual Report

Acknowledgement of Country

ALCA recognises and respects the deep and enduring relationship that Australia's First Nations peoples have with land, sea and water. Their knowledge and connection, built over tens of thousands of years, offers profound lessons for how we care for Country today. We recognise that for First Nations peoples, nature and culture are inextricably linked. We value their leadership and respect their right to self-determination in managing Country.

ALCA and our members share in the understanding that in our journey of partnership and reconciliation, it is a priority to build trusting relationships and collaborations, and that we have much work to do together. As we deliver our 2030 Strategy, grow our membership, and mature our organisational governance, ALCA continues to strengthen our engagement and work with First Nations peoples in caring for Country. We seek to be informed about the ways that First Nations-led groups might want to further engage with ALCA and we build around that. Together with our members and partners, we are committed to courageous conversations and building our cultural intelligence for the work we do together.

Cover image: Rob Blakers / Tasmanian Land Conservancy

About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA)

ALCA is Australia's peak body for land conservation. Independent and non-partisan, we exist to scale nature protection, stewardship and restoration.

We represent a diverse and growing membership of organisations safeguarding nature on private or non-government managed land. We are the national voice for this work, and help shape the conditions that make their collective impact strong and enduring.

Together, we are a powerful force driving lasting outcomes for nature, climate, and communities.



Image: Martin Stringer / Rainforest Rescue

Message from the Chair and CEO

This financial year marked the launch and first year of implementing ALCA's renewed 2030 Strategy, which is our roadmap for transforming how Australia protects, stewards and restores nature in this defining decade for people and planet. Developed in consultation with our members, the Strategy responds to the evolving maturity and ambition of ALCA and Australia's land conservation sector, and the increasing urgency of the environmental challenges we work to address.



Image: Ines Badman / Arid Recovery

It comes against a backdrop of change. New governments with shifting priorities, growing geopolitical uncertainty, and competing demands on public attention created a more complex environment for conservation. At the same time, the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change are being felt across Australia's landscapes, communities and economy.

These challenges demand both immediate action and long-term commitment. Nature conservation has always required persistence and a long-term perspective. Restoring landscapes, protecting and stewarding Australia's special places and species, and building resilience in the face of climate pressures – they are all responses to challenges that will continue to unfold across decades and generations. The decisions made today shape what is possible in the years ahead.

And while our sector continues to lead, innovate and deliver remarkable outcomes and success stories for nature and communities right across Australia, the scale, pace and potential of that work is shaped by the policy, investment and social conditions it is delivered within. Creating the enabling conditions for conservation success is as crucial as the on-ground work itself.

In this context, ALCA's role is more important than ever. We represent the collective experience and expertise of organisations working across the country, bringing a strong and credible sector voice to policy debates, investment decisions and public conversations about nature's importance to our economy, climate, culture and communities.

Just as importantly, ALCA helps build the relationships, alignment and shared purpose needed to address challenges that no single organisation, sector or government can solve alone. Creating space for collaboration, finding common ground and language, and coordinating on shared priorities all remain central to our work.

This year, we have again helped secure important policy and funding outcomes for conservation, including new investment in conservation covenanting programs, continued progress towards a Protect and Conserve Method under the Nature Repair Market, and further momentum towards Australia's commitment to protect 30 per cent of land by 2030.

We strengthened the foundations for increased investment in nature by launching Australia's first Nature Spend Tracker, which established critical new evidence that demonstrates both the scale of nature's contribution to Australia's economy and communities, and the significant investment gap that remains.

We elevated our sector's profile both nationally and internationally, strengthening ALCA's reputation as a trusted sector leader and representative on the global stage. We convened environment sector leaders ahead of the Federal Treasurer's Economic Reform Roundtable to make the case that nature is fundamental national infrastructure underpinning Australia's future prosperity and resilience, and we submitted a landmark sector commitment through the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework to double Australia's private protected areas by 2030, positioning Australia's private land conservation sector as an active contributor to global biodiversity goals.

We expanded our membership, welcoming another three members; and with the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Biodiversity Council we launched the Nature Media Centre, an initiative helping strengthen the visibility and relevance of the nature crisis, and solutions.

None of this would be possible without our members. Every policy win, every step-change, every contribution to the national conversation, every new partnership and every new voice brought into the room is built on the expertise, commitment and leadership of the organisations we represent. To our members, partners, funders, supporters, and every person doing and enabling the work, thank you for your trust, collaboration, perseverance, and for the work you do in pursuit of a future where nature and people thrive.



