

Australian Land Conservation Alliance

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7-10 OCTOBER | GIMUY (CAIRNS)

SCALING UP: LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



Tuesday 7 October 2025	
	Our Natural Legacy: Landholder Forum Location: Plenary 1 & Breakout Room: Plenary 2
9:30am – 4:00pm	Workshop 1: Turning Vision into Impact: Building a Theory of Change using the Conservation Standards <i>Coordinated by Frank Weisenberger Consulting and Bush Heritage Australia</i> Conservation work aims to address urgent and complex problems; it is only through concerted and structured efforts that we will see sustained conservation impact. To support projects with planning, monitoring, and adaptation, this workshop will explore how <i>Theories of Change</i>, a key tool of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Conservation Standards), can help participants build powerful and logical results chains for their conservation work. This hands-on, practical training workshop helps participants understand the importance of being clear about how a desired change is expected to occur and the underlying assumptions that drive that change, and using evidence to inform decision-making. Participants will be provided with a brief introduction to the Conservation Standards to ground <i>Theories of Change</i> in the broader framework. Putting the theory to practice, we will develop theories of change for two real-world case studies in breakout sessions. Registered participants will be provided with the opportunity to propose their own project as a case study. Location: Meeting Room 4 Facilitators: Frank Weisenberger, Environmental consultant, Frank Weisenberger Consulting Clair Dougherty, National Conservation Planning Manager, Bush Heritage Australia
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon pre-conference workshops Workshop 2: The changing landscape of giving - a \$5.4 trillion question <i>Coordinated by Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network</i> Australia is on the brink of a historic intergenerational wealth transfer, with over 65% expected to be inherited by women—placing them at the forefront of future philanthropy. This workshop explores how the next generation of wealth holders might reshape giving: What values guide their decisions? How do their approaches differ? And how are legacy foundations evolving in response? With such a transformative transfer underway, understanding these emerging dynamics is vital. Join experts and next-gen philanthropists to unpack the opportunities and challenges this shift presents—and consider how conservation organisations can better align with the priorities of tomorrow’s donors. Location: Plenary Room 2

Speakers:

Esther Abram, CEO, Nature Impact Collective

Margie Jenkin, Nature Program Manager, Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network

Claire O'Rourke, CEO, Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network

Workshop 3: Nature Finance Demystified *Coordinated by Marsden Jacob Associates*

Everyone's talking about nature finance, but what does it *actually* mean? Learn the fundamentals of nature finance through real-life case studies and an interactive exercise that puts you in the shoes of investors, project developers and beneficiaries. Explore what drives their decisions and what success looks like from multiple perspectives. You'll leave with a clear understanding of the types of nature-based projects that can generate financial returns, and where opportunities lie for the conservation sector to make a meaningful impact.

Location: Meeting Room 9

Speakers:

Madeline Anderson, Beemurra Aboriginal Corporation

Stuart Maclachlan, Associate Director, Marsden Jacob Associates

Workshop 4: Moving wildlife revival beyond the fence *Coordinated by Invasive Species Council*

Smarter, scalable invasive species solutions are needed for Australia's biodiversity revival. This workshop dives into two cutting-edge programs backed by the Invasive Species Council—feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island and species reintroductions through Rewilding Australia. Discover how AI, drones, and geospatial tools are revolutionising control efforts, and get practical tips on fencing design, landscape-scale connectivity, and balancing predator management with ecosystem health. You'll explore tools like ArcGIS and Safe's FME, workshop how to apply them in your own work, and connect with peers to drive innovation and national advocacy.

Speakers:

Rob Brewster, Rewilding Manager, Invasive Species Council

Will Durack, General Manager, Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Imogen Ebsworth, Advocacy Manager and Strategy Lead, Invasive Species Council

Scott Sambell, Director, Ethos Environmental

Location: Meeting Room 3

Workshop 5: Next Gen Conservation *Coordinated by Intrepid Landcare and Co-Exist*

How do we ensure the next generation's best and brightest are empowered to lead in tackling the nature crisis? Join this hands-on workshop to explore how. Drawing on recent research commissioned by the Biodiversity Council, and the combined experience of Intrepid Landcare and Co-Exist Australia—two youth-focused organisations working to mobilise and support emerging leaders—this session shares strategies, stories, and tools that are helping young people step up for nature. With nearly a decade of grassroots leadership from Intrepid Landcare and the fresh momentum of Co-Exist's growing community, we'll explore what works, what's evolving, and how to build lasting, inclusive pathways for youth in conservation.

