

LCV 2025 Annual Report

Land Covenantors Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Victoria and their deep connections to land, water and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We recognise that covenantors also act as stewards and that Country is central to our common future.

The foundation and establishment of LCV since late 2021 is extraordinary and there are many stakeholders to whom we owe our existence. Jim from Rendere provided the kernel of the organisation, the piece from which we have grown. Louise has coordinated and administrated our ecosystem, leaving us with big feet and strong legs. Fiona, our inaugural secretary, has overseen with competence and diplomacy, nudging us towards better governance. Gavin has provided robust governance and process and given us a set of documents we can hang our hat on. There is Diana, Corey, Penny, Gavin and Gavin, Rob, Peter and Peter, Clive, Barry and Sian. Thank you all. And there is also room for you – new members, friends and supporters.

In 2024 we developed a strategic plan, an action plan, and a member support plan. These three key documents align our mission, objectives, and rules. We now have one of the best organisational structures I have come across: an independent, volunteer-run, member-focussed, not-for-profit organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient status, focussed on the land, for the land, by committed people. Our core value proposition places stewardship of private land conservation as a purpose for ownership. This purpose depends on citizens working, stewarding, and investing in land and all it supports, including biodiversity, carbon cycles, habitat for species, and protecting the primary source of value to life on Earth.

So how do we motivate more citizens to engage and for all tiers of government to recognise this critical contribution? The answer is found in our strategy, our mission, and our members.

Our AGM is on October 6th, and we welcome you at the Royal Society Victoria, Melbourne, in person or on Zoom. If you are interested in contributing to land stewardship, come along, join us and become an active member – it is free. We need volunteers, we need land, and we need people. We need to radically turn land towards conservation, habitat, carbon sinks and ecosystems to preserve biodiversity in our corner of ~~on~~ the planet.

The urgency is clear. The recently published Climate Risk Assessment highlights Victoria's risks of reduced primary production yield and ecosystem degradation. Now is the time to protect and restore ecosystems, to conserve land to support neighbouring production. Now is the time to recognise that a barbed-wire fence defines only a shift in economic incentives, rules and outdated legislation. Now is the time for land conservation to be recognised as vital to our wellbeing, equal in importance to primary production. Your support enables us to support people looking after land for conservation purposes.

We have a grand plan to help government meet its ambition on the ground, across land and in Country.

Membership continued to grow during the year, supported by a new information management database that underpins coordination, newsletters, and website updates. We advanced recognition of covenanting in Council rates and taxes, working to standardise communication and our approach for council rebates, embedding our rebate map with partners, and providing guidance to landholders on land tax outcomes. There is work to be done here across all levels of government. Governance was strengthened with adoption of several policies, and further work on access, data protections, and competency-based governance. Funding readiness improved with confirmation of Deductible Gift Recipient status, the GiveNow pathway, and a 12-month plan that includes membership contributions, sponsorships, and a potential future investment fund.

My thanks to the committee, volunteers, members, partners, and friends for sustaining our advocacy and strengthening our voice for private land conservation in Victoria. Looking ahead, in 2026 we will be advocating for better covenantor recognition and building financial independence to secure LCV's long-term voice. We are four years young with a great foundation and good governance, with some roles still to be filled and a clear plan to ensure we remain a strong, independent, and effective voice for private land conservation in Victoria.

Peter Mulherin

President LCV