Victoria Marles AM, Chair



Dr Jody Gunn, CEO

ALCA members at 30 June 2026

Arid Recovery
Australian Wildlife Conservancy
BioDiversity Legacy
Bush Heritage Australia
ECOGIPPS
greencollar valuing the environment
Greening Australia
Landcare Australia
NNTC
NAILSMA Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
National Landcare Network
Nature Foundation
NRM Regions Australia
NSW Government NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust
Odonata We Save Species
QTFN Queensland Trust for Nature
rainforest rescue
South Endeavour Trust
Trust for Nature
The Nature Conservancy Australia
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
WWF
Wildlife Bank

Our leadership

ALCA is guided by a voluntary, skill-based Board of Directors who oversee our direction and governance.

We are further supported by sub-Committees who contribute their expertise to guide strategy in specific areas: Sector Development; Finance, Risk and Audit; Policy and Government Relations; and Nominations. The Board and Committees meet at least quarterly, providing transparency and collaboration at the most senior levels of ALCA member organisations.



Image: Nick Hanson

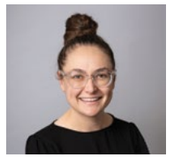
Board Directors in FY25/26:



Victoria Marles AM
Director and Chair
(Jan 2023 – current)



Tim Allard
Director and Deputy Chair
(Nov 2019 – current)



Dr Erin Giuliani
Director
(Nov 2023 – current)



Dr Liz O'Brien
Director
(Nov 2024 – current)



Nerida Bradley
Director
(Nov 2024 – current)



Anna Hooper
Director
(Nov 2025 – current)



David Major
Director
(Nov 2023 – current)



Corinne Proske
Director
(Nov 2022 – current)



Doug Humann AM
Director
(Nov 2019 – Nov 2025)

Committee Members in FY25/26:

Policy and Government Relations Committee

Dr Liz O'Brien (Committee Chair)
Queensland Trust for Nature

Victoria Marles AM
Australian Land Conservation Alliance

James Fitzsimons
The Nature Conservancy Australia

Shane Norrish
Landcare Australia

Sam Marwood
Odonata (term concluded)

David Major
Australian Land Conservation Alliance (term concluded)

Nerida Bradley
GreenCollar (term concluded)

Nominations Committee

Victoria Marles AM
Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Tim Allard
Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Doug Humann AM
Landcare Australia

Sector Development Committee

Dr Erin Giuliani (Committee Chair)
NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Corinne Proske
Trust for Nature

Dr Katherine Tuft
Tasmanian Land Conservancy

David Major
Australian Land Conservation Alliance (term concluded)

Michelle Jacobs
Bush Heritage Australia (term concluded)

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Tim Allard (Committee Chair)
Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Victoria Marles AM
Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Heather Campbell
Greening Australia

Janet Davison
Landcare Australia

Payal Gandhi
Trust for Nature

ALCA also thanks the 2025 Conference Programming Committee

Darren Grover
WWF-Australia

Quinton Clements
Bush Heritage Australia

Andrew Picone
Pew Charitable Trusts

Catherine Gallery
NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Nathan Browne
Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Jo Gleeson
Trust for Nature

Bruce Hammond
Bush Heritage Australia

Employment attributions are at time of engagement with committee or working group.

Collective impact

No other sector is dedicated solely to the on-ground work of protecting, stewarding and restoring nature. ALCA members are at the forefront of tackling Australia's biodiversity and climate crises, while ALCA works to create the conditions that make their impact strong and enduring.

> 9%
of Australia is influenced for biodiversity outcomes by ALCA members

> $450 million
in revenue was generated by ALCA members this year - the majority from non-government sources

> $60 million
in volunteer value helped ALCA members protect, steward and restore nature this year

> 7,000
landholders are supported by ALCA members to protect, steward and restore nature

> 40,000
Australians chose to financially support ALCA members this year

> 7,000
pieces of media coverage featured ALCA members this year

≈ 1.5 million
is the combined Facebook and LinkedIn audience of ALCA members (about 5% of the Australian population)

> 1000
people are employed by ALCA members



Image: Grassland Films / Bush Heritage Australia

A future where nature and people thrive

Our activities and achievements across the 25/26 financial year contribute to progress against the four goal areas of our 2030 Strategy:

Goal 1: Sector Development
Australia has a highly diverse, capable and networked land conservation sector that delivers enduring, measurable and scalable impact for nature and people.

Goal 2: Policy and regulation
Australia has policy and regulation that enables and accelerates land conservation at scale.