Location: Meeting Room 10

Speakers:

Lizzie Corke OAM, CEO, Conservation Ecology Centre

Jaana Dielenberg, Communication and Engagement Manager, Biodiversity Council

Facilitators:

Miranda Braakhuis, Secretary, Intrepid Landcare

Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair, Intrepid Landcare

Kurt Jones, CEO, Co-Exist

4:00pm – 6:00pm	First Nations welcome event After a day of workshops, First Nations delegates are invited to a pre-reception gathering to connect and network. Location: Meeting Room 11	
6:00pm – 7:30pm	Welcome reception Location: ALCA25 Exhibition Area, Cairns Convention Centre Drinks and canapes provided, included in conference registration.	
7:30pm	ALCA Member Dinner Enjoy a relaxed dinner with fellow ALCA Member organisation staff — a casual evening of connection and conversation. Dinner and drinks at own cost. Location: Hemingway's Brewery Cairns Wharf, Wharf Street, Cairns City QLD 4870	
Wednesday 8 October 2025		
7:30am	Registration open	
8:30am - 9:00am	Conference open	
9:00am – 10:00am	Plenary 1 Systems Change for Nature Lasting change for nature and climate won't come from business-as-usual. It requires a transformation of the systems that shape how we use land, make decisions, and value nature. This plenary explores the root causes of environmental decline — and the interventions needed to reverse it. Join systems changemakers as they examine how policy, finance, and governance can be rewired to drive large-scale, lasting impact — and how Indigenous leadership, regenerative economies, and cross-sector collaboration can help us build a thriving, nature-positive future. Speakers: Sharan Burrow AC , Global advocate for human rights, climate action and Just Transition Lisa Miller , CEO and Founder, Wedgetail Simon Holmes à Court , Energy analyst, clean tech investor and climate philanthropist Deen Sanders OAM , Managing Director, Think. Know. Do; Chair, World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Nature; Special Counsel, Deloitte Access Economics Facilitator: Kaj Löfgren , CEO, Regen Melbourne <i>Policy pathways</i> Location: Trinity Room	
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning tea Weaving Circle: Collaborative weaving with Aunty Kija – connect with land, spirit, and creativity to contribute to a collective artwork that bridges the national NRM, ALCA and Landcare conferences.	
10:35am – 11:55am	Concurrent series 1	
1A Evolving Covenants: Strengthening Legal Tools for Private Land Conservation		1B Fields of Opportunity: Conservation in Productive Landscapes

Conservation covenants are a cornerstone of private land protection in Australia—but can they do more? This panel explores how these legal tools are evolving to support not just biodiversity conservation, but also ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation. With insights from a national research project and case studies from Queensland and New South Wales, including Special Wildlife Reserves and Enhanced Protection Covenants, the session examines what’s working, what’s changing, and what’s next. Speakers: Benjamin Richardson, Professor of Environmental Law, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania James Fitzsimons, Senior Advisor, Global Protection Strategies, The Nature Conservancy <i>Abstract: Past, present and future: The evolving role for covenants in restoration and private land management.</i> Melissa Huntsman, Principal Project Officer, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust & Melissa Mayhew, Senior Program Officer, Private Protected Area Investment, QLD Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation <i>Abstract: Special Wildlife Reserves and Enhanced Protection Covenants: Excluding incompatible activities from private protected areas.</i> Ross Mitchell, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Manager, Queensland, Bush Heritage Australia Facilitator: Sarah Brugler, Environmental law and policy researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania <i>Policy Pathways</i> Location: Trinity Room	This panel examines how conservation is being embedded within Australia’s working landscapes through regenerative land management, market-based mechanisms, and strategic investment in natural capital. Drawing on case studies from WA, Queensland, and South Australia, speakers will explore how biodiversity outcomes are being delivered alongside agricultural production, supported by frameworks like Accounting for Nature and Farming for the Future. The session will highlight enabling conditions—such as flexible lease arrangements, nature refuges, and biodiversity credit markets. A must-attend for those wanting to better understand the intersection of conservation, production, and finance. Speakers: Alex Nankivell, CEO, Nature Foundation <i>Abstract: Conservation and Pastoral Collaboration in the Rangelands.</i> Martin Jackson King, Partner, Austin Partnership <i>Abstract: Making It Possible: Renewables Funding Rangeland Regeneration.</i> Sue Ogilvy, Farming for the Future Program Director, Macdoch Foundation & Cathy Waters, Head of Science, GreenCollar <i>Abstract: On-farm benefits of carbon farming and natural capital.</i> Greg Noonan, Division Director – Natural Capital, Gunn Agri Partners <i>Abstract: Collaborative investment in nature refuges in Queensland.</i> Steve Murphy, Chief Executive, Conservation Partners <i>Abstract: Saving parrots on an active cattle station.</i> Facilitator: Ian McConnel, Executive Manager Agricultural Partnerships & Natural Capital, Bush Heritage Australia <i>Land and Water, People and Place</i> Location: Meeting Rooms 9 & 10
1C Culturally-led care for Country Hear inspiring stories of how culturally-centred conservation is bridging the gap between Western conservation approaches and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Delegates will hear about innovative First Nations approaches to care for Country, including projects centred on culturally significant totems and initiatives delivering diversified income streams. Speakers: Kelly Ann Blake, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, Adjunct Research Fellow, La Trobe University, Katina Blake, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, Junior Ngarrrwa Officer, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation & Amelia Lizzul, First Nations Ally, Student, Bendigo Senior Secondary College <i>Abstract: Biocultural</i>	1D Masterclass: Crafting Powerful Nature Messages Led by the Nature Media Centre, this hands-on session will introduce participants to the principles of effective messaging—covering values-based communication, audience framing, and narrative structure. Using practical tools and templates, attendees will learn how to craft compelling messages that connect emotionally, frame the moment, and inspire action for nature. Speakers: Erin Farley, Director, Nature Media Centre Tracey Ferrier, Project Manager, Nature Media Centre David Major, Director, Thirriwirri <i>People and Place</i>

