

Science Strategy and Priorities Taskforce  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources  
Industry House, 10 Binara Street  
Canberra ACT, 2601  
Online submission; cc: [priorities@industry.gov.au](mailto:priorities@industry.gov.au)

28 September 2023

Dear Science Strategy and Priorities Taskforce,

**RE: Submission on Australia's draft science and research priorities**

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Government's consultation on *Australia's draft science and research priorities*.

ALCA is encouraged by the stronger biodiversity theme captured under *Priority 1: Ensuring a net zero future and protecting Australia's biodiversity*, which aligns with our previous feedback [see: <https://alca.org.au/alca-submission-on-australias-science-and-research-priorities/>].

Please note that ALCA is happy for this submission to be published in full.

## Recommendations

That the Government:

1. Retain the current theme and title of *Priority 1: Ensuring a net zero future and protecting Australia's biodiversity*.
2. Noting that this aligns with the Federal Government's stated approach to biodiversity<sup>1</sup>, as well as that of the land conservation sector, update the following objective as follows (**additions in bold**):
  - Protect, **manage**, and restore biodiversity
3. Update the following critical research area (**amendments in bold**) to more completely capture the relevant objective above:
  - Prediction of habitat and biodiversity change and ways to **reverse declining biodiversity protect biodiversity and reverse its decline**.

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<sup>1</sup> "Which is why, in this term of government, I will be guided by three essential goals. To protect, to restore, and to manage Australia's environment."; Minister Tanya Plibersek MP, National Press Club Event, 19 July 2022; see: <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/plibersek/speeches/national-press-club-address>

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Government's consultation on Australia's draft national science and research priorities.

ALCA and its members look forward to ongoing engagement with the Government to ensure that our research effort reflects the increasing urgency – and social and economic importance – in halting and reversing Australia's rapid decline in biodiversity, and its inextricable interconnectedness with both climate change and community.

**Australian Land Conservation Alliance**

## About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance

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. Our seventeen members are:

- Arid Recovery
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW
- Bush Heritage Australia
- EcoGipps
- GreenCollar
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- Nature Foundation
- NRM Regions Australia
- Odonata
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- South Endeavour Trust
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Trust for Nature (Victoria)
- World Wildlife Fund - Australia

ALCA member land conservation efforts have influenced over 3 million square kilometres with more than 4,000 landholders. We have over 70,000 supporters and our combined annual turnover exceeds \$280 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 rural communities and economies, providing jobs, securing significant regional investment, and safeguarding remaining native habitat, with its many positive spill-over 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.

Some ALCA members are statutory entities; the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent the views of the Government administering those statutory entities.