Goal 3: Investment
Australia has increased funding and finance that enables and accelerates land conservation at scale.

Goal 4: Valuing nature
Australians understand, value and actively support nature conservation – with nature recognised as fundamental to healthy communities and economies.

Sector Development

Halting and reversing nature loss requires a strong land conservation sector that is equipped to deliver impact at scale. As demand for this work grows, ALCA continues building the capacity needed to meet the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, head-on.



Image: Roger Price / WWF-Australia

Building a strong, capable and connected network

We continued our strategic membership expansion, advancing our objective to grow a diverse and representative membership through a compelling member proposition. We welcomed the National Landcare Network, Wildlife Bank Trust and Rainforest Rescue, bringing membership to 23 organisations, and further strengthening the diversity of expertise and geographic reach. Complementing this growth, we opened Expressions of Interest for Associates, which will create new opportunities for engagement with organisations and individuals, and broaden connections and collaboration across the wider conservation ecosystem. We expect to progress our first tranche of Associates in the second half of calendar year 2026.

We delivered a broad program of learning and engagement touchpoints that build capability and foster knowledge exchange across and beyond our sector, including with key industries like agriculture, renewable energy, and finance. This included through our flagship annual conference and two conservation finance intensives, as well as eight member briefings, four executive roundtables, three public webinars, two conservation finance intensives, a landholder forum, a covenanting roundtable, and multiple communities-of-practice convenings. Together, these activities helped strengthen relationships and continue building the collective capability needed to accelerate conservation impact and deliver enduring, scalable outcomes for nature and people.

Highlight: delivered 25+ public, and member only knowledge sharing events

Highlight: expanded our membership to 23 organisations

Understanding future workforce needs

Land conservation is emerging as a critical workforce, spurred by the urgent need to scale up efforts to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Demand is growing for technical expertise – such as biodiversity and land condition monitoring, and sustainable land management practices – but also for broader capabilities such as in nature finance, risk, and dependency mapping.

We began scoping a sector-wide workforce strategy, which will map the conservation ecosystem, assess the available evidence base, identify key workforce issues, develop a roadmap for future work, and create a case for investment. This will be an essential, and timely strategy that helps respond to increasing demand for our sector's contributions.

Complementing this work, we piloted an internship platform designed to create clearer early-career pathways into the conservation sector. Over the past 12 months, seven organisations and seven tertiary graduates tested the platform, which provides a practical, transferrable experience through a structured and supported internship process. This pilot is now under evaluation.

These efforts will strengthen our sector's workforce and long-term capability and growth.

> For Rainforest Rescue, joining ALCA is about scale. We can do a lot in the Daintree on our own - but the national outcomes we're all chasing only happen when conservation organisations move together. ALCA makes that possible.
>
> — Branden Barber, CEO, Rainforest Rescue

The ALCA Conference – a catalyst for collaboration and impact

Our annual conference remains the sector's premier gathering, bringing together the conservation and land management community, and partners, investors and policymakers, to build capacity and capability and to celebrate collective impact.

Our 2025 conference was held in Gimuy (Cairns) under the theme *Scaling Up: Local Action for Global Solutions*, and we welcomed 400 delegates from 195 organisations and companies. Over four days, more than 150 presenters shared insights, innovations and learnings, showcasing the vital work and role of First Nations land managers, conservation practitioners, farmers, nature conservancies, community groups, businesses, and government in caring for Australia's iconic landscapes and biodiversity.

As our first regionally convened conference, it strengthened and elevated local participation and experience, fostered new relationships with communities stewarding significant landscapes, and grounded national discussions in real-world practice.

As the leading environmental forum for cross-sector participation, networking, thought leadership and knowledge sharing, the ALCA Conference is widely recognised for its role catalysing the partnerships and collective action needed to deliver Australia's nature and climate ambitions.

We extend our sincere thanks to our conference partners, sponsors and members, whose ongoing support is integral to bringing the ALCA Conference to life each year.

Highlight: ALCA25 attended by 400 delegates from 195 organisations and companies from across Australia

Strengthening First Nations engagement and participation

As part of our commitment to ensuring ALCA events are accessible, beneficial and culturally safe for First Nations participants, we completed a three-year initiative that sought to deepen our understand of and increase the access and engagement for First Nations peoples in our conference program. The body of work and third-party reports demonstrate that since developing and implementing ALCA's Access and Engagement Strategy in 2022, ALCA has created a conference environment that is demonstrably more accessible, culturally safe, and beneficial for First Nations participants, while also strengthening ALCA's broader organisational capability and relationships with First Nations peoples.