<i>Values: Dingo-Led Pathways for Healing Country.</i> Rachel Paltridge, Senior Threatened Species Ecologist, Indigenous Desert Alliance, Christine Michaels, Ranger, Nyirripi & Scott West, Ranger, Kiwirrkurra, Tjambu Tjambu Aboriginal Corporation <i>Great Desert Skink Project and Mulyamiji March.</i> Jamie Woods, Chair, Nari Nari Tribal Council Angie Reid, Senior Project Coordinator & Harry Tamwoy, Regional Coordinator QLD, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Facilitator: Darren Grover, Regenerative Country, WWF-Australia <i>First Nations, Land and Water, Future Leaders</i> Location: Plenary Room 1	Location: Plenary Room 2
11:55am – 12:55pm	Lunch Digital Posters 12:05pm How ACCU Scheme projects protect Australia’s biodiversity. Penny van Oosterzee, Biome 12:20pm Hand Weeding for assisted natural regeneration. Marg Wheeler, Individual Landholder 12:35pm Securing Australia’s Future Through Pollination. Tracie Armstrong, The Wheen Bee Foundation Weaving Circle: Collaborative weaving with Aunty Kija – connect with land, spirit, and creativity to contribute to a collective artwork that bridges the national NRM, ALCA and Landcare conferences.
1:00pm – 2:20pm	Concurrent series 2
2A Money, Markets, and Meaningful Action Australia has signed onto the Global Biodiversity Framework—but are we backing that promise with the action and finance? We’ll unpack a \$53.8 billion estimate of biodiversity-harmful subsidies and the urgent need for reform. We’ll explore how Queensland is operationalising the national OECMs framework, how Victoria’s land tax reform removed barriers to permanent protection, and how culturally-informed approaches are advancing First Nations land return. These stories offer a snapshot of progress – and highlight the work yet to be done – to align local action with global goals. Speakers: Lis Ashby, Policy and Innovation Lead, Biodiversity Council & Paul Elton, PhD Candidate, The Australian National University <i>Abstract: Biodiversity harmful subsidies in Australia.</i> Betha Westall, Natural Capitals Associate, Niche Environment & Heritage <i>Abstract: Bringing Nature Repair Market projects to life.</i> Grant Mogridge, Principal Policy Officer, QLD Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation	2B Smart Solutions Round Robin: The Tech Advancing Conservation From AI-powered weed detection to drones mapping carbon and biodiversity, conservation is stepping into a new technological frontier. In this dynamic round robin session, delegates will connect directly with presenters in a 1:1 format. Discover how tools like WeedRemeed are transforming weed management, how drone and LiDAR data are bridging carbon and nature monitoring, and how in-situ soil sensors are delivering real-time insights into landscape health. Plus, explore how acoustic monitoring and open platforms can revolutionise the way we track wildlife across vast and remote areas. Come ready to engage with the innovators driving scalable, accessible ecological intelligence. Speakers: Sean Freney, Business Manager, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions <i>Abstract: AI Tools for Smarter Weed Management.</i> Samuel Shumack, Senior Remote Sensing Specialist, Climate Friendly <i>Abstract: Bridging carbon & nature monitoring with drones.</i> Jacinta Plucinski, CEO, FreakLabs <i>Abstract: Wirelessly Monitoring Soil To Verify Management Impact.</i>

