

## Media release

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### ALCA welcomes Labor's commitments to domestic 30X30 target and to strengthen environmental protection

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes today's announcement that, if elected, a Labor government would commit to protecting at least 30 per cent of Australia's land and 30 per cent of Australia's sea by 2030 (30X30) and establish an independent environment protection agency.

The commitment to 30X30 is a crucial step-up from Australia's current level, which is to protect a combined 30 per cent of land and sea.

The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is the intergovernmental group of over 90 countries championing the global commitment to protect nature known as 30X30. Meeting this science-based target will increase protections for nature, ensuring natural systems continue to provide the food, clean air and water that underpin our existence.

ALCA CEO Dr Jody Gunn said the announcement demonstrated greater recognition of the critical role nature plays in our economy and our wellbeing.

"Through investing in natural places, plants and animals, we tackle both the climate and biodiversity crises. By looking after nature, we are looking after people.

"In making this commitment and lifting the level of our national ambition, the prospective Labor government signals Australia's intention on environmental stewardship.

"The private land conservation sector already plays an important role in the protection of nature, and it stands ready to accelerate its work to support achievement of Labor's commitment to the 30X30 target," Dr Gunn said.

Labor's commitment to an independent environment protection agency will strength critical governance and protection of nature.

"A well-resourced and independent environment protection agency will be a cornerstone of the full response to the Samuel Review of the EPBC Act.

"We would welcome the strengthened environmental standards and strategic planning that the agency would deliver," Dr Gunn said.

Around 100 species endemic to Australia are listed as extinct – an unenviable legacy. And with close to 2,000 animals and plants on Australia's threatened species list, committing to protecting 30 per cent of both land and sea, is an important step in halting further species decline.

"From habitat restoration to save the golden-shouldered parrot on Cape York to protecting Black Gum forest from logging in Tasmania, conservation work to save threatened species is taking place across the country, often on private land.

“Labor’s commitment to 30X30 and the independent environment protection agency gives recognition to those individuals and organisations undertaking this critical work, and provides them with confidence that their work is valued on a national and global scale,” Dr Gunn said.

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### **About ALCA**

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance represents organisations that work to conserve, manage and restore nature on privately managed land.

Together we work to address some of the most pressing conservation issues across the country – including tackling invasive species and managing national environmental biosecurity threats, restoring endangered ecosystems, and building the protected area estate.

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.

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 for the local community with its many positive spillover effects for agriculture.

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