In 2024, the annual survey provided evidence that of delegates who attended more than one conference, they agreed that the knowledge gained was beneficial for their community and on-country initiatives, and that they had established meaningful connections and collaborations.

Year on year, ALCA has been informed by recommendations from comprehensive surveys and reports, and in 2025, further revised our Access and Engagement Strategy, responding to opportunities to strengthen governance, communication, cultural safety and long-term engagement.

Reflections captured in the 2025 Conference Report completed by a First Nations consultancy (First Nation Start Up) highlighted meaningful progress in creating a culturally safe, relevant, and beneficial conference experience for First Nations delegates and partners. The report concluded that *"collectively, the feedback from First Nations delegates demonstrated that the Access and Engagement Strategy supporting First Nations participation was not symbolic, but structurally embedded, resourced and led in a manner aligned with best practice principles for cultural integrity, respect and self-determination"*.

We thank the BHP Foundation, and our First Nations advisors, contractors and partners that we have worked with over several years. We look forward to implementing the revised Strategy, strengthening our partnerships with First Nations peoples and embedding shared leadership, knowledge sharing and cultural stewardship across ALCA's events and activities.

Engaging globally

Since securing the bid to co-host the International Land Conservation Network's Global Congress (ILCN27) in Naarm (Melbourne) in 2027, ALCA has actively expanded and deepened international relationships, particularly throughout Oceania. Our team delivered outreach activities in New Zealand, including two launch events, and a four-day regional study tour to better understand opportunities and priorities for Congress participation. This informs program planning and builds regional participation opportunities for our Oceania colleagues.

ALCA's contributions and engagement to global conservation conversations and initiatives continued to grow, with our CEO appointed Co-Chair of the Australian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and our Communications Manager appointed to the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity Informal Advisory Committee for Communications, Education and Public Awareness. These appointments strengthen coordination between Australia's land conservation sector and key international initiatives, and support greater knowledge flow.

Reflecting the ambition of the Australian sector, ALCA submitted a formal commitment to the United Nations' global biodiversity goals, outlining the sector's commitment to double the contribution of private protected areas by 2030. In addition, we participated in activities associated with the IUCN World Conservation Congress, helping elevate Australian expertise and ensure our sector's perspectives were represented in international discussions.





Policy & Regulation

Strong policy and regulation are building blocks that unlock investment, safeguard conservation outcomes, and ensure that the sector's work can more meaningfully contribute to Australia's biodiversity and climate goals.

Progressing environmental policy and law reform is complex and challenging, requiring a navigation and balancing of competing social, political and economic interests, as well as the need for long-term commitments in the face of short-term pressures. Over the past year, ALCA has continued to build momentum behind significant policy and funding initiatives that have been years in the making, securing important outcomes for land conservation while helping shape the broader national agenda for nature protection, stewardship and restoration.

We made 39 public submissions during FY25/26, bringing our total over the last four years to more than 140. Our advocacy spanned environmental law reform, biodiversity markets, private protected areas, restoration, threatened species funding, and economic policy.



Image: Zara Wessels / Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Enabling conservation at scale

Years of advocacy by ALCA and our partners continues to deliver tangible outcomes that strengthen the enabling environment for land conservation across Australia.

Important policy achievements secured include:

- Commonwealth investment in state and territory conservation covenant programs;
- Progress towards a Protect and Conserve Method under the Nature Repair Market;
- South Australia confirming a pathway for conservation covenants on pastoral leases; and
- A Commonwealth-Tasmania partnership to rebuild and modernise Tasmania's conservation covenanting program

Collectively, these outcomes strengthen the policy, regulatory and funding foundations needed for conservation to grow in scale, effectiveness and long-term impact.

> Conservation of private land helps to protect critical habitat, improve landscape connectivity and strengthen ecosystem resilience. So it's crucial that we continue to find new ways to support this effort ...
>
> The diversity of expertise within this room alone demonstrates the breadth of effort needed to protect these places, and these species, into the future.
>
> — The Hon Murray Watt, Federal Environment Minister

Highlight: 39 public submissions across the year

Highlight: SA Biodiversity Act & Lessons for Reform webinar accessed by >1000 people

Environmental law reform

Environmental law reform remained a dominant national policy issue throughout the year. ALCA participated in the Federal Minister's EPBC reform roundtable and maintained strong engagement throughout the reform process.