<i>Abstract: Recognising the first Conserved Areas in Queensland.</i> Steven Lynch, Director of Conservation, Trust for Nature <i>Abstract: Removing barriers to increase permanent protect – land tax, the Victorian experience.</i> Deleeece Bowen, Chairperson, Darrba Land Trust + Andrew Picone, Queensland Manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts <i>Won land back north of Hopevale from the Cape York Tenure Resolution Program, to present on the Darrba experience.</i> Facilitator: Cecilia Riebl, Permanent Protection Method Project Manager, Australian Land Conservation Alliance <i>Economics and Finance, First Nations</i> Location: Trinity Room	Paul Roe, Dean Research & Lin Schwarzkopf, Head of Zoology & Ecology, James Cook University <i>Abstract: Listening at Scale: Transforming Wildlife Monitoring with Open EcoAcoustics.</i> Harry Coleman, Project Manager, EnviroDNA & Lindsey Davies, Caring for Country Lead, Indigital <i>Abstract: Empowering Traditional Owner Groups with eDNA Technology.</i> Facilitator: Nathan Browne, National Manager Development, Partnerships, Australian Wildlife Conservancy <i>Land and Water, People and Place, First Nations</i> Location: Meeting Rooms 9 & 10
2C Diverse Pathways to Conservation Success From the deserts of Nyangumarta Country to the rainforests of the Wet Tropics, conservation on privately owned and managed land is delivering real results for biodiversity. This session showcases where science, culture, innovation, and community are driving measurable impact — from a sophisticated monitoring and reporting program to culturally grounded feral cat control, rainforest restoration for climate refugia, and Tasmania’s successful Revolving Fund model. Together, they highlight the vital role of private landholders and Indigenous communities in Australia’s conservation future. Speakers: Branden Barber, CEO, Rainforest Rescue <i>Abstract: Expecting the Unexpected – From Cane to Conservation.</i> James Brazill-Boast, Principal Ecologist, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust <i>Abstract: Demonstrating biodiversity outcomes of private land conservation.</i> Tim Hughes, Director, South Endeavour Trust <i>Abstract: Private rainforest restoration on the Atherton Tablelands.</i> Vallerina Aspro, Ranger, Vernon Bellou, Ranger & Nyangumarta Aboriginal Corporation Jake Muller, Men’s Ranger Coordinator, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation <i>Abstract: Assessment of cat management by Nyangumarta rangers.</i> Nicole Sherriff, Conservation Programs Manager, Tasmanian Land Conservancy <i>Abstract: Enabling Private Land Conservation: Tasmania’s Revolving Fund.</i> Facilitator: Catherine Gallery, Manager Private Land Conservation, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust <i>Land and Water, First Nations, People and Place</i>	2D Masterclass: Mind the Gap - Finding a Shared Language for Nature Action Achieving meaningful nature-positive outcomes depends on our ability to work across sectors and knowledge systems - yet too often, businesses, conservation practitioners, First Nations leaders and policy-makers are speaking different languages. This masterclass brings together real-world case studies of partnerships and projects to explore where cross-sector collaboration has worked, how it can falter, and what we can learn from these experiences. Through diverse perspectives and facilitated, hands-on conversations, participants will help identify the key concepts and shared language we need to unlock more effective, respectful, and inclusive action for people, culture, and Country. Speakers: Cass Hunter, Economic Development and Policy Manager, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, Rachel Morgain, University of Melbourne, Lili Pechey, NAB <i>Abstract: Aligning nature-related reporting to Caring for Country.</i> Marnie following up to confirm Dea Marshall, Coorong Project Facilitators: Ash Knop, CEO, Wilderlands Melissa Cutler, Nature Finance Lead, Australian Land Conservation Alliance <i>Economics and Finance, Land and Water</i> Location: Plenary Room 2

