

# Media release

**For immediate release**

## **Peak body for private land conservation welcomes biodiversity market announcement**

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes today's announcement by the Prime Minister at Bush Summit 2022 that the Federal Government will introduce legislation for an Australian biodiversity market.

ALCA is the peak national body representing organisations that work to conserve, manage and restore nature on privately managed land.

ALCA CEO, Dr Jody Gunn is encouraged by what a well-designed biodiversity market could deliver for Australian nature.

"The recent state of the environment report has highlighted the downward spiral of Australian ecosystems and biodiversity. Harnessing market-based mechanisms to drive investment in our natural capital is one piece of the puzzle that can help stop and ultimately reverse that decline," Dr Gunn said.

"However, the integrity of the outcomes for nature will be of paramount importance in the design of the biodiversity market. ALCA looks forward to working with the government to ensure that it adopts scientifically rigorous biodiversity standards and metrics to guarantee those outcomes.

"Government participation in the market and non-discriminatory access for all landholders are also important considerations.

"Our members and the thousands of landholders they engage with are on the frontline of stopping biodiversity loss and regenerating landscapes," Dr Gunn said.

The Prime Minister noted in his address: "The old practice of environmental exploitation is the deadest of dead ends, and that the greatest reward lies in the sense of stewardship of the land."

"As we move towards net zero, we are creating a once in a lifetime opportunity, not just to protect Australia's natural environment, but to kickstart a nationwide restoration."

Dr Gunn agrees with the Prime Minister's sentiments.

"Many private landholders are engaged in conservation by actively managing land, tackling invasive species, and revegetating and restoring ecosystems.

"Their stewardship is critical to building resilience across our land through protecting and restoring our unique ecosystems," Dr Gunn said.

A high integrity biodiversity market will complement other initiatives the government may seek to adopt to support the conservation efforts of private landholders, such as renewed investment and reform of the tax treatment of conservation activities.

The private land conservation sector looks forward to consulting further on the design of the market and its legislation.

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### **About ALCA**

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance is the peak national body representing organisations that work to conserve, manage and restore nature on privately managed land. We represent our members and supporters to grow the impact, capacity and influence of private land conservation to achieve a healthy and resilient Australia.

ALCA member land conservation efforts stretch across over 3 million square kilometres with more than 3,000 landholders. We have over 50,000 supporters and our combined annual turnover exceeds \$200 million.

Together ALCA and its members address some of the most pressing conservation issues across the country, including restoring endangered ecosystems, building the protected area estate, tackling invasive species, expanding private conservation finance and funding and using nature-based solutions to tackle climate change.

Through their active land management, ALCA member organisations are deeply embedded in regional communities and economies, providing jobs, securing significant regional investment, and safeguarding remaining native habitat, with its many positive spillover effects for community, wellbeing and food security. We seek to demonstrate the role and value of private land conservation as a cornerstone of the Australian economy.

For media inquiries about ALCA or private land conservation, contact Allyson Starky, ALCA Communication and Engagement Lead

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