While progress was made in some areas of the reform process, sustained advocacy remained critical, and ALCA, in coordination with other organisations, consistently pushed for more robust National Environmental Standards, appropriate limits on ministerial discretion, stronger protections for biodiversity, and higher-integrity approaches to environmental offsets.

Building on our success in South Australia, where sustained advocacy helped secure substantial improvements to that state's landmark *Biodiversity Act 2025*, we commenced advocacy efforts in Western Australia, and we expanded our engagement in environmental law reform in New South Wales by helping coordinate sector advocacy on priorities for reform of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, with legislative changes expected to be considered by that state's Parliament in 2027.

Environmental markets

We continued to play a leading role in supporting the development of the Nature Repair Market. As lead of a broad consortium, we provided technical advice to the Commonwealth on the Protect and Conserve Method and contributed to development of materials for the Rangelands Method and the Threatened Species Characteristic.

Our advocacy focused on ensuring the market delivers genuine, long-term conservation outcomes through recognised protected and conserved area frameworks, while remaining practical and accessible for landholders. We continued to raise concerns about the proposal to integrate environmental offsets into the Nature Repair Market before market systems and integrity safeguards are fully established.

The Commonwealth's ongoing engagement with ALCA in method development reflects the value placed on our sector's expertise and contribution to policy development.

Driving progress towards 30 by 30

ALCA continued to play a leadership role in the national 30 by 30 collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts, WWF-Australia, and The Nature Conservancy Australia.

Following last year's successful advocacy efforts that secured $250 million over five years through the Australian Bushland Program, our focus shifted to implementation, accountability, and the additional actions needed to achieve Australia' commitment of protecting 30 per cent of land by 2030.

We assessed government progress on our earlier recommendations (*The private land conservation opportunity to deliver for 30 by 30: 2026 update*), which included priority actions still required to achieve the 30 by 30 target. Whilst overall progress was mixed, our report also highlighted several significant achievements.

In demonstration of our sector's leadership, ALCA committed Australia's private land conservation sector to a global goal of doubling private protected areas by 2030 through the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework. The commitment positions private land conservation as a recognised contributor to Australia's international biodiversity targets, raises the sector's profile on the global stage, and underscores ALCA's role as the national voice and coordinating body for conservation landholders and organisations.

With the addition of a dedicated Policy Adviser, ALCA now has the capacity to renew our focus on ecological restoration and delivery of Australia's national restoration commitments under Australia's *Strategy for Nature*, advocating for the development of a National Restoration Roadmap (or Framework) akin to the National 30 by 30 Roadmap. We continue to push for greater investment and coordination to ensure restoration targets are matched by practical delivery mechanisms and funding.



Positioning nature as an economic priority

Embedding nature as a pillar underpinning Australia's economic prosperity remains an important strategic priority for ALCA. To advance this agenda, we convened the *Nature: A Foundation for Economic Reform* roundtable in August 2025 – ahead of the Federal Treasurer's Economic Reform Roundtable – bringing together leading environment organisations to build consensus around a shared reform agenda and demonstrate the essential role of nature in Australia's economic success.

The resulting communiqué was endorsed by 20 organisations, representing a significant show of alignment across the environment sector. It helped elevate nature within broader economic reform discussions and reinforced the message that healthy ecosystems fundamental to Australia's long-term prosperity, productivity and resilience.









Investment

Australia's nature goals cannot be achieved without significantly greater investment in conservation. This year, ALCA strengthened the foundations for increased funding and finance for nature by building the evidence base for investment, connecting practitioners and capital providers, and growing Australia's conservation finance ecosystem. Landmark nature finance initiatives helped springboard the national conversation around nature finance and the scale of investment required to address Australia's biodiversity challenge.



Image: Trust for Nature

Understanding Australia's nature investment gap

As part of our commitment to track and publish insights on nature investment, we launched Australia's inaugural Nature Spend Tracker, providing the first comprehensive picture of investment in nature by federal and state governments, philanthropy and the private sector.

Developed in partnership with Cyan Ventures, the Tracker revealed an annual funding shortfall of at least $6.8 billion and established an important baseline for measuring progress over time. Providing publicly accessible data on investment flows and funding trends will help to inform policy development, investment decisions and advocacy aimed at increasing capital flows for nature.

The tracker's coverage and utility will continue to be refined.

An Insights Report was launched alongside the Tracker.

Strengthening the case for nature

Released alongside the Nature Spend Tracker, our report: *Strengthening the Case for Nature* brought together Australia's most comprehensive synthesis of the available economic, social, cultural and environmental evidence for investing in nature.