Location: Plenary Room 1	
2:20pm – 2:50pm	Afternoon tea Weaving Circle: Collaborative weaving with Aunty Kija – connect with land, spirit, and creativity to contribute to a collective artwork that bridges the national NRM, ALCA and Landcare conferences.
2:55pm – 3:55pm	Plenary 2 The Great Debate - Conservation is just for old people Is conservation stuck in the past—or is it the future’s greatest calling? In this lively intergenerational showdown, young voices and seasoned advocates debate conservation’s enduring power, evolving potential, and whether it needs a reboot to stay relevant. Expect sharp insights, radical takes, and a few laughs as we unpack what conservation really means in a changing world—and who it’s for. Speakers: Affirmative team: Monique Jeffs , Community Organiser, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre Kurt Jones , CEO, Co-Exist Mackenna Minstrell , Future Leader, Climate 200 Negative team: Bruce McGregor , Sam Murray , CEO, Indigenous Desert Alliance James Hattam Facilitator/ Adjudicator: MC Sean Dooley <i>Future Leaders</i> Location: Trinity Room
3:55pm – 4:15pm	Day one wrap up Location: Trinity Room
6:30pm – 10:30pm	Conference dinner – Visionary leadership Network with old friends and new connections and celebrate the work of the land conservation sector, its partners and supporters over dinner and drinks. Hear remarks from a global keynote speaker and ALCA leadership. MC Sean Dooley Jody Gunn , CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance Chandni Navalkha , Director of Conservation and Stewardship at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Keynote Dinner Speaker: Chief Anne Richardson , Rappahannock Tribe
Thursday 9 October 2025	
7:30am – 9:00am	Policy Breakfast This high-impact, in-demand session brings policy out of the ivory tower and onto the ground. Join key policy thinkers and doers for a deep dive into the latest Federal, State, and Territory policy developments shaping conservation in Australia. It’s your chance to influence ALCA’s policy agenda, get the inside scoop on what’s happening across jurisdictions, and walk away with actionable knowledge to power your conservation efforts.

	Opening remarks: Anjali Nelson, General Manager, New Initiatives, GreenCollar Speaker: Michael Cornish, Policy Lead, Australian Land Conservation Alliance Location: Plenary Rooms 1 & 2 <i>Policy pathways</i>
9:15am – 9:30am	Day Two Open Location: Trinity Room
9:30am – 10:30am	Plenary 3 Beyond the View: Tourism as a Nature Ally What happens when the tourism industry puts nature at the heart of its business? This plenary explores how iconic landscapes and experiences can move beyond being just destinations, to being drivers of economic and ecological value. Hear from industry and First Nations leaders reimagining tourism as a force for good, tackling structural barriers to unlocking its full potential, and building a national vision where investing in nature means investing in our future. Speakers: Melanie Anderson, General Manager for Policy and Advocacy, Queensland Tourism Industry Council Johnny Murison, Owner/Operator, Jarramali Rock Art Tours Robyn Nixon, General Manager, Special Projects, Intrepid Travel Mark Olsen, CEO, Tourism Tropical North Queensland Facilitator: James Hewitt, Chief Strategy Officer, Australian Wildlife Conservancy <i>People and Place, Economics and Finance</i> Location: Trinity Room
10:30am – 11:15am	Plenary 4 Straight Talk: Leaders in the Hot Seat Four peak bodies. Four leaders. One roving panel. In this hot-seat session, leaders from ALCA, the Indigenous Desert Alliance, Landcare Australia, and NRM Regions Australia take on tough questions from both the stage and the floor. Expect a provocative conversation that tackles power, wealth, and access in conservation, and the disturbing prospect of ecological collapse. Travelling across three major conferences, this roving panel will bring frank debate and diverse perspectives on how we scale our current actions and innovations in a way that addresses planetary and societal challenges. Speakers: Kate Andrews, CEO, NRM Regions Australia Jody Gunn, CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance Anna Hooper, Non Executive Director, Landcare Australia Sam Murray, CEO, Indigenous Desert Alliance Facilitator: MC Sean Dooley <i>People and Place, Land and Water, Policy pathways</i> Location: Trinity Room
11:15am – 11:45am	Morning tea Weaving Circle: Collaborative weaving with Auntie Kija – connect with land, spirit, and creativity to contribute to a collective artwork that bridges the national NRM, ALCA and Landcare conferences.

