



c/o Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
By email: jsct@aph.gov.au

18 March 2021

Dear Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

RE: *FTA between Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the *Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. Our singular, key recommendation relates to revising language in Chapter 22 (Environment) of the treaty to align with Australian and British commitments made under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

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

About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance

ALCA represents Australia's leading land restoration and conservation organisations working with landholders on privately owned and managed land across Australia. Together, ALCA's members represent a substantial and growing voice in Australia's land management sector. Our eleven members are:

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- Nature Foundation
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- South Endeavour Trust
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Trust for Nature (Victoria)

ALCA 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 we work to support some of the most pressing conservation issues across the country – including invasive species and managing national environmental biosecurity threats, restoring endangered ecosystems, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and building the protected area estate.

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.

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.



Recommendations

ALCA has one key recommendation that relates to Chapter 22 (Environment) of the treaty:

1. The language in Article 22.13, 2(b) should be aligned with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use¹ as declared on 2 November 2011 at the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (COP26) and endorsed by both the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Currently 2(b) reads:

"halting deforestation and forest degradation, including with respect to trade in commodities related to those activities;"

Whereas the language in the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration reads:

"We therefore commit to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation"

ALCA therefore recommends that the language in 2(b) be revised as follows to align with – and reflect – each country's existing commitment under the Declaration:

*"halting **and reversing** deforestation and forest degradation, including with respect to trade in commodities related to those activities"*

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input to the Committee's inquiry. If you have questions regarding the submission, please do not hesitate to contact ALCA via [REDACTED] (Mr Michael Cornish).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jody Gunn
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Land Conservation Alliance

¹ See: <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>