The report responds to our objective to improve understanding of the value of nature investment among governments, investors and philanthropic organisations. It is yet another strong prosecution for both the significant benefits that nature provides and the scale of the investment gap that remains, while identifying opportunities for future investment.

The findings identified energy, infrastructure and agriculture as priority sectors for future investment and provided recommendations to help government, philanthropy and investors direct more funding into high integrity nature initiatives.

Together, the Nature Spend Tracker and *Case for Nature* report strengthen the evidence base supporting increased investment in conservation, while helping frame nature as an essential contributor to Australia's long-term economic and social wellbeing.

Equipping the sector to access and scale nature finance

A core component of ALCA's investment goal is ensuring our sector is better equipped to identify, harness and scale nature finance opportunities.

ALCA's Conservation Finance Network continues to play a central role. It is Australia's only dedicated conservation finance community of practice and has grown to more than 700 participants from across conservation, finance, government, philanthropy, research and First Nations sectors, making it the country's largest and most diverse conservation finance network.

During the year we delivered or participated in more than 20 network activations designed to strengthen capability and connect conservation practitioners with investors and market participants. We hosted twelve of these directly, including two sold-out Conservation Finance Intensives in Brisbane and Melbourne to more than 300 attendees. The Melbourne intensive marked an important step in expanding our engagement with the investment community. Delivered as an official side event of the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) conference, it introduced conservation finance opportunities to new audiences and strengthened connections between conservation practitioners, investors and financial institutions.



Valuing Nature

Building recognition and understanding of the value of nature, and translating that into meaningful action, takes sustained effort. It means challenging perceptions, shifting narratives, and continually prosecuting nature's essential role in sustaining healthy communities, resilient economies and landscapes, and a liveable future.

We continued to champion these messages, while investing in lifting ALCA's own profile and visibility. We reached new audiences, entered new conversations, and supported initiatives that brought greater attention to nature issues, and the contribution of our sector to protecting, stewarding and restoring nature across Australia.



Strengthening ALCA's voice and visibility

To support the launch of our refreshed 2030 Strategy, we undertook a brand refresh and website renewal that better reflects ALCA's ambition, growing profile, and leadership role.

This work delivered a contemporary visual identity and stronger digital presence, while consolidating our previously standalone conference website into the main ALCA platform. This created a more cohesive user experience and strengthened the connection between the ALCA Conference and our broader work to support and grow the sector.

As part of this brand consolidation and evolution, we transitioned the Private Land Conservation Conference to the ALCA Conference, anchoring our flagship event under a single, unified ALCA brand. It reflects ALCA's expanded membership, broader sector role and provides a more accessible entry point for First Nations organisations, leaseholders, community groups and other participants.

Elevating nature in the national conversation

ALCA continued to play a supporting role to the Nature Media Centre, a joint initiative with The Pew Charitable Trusts and Biodiversity Council, which has an overarching goal of increasing public understanding of the nature crisis and its relevance to everyday Australians. The Nature Media Centre works to increase the volume and quality of nature stories reaching Australian audiences by connecting journalists with compelling spokespeople and stories, and supporting spokespeople to share their stories effectively.

The Nature Media Centre was officially launched at the 2025 ALCA Conference, reinforcing the importance of effective storytelling and media engagement in advancing conservation outcomes. Yahoo News National Environment Editor Michael Dahlstrom joined the closing panel to discuss the role of media in shaping public understanding of nature issues and solutions.

ALCA continued to expand its own presence in media, and at cross-sector forums and conferences, reaching new audiences and decision makers and driving recognition of both ALCA's work, and of sector's contribution to nature protection, stewardship and restoration.

Media coverage grew again during the year, with ALCA featured across major national outlets including The Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, Yahoo! News and The Daily Telegraph. This coverage helped elevate key conservation issues and frame land conservation as a critical solution to Australia's biodiversity and climate challenges.



The Guardian Aus

18 Aug 2025 09.51 AEST

Lisa Cox

Environment groups say nature 'too important' to leave out of reform conversations

The environment sector, which has been given limited representation at the summit, held its own roundtable last Friday. A representative from Watt's office attended. The groups said half of Australia's GDP and 75% of export earnings were reliant on nature.

Dr Jody Gunn, the chief executive of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, said:

"Nature's economic role is too important to leave out of national reform conversations. If we ignore nature, productivity suffers. If we invest in the solutions it brings, we all win - with stronger regional economies, better disaster resilience, and healthier communities.