	First Nations Marketplace: Dive into the First Nations Marketplace! A vibrant showcase of First Nations creativity, art, and culture, giving you the perfect chance to bring home a special memento from Cairns/Gimuy and support local creators.	
11:50am – 1:10pm	Concurrent series 3	
3A Quickfire: Nature on the Ledger: Carbon, Markets & Metrics Markets, finance and data are reshaping how we value and invest in nature. In this rapid-fire session, hear from experts driving innovation in markets, carbon-smart conservation, and the indicators that help measure what matters. Speakers: Amy Basnett , Head of Programs – Environmental Markets and Standards, Eco-Markets Australia <i>Abstract: Australia Stacking Nature: Driving Private Investment into Biodiversity.</i> Kate Dodds , Group Technical Officer, Corporate Carbon <i>Abstract: Combining nature refuges with environmental markets, particularly carbon</i> Micaela Jemison , Policy Coordinator, Climateworks Centre <i>Abstract: Financing Nature to Scale Local Conservation Impact.</i> Jamie Woods , Chair, Nari Nari Tribal Council, Tanya Pritchard , Senior Manager, Koala Recovery and Landscape Restoration, WWF-Australia <i>Abstract: Revolving Finance with Koala Friendly Carbon.</i> Jamie Woods , Chair, Nari Nari Tribal Council Speakers: Mark Pawsey , CEO, AgCarE <i>Abstract: AgCarE: Farming Smarter, Greener, Stronger.</i> Cathy Waters , Head of Science, & Silas Darnell , Program Manager (R & D), GreenCollar <i>Abstract: Conserving landscapes and verifying environmental stewardship.</i> Chalika Rangani , Student, Deakin University <i>Abstract: Comparing Ecological Impacts of Holistic Grazing Management.</i> Sarah Luxton , Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CSIRO <i>Abstract: Leading indicators for soil carbon and biodiversity.</i> Facilitator: Daniel Sheedy , Director – Outreach and Engagement, Environment Policy, Regions and Markets, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water <i>Economics and Finance, Land and Water</i>		3B Lessons in Landholder Engagement From wetlands to woodlands, conservation on private land thrives when landholders feel connected, supported, and empowered. This panel brings together fresh insights from national studies and grassroots programs to explore what drives landholder engagement in conservation, and will draw on findings from readiness surveys, messaging experiments, Tasmania’s Land for Wildlife program, conservation covenant entry journeys, and incentives like tenders and reverse auctions. We’ll unpack the motivations, barriers, and communication strategies that shape landholder decisions, highlight the power of trust and nature-connectedness, and share practical tools and lessons for building lasting partnerships across Australia’s conservation landscape. Speakers: Deborah Metters , Regional Coordinator Land for Wildlife, Second Nature Environmental Services <i>Abstract: Conservation covenantees need trust and nature-connectedness.</i> Phil Wise , Land For Wildlife Coordinator (South), Tasmanian Land Conservancy <i>Abstract: Bringing Nature Home - Tasmanian Land for Wildlife.</i> Melissa Wartman , Senior Research Fellow, RMIT Centre for Nature Positive Solutions <i>Abstract: Exploring Australian Landholders’ Readiness to Restore Coastal Wetlands.</i> Corinne Proske , CEO, Trust for Nature <i>Abstract: Partnerships for Protection - Covenants in the Patho Plains.</i> Shu Chen , PhD Candidate, The University of Queensland <i>Abstract: Enhancing Communication to Support Landholders’ Covenant Journey.</i> Charmaine Foley , CEO, Linda Minniecon , Director, & Jasmin Minniecon Director, Urannah Properties Association Facilitator: Liz O’Brien , CEO, QTFN <i>People and Place, Land and Water</i> Location: Meeting Rooms 9 & 10