Highlight: doubled our yearly unique website visitors to 20,000

Highlight: grew our LinkedIn following to 9000

Mobilising landholder voices for nature

Through our partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts, our shared Our Natural Legacy initiative is helping ensure conservation landholders are not only recognised for their contribution to land conservation, but heard in the policy decisions that affect it.

This year's Landholder Forum – a key annual deliverable of the initiative – was held as part of the ALCA Conference, and convened conservation landholders from across Queensland to align on shared priorities and strengthen their collective voice. The forum identified land tax treatment for conservation covenants in Queensland as a key reform opportunity, and, with ALCA's support and a dedicated policy brief, landholders took this issue directly to MPs and the media.

The initiative also continues to build a growing network of landholder advocates, elevating on-ground conservation experience and expertise in policy conversations and public debate, and strengthening recognition of the sector's contribution to Australia's biodiversity goals.

Measuring impact

Our membership's contribution to nature conservation is significant, but different reporting frameworks, data availability, and organisational capacity make it challenging to consolidate and then demonstrate the breadth and depth of that impact at a national scale.

This year, we worked to define a future-state approach to measuring and reporting both ALCA's, and our members', impact.

We are exploring the next steps including resourcing an implementation plan, which could better demonstrate our sector's contribution over time, align reporting with national and global nature goals and indicators, and strengthen the evidence base underpinning our advocacy.



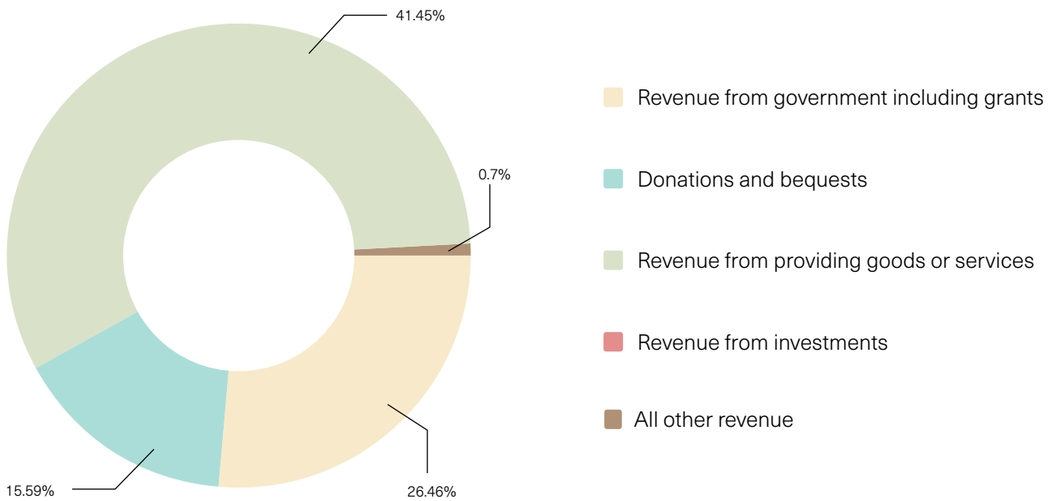
Notable committees, working groups and roundtables we have contributed expertise to in FY25/26:

- Australian Government's Nature Finance Counci;
- Convention on Biological Diversity's Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness
- Global Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures Forum Member
- National Environmental Science Program's Resilience Landscapes Hub Steering Committee
- NSW Ministerial Conservation Co-investment Roundtable
- Responsible Investment Association of Australasia's External Reference Group

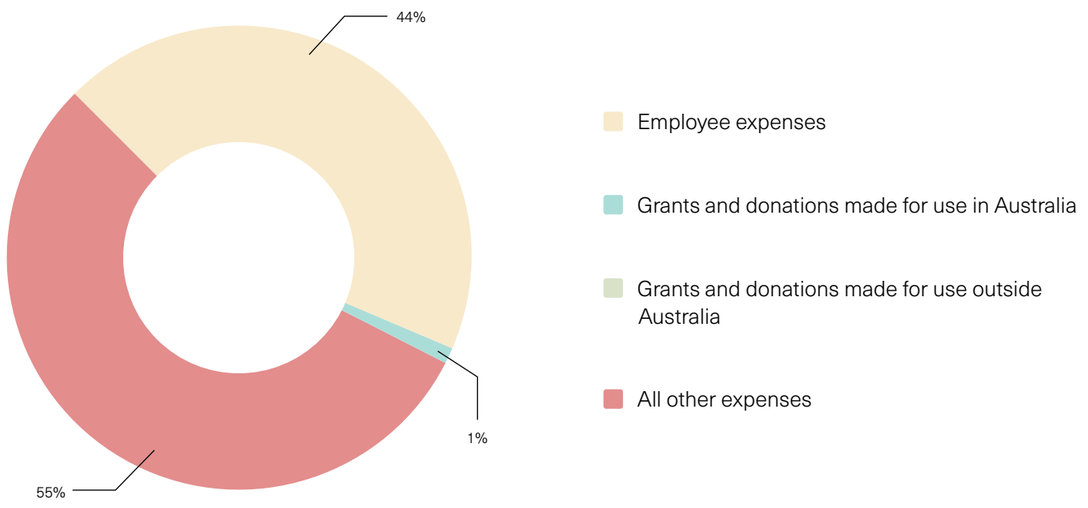
> Over the past three years, The Ian Potter Foundation has proudly supported the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) as it has grown into a trusted national voice for private land conservation. By uniting a diverse membership around a shared commitment to nature, ALCA is strengthening connections across sectors and building collective momentum. Through its strategic leadership, ALCA is helping to deliver positive outcomes for nature, people, industry, and climate.'
>
> — Paul Conroy, CEO, Ian Potter Foundation

Financial Snapshot

Revenue **Total revenue: $2,700,839**



Expenses **Total expenses: $2,553,603**



Thank you

ALCA is powered by collaboration, and supported by our community, for the good of people and nature. As an independent not-for-profit we would not exist without those that generously support and fund our work. The organisations below have provided multiyear funding support, grants or donations above $50,000 to ALCA's broad program within the 2026 financial year:

Albert George and Nancy Caroline Youngman Trust

Ian Potter Foundation

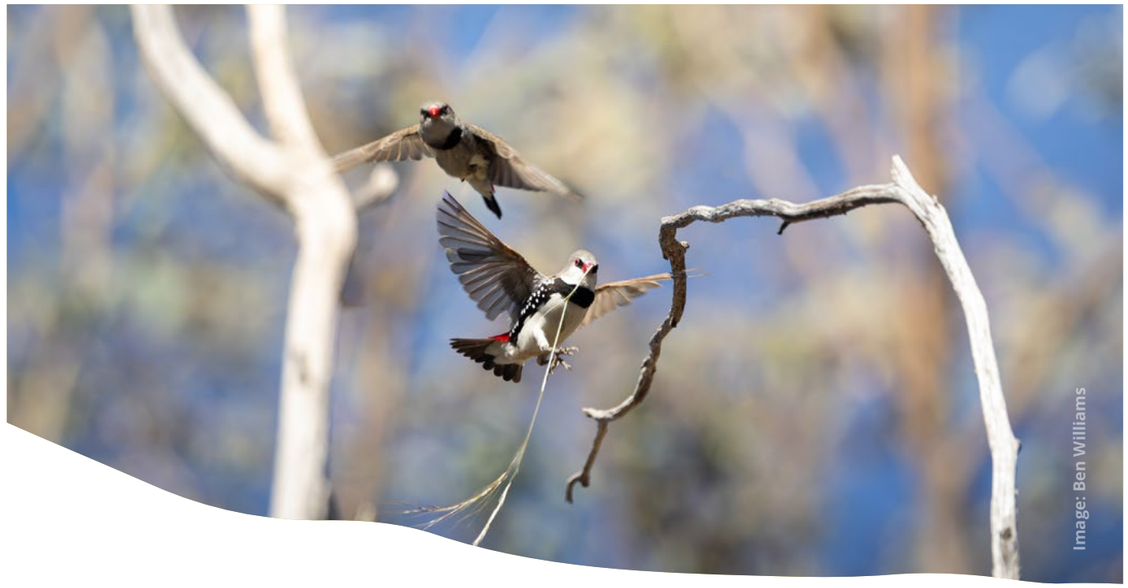
Pew Charitable Trusts

State Trustees of Victoria

We acknowledge the generous support and contributions from all organisations, supporters and individual givers in FY25/26, including those providing pro-bono support.

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

Our 2025 Enduring Conference Sponsors were: ANZ, Wright Burt Foundation, NAB and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. This long-term support enabled us to not only deliver our 2025 conference, but has supported our efforts towards delivering a Global Congress in 2027. We acknowledge the contributions from all other conference partners and sponsors.



alca

Australian Land
Conservation Alliance



Image: Julie Kearn / Australian Wildlife conservancy

Learn more:
www.alca.org.au
info@alca.org.au