Location: Trinity Room		
3C Many Hands for Healthy Land: Stories of Collaboration Collaboration is at the heart of effective conservation. This panel highlights powerful examples of partnerships driving nature repair across Australia—from grassroots to national scale. Hear how community-led initiatives, Aboriginal landholder programs, and innovative finance programs are restoring landscapes, protecting biodiversity, and building climate resilience. From a Nature Repair pilot in Tasmania’s Derwent Catchment to cultural fire training on Wiradjuri Country, fish habitat restoration in the tropics, catchment-scale rehydration and cultural conservation in NSW, and an Australian-first sustainability-linked loan driving species protection, these case studies show how trust, shared goals, and local leadership are scaling impact. Speakers: Carolyn Hall , CEO & Managing Director, Mulloon Institute <i>Abstract: Landscape rehydration, scaling drought resilience.</i> Colleen Fraser , Principal Aboriginal Engagement Officer, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust <i>Abstract: Investment in Cultural and Biodiversity Conservation.</i> Geoff Collins , Program Manager, OzFish Unlimited <i>Abstract: Scaling up aquatic habitat restoration.</i> Josie Kelman , Managing Director & Principal Environmental Consultant & Eve Lazarus , Director & Principal Environmental Consultant, EnviroDynamics <i>Abstract: Derwent Catchment Project – collaboration for landscape change.</i> Lucy Friend , Environment Manager, North Queensland Airports, Uncle Brian Singleton , Yirrganydji Elder & Daniel Ota , Head of Environmental Markets, ANZ Bank <i>Abstract: Funding Nature Repair Through Sustainability Linked Loans.</i> Facilitator: Marnie Lassen , Sector Development Lead, Australian Land Conservation Alliance <i>People and Place, Land and Water, First Nations</i> Location: Plenary Room 1		3D Masterclass: Beyond habitat: Telling your natural capital story. This masterclass will guide participants through the use of standards-based natural capital accounting to connect conservation investments with measurable environmental, economic, and social outcomes. Using IDEEA Group’s Natural Capital Program Logic, attendees will learn how to define ecosystem assets and services, track changes in condition, and articulate the benefits to people and communities—ultimately building a compelling natural capital story to support funding and decision-making. Speakers: Luke Noble , Principal Scientist, EnviroDNA & John Craig , Director of Strategy & Marketing, & Matt Taylor , Director of Natural Capital, Burnett Mary Regional Group Harry Coleman , Project Manager, EnviroDNA & Lindsey Davies , Caring for Country Lead, Indigital <i>Abstract: Using eDNA to inform Natural Capital Accounts.</i> Melissa Sinclair , General Manager, APN Cape York Facilitators Carl Obst , Director and co-founder, IDEEA Group <i>Economics and Finance, Land and Water</i> Location: Plenary Room 2
1:10pm – 2:10pm	Lunch Weaving Circle: Collaborative weaving with Auntie Kija – connect with land, spirit, and creativity to contribute to a collective artwork that bridges the national NRM, ALCA and Landcare conferences.	

	First Nations Marketplace: Dive into the First Nations Marketplace! A vibrant showcase of First Nations creativity, art, and culture, giving you the perfect chance to bring home a special memento from Cairns/Gimuy and support local creators. ALCA's Nature Podchat Bring your lunch for a friendly chat about the ABC's podcast Saving the Franklin. Just like you would for a Book Club, listen to the podcast before you come to the conference, and then join others in a casual setting to share your reflections. ALCA's chair Vic Marles will lead discussions that will explore the history of Australia's conservation movement, lessons learned through the Franklin campaign, and what all that translates to for Australian conservationists today. Location: Plenary 1
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Plenary 5 Catalysing Nature Action Through Better Communication In a time of crisis fatigue, misinformation, and a changing media landscape, how do we cut through the noise to mobilise action for nature? This plenary explores how we can build smarter, more inclusive communications that connect with people's values, lived experiences, and hopes for the future. It also marks the launch of the Nature Media Centre—a new national hub to amplify powerful storytelling about Australia's natural world and those working to protect it. Together, we'll unpack the challenges and spotlight the opportunities to shift public narratives and build momentum for nature. Speakers: Michael Dahlstrom, Environment Editor, Yahoo News Australia Tracey Ferrier, Project Manager, Nature Media Centre Clancy Lester, Owner and Director, BeesandBlossoms.Aus Talicia Minniecon, CEO & Founder, Mob Made Media Facilitator: Erin Farley, Director, Nature Media Centre <i>People and Place, First Nations, Future Leaders</i> Location: Trinity Room
3:20pm – 3:45pm	Closing Keynote Peter Garrett, Environmentalist, activist, former politician and Australian musician Facilitator: MC Sean Dooley
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Conference close Location: Trinity Room
4:00pm	Afternoon tea First Nations Marketplace: Dive into the First Nations Marketplace! A vibrant showcase of First Nations creativity, art, and culture, giving you the perfect chance to bring home a special memento from Cairns/Gimuy and support local creators.
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Screening: Eat the invaders (coordinated by NAILSMA) Join the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) for an episode of ABC's Eat The Invaders, followed by an Indigenous panel discussion on invasive species management. Location: Salt House, Shop 6/2 Pierpoint Road, Cairns City

Field trips**Field trip 1 | Restoration of Tropical Forests in the Daintree**

Coordinated by Wet Tropics Management Authority

This full day field trip offers delegates the opportunity to visit the Daintree region and learn about collaborative restoration efforts taking place across the Wet Tropics. The day will include site visits that highlight the role of Traditional Owners and Ranger Groups, and organisations undertaking restoration, in developing approaches to scaling up restoration in the Wet Tropics. Participants will gain insights into restoration on private land, Traditional Owner led restoration, novel socio-economic approaches to driving green investment, and broader regional partnerships supporting long-term environmental and community outcomes.

Time: 7:00am – 6:00pm (includes travel to and from CCC)

Field trip 2 | Atherton Tablelands Field Trip – the success of Wildlife Corridors and Wildlife Crossings in a fragmented tropical rainforest landscape Atherton Tablelands

Coordinated by Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and South Endeavour Trust

This all day field trip will provide an in depth look at the contribution that private land conservation is making to protecting the natural values of the endangered high altitude rainforests of the Atherton Tablelands and their unique fauna. Delegates will meet with: the Mamu Rangers; TREAT, the legendary local tree planting group that has achieved so much over the past 40 years; and the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund, whose payments for carbon and biodiversity co-benefits is financing a major scaling up of restoration efforts. Delegates will visit two major private wildlife corridor projects reconnecting key sections of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, to showcase both tree planting and privately constructed wildlife crossings. Delegates will see the progression from exotic pasture grasses to functional, but still young, rainforest and be able to compare this side by side to remnant rainforest. Delegates will also hear about the incredible success of wildlife crossings which have included some totally unexpected surprises.

Time: 7:30am – 5:30pm (includes travel to and from CCC)

Field trip 3 | Land, Leadership and Long-Term Thinking: A Visit to C4's Conservation Projects on the Cassowary Coast

Coordinated by Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4)

Join Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) for an immersive field trip through the Wet Tropics, exploring how innovative funding, community partnerships, and restoration projects are shaping a new conservation economy. This small-group experience will take ALCA delegates from Cairns to Mission Beach, with site visits to two active conservation projects: Gurrbum Nature Refuge and Lot 66, properties jointly acquired and managed by C4 and Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN). At these sites, participants will walk through restored rainforest habitat and hear firsthand how C4 is financing long-term conservation—via Terrain's Cassowary Credits Program, a new Square by Square philanthropy model, and the development of an onsite production nursery to scale revegetation and fund land management. The nursery also supports C4's broader mission to create local employment, train future leaders, and build long-term pathways into conservation. The visit continues to C4's Mission Beach Environment Centre, where delegates will explore the arboretum, nursery, and beach landscape, and engage in honest discussion around what's worked, what hasn't, and what's next. This field trip offers a grounded, practical look at how regional partnerships and nature-based solutions can drive systemic change.

Time: 7:30am – 5:30pm (includes travel to and from CCC)

Field trip 4 | Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel

Experience the Great Barrier Reef with fellow ALCA25 delegates on a Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel tour. Visit two premium outer reef sites with smaller groups, guided by Marine Biologists and First Nations Cultural Guides who share deep ecological knowledge and stories passed down through generations. Snorkel vibrant coral reefs, join a guided snorkel tour suited to your experience level, or upgrade to a dive. With easy water access and a strong cultural focus, this unforgettable experience offers a meaningful connection to Sea Country and the Reef's rich marine life. Don't miss this chance to connect

deeply with the Reef – ecologically, culturally, and professionally – as part of the ALCA25 experience in Cairns.

Time: 7:45am – 5:00pm (meet at Marlin Marina)

Field trip 5 | Yirrganydji-led tree planting for wetland restoration.

Hosts - Cairns Airport and Mangrove Solutions Pty Ltd

Squeezed between public roads and a diverse mangrove wetland, an abandoned cane paddock is undergoing ecological restoration through a collaborative effort between Cairns Airport, Yirrganydji Traditional Custodians, and the local Council. This initiative aims to reprofile the land to reinstate tidal flows, promoting passive recruitment of marine plants. Active site management will also tackle pest infestations and illegal dumping.

Funded by Cairns Airport under an agreement with the State Government, the project aims to counterbalance the environmental impact of marine plant disturbance caused by airport development. It is the first project of its kind under the Environmental Offsets Act 2014, setting a precedent for future offset projects as scrutiny around financial offsets intensifies. This field trip offers a unique opportunity to witness the restoration in progress, learn about the cultural significance of marine plants to Yirrganydji People, and contribute to revegetation efforts through tree planting. It promises to be an insightful case study in collaborative conservation and environmental stewardship.

Time: 8:30am – 11:30am (includes travel to and from CCC)