

British Columbia's Agricultural Land Commission



Kim Grout, CEO
Agricultural Land Commission

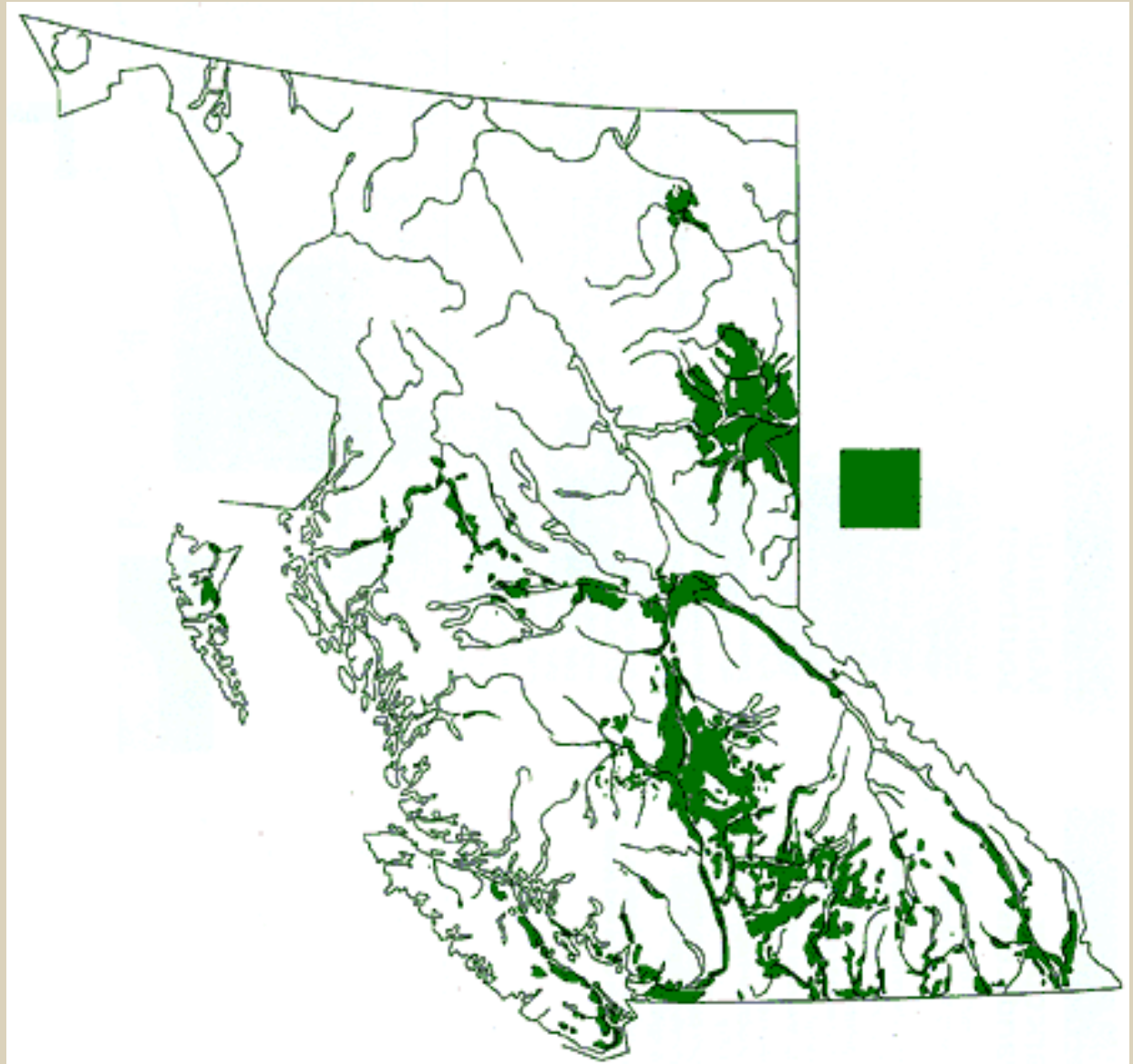
September 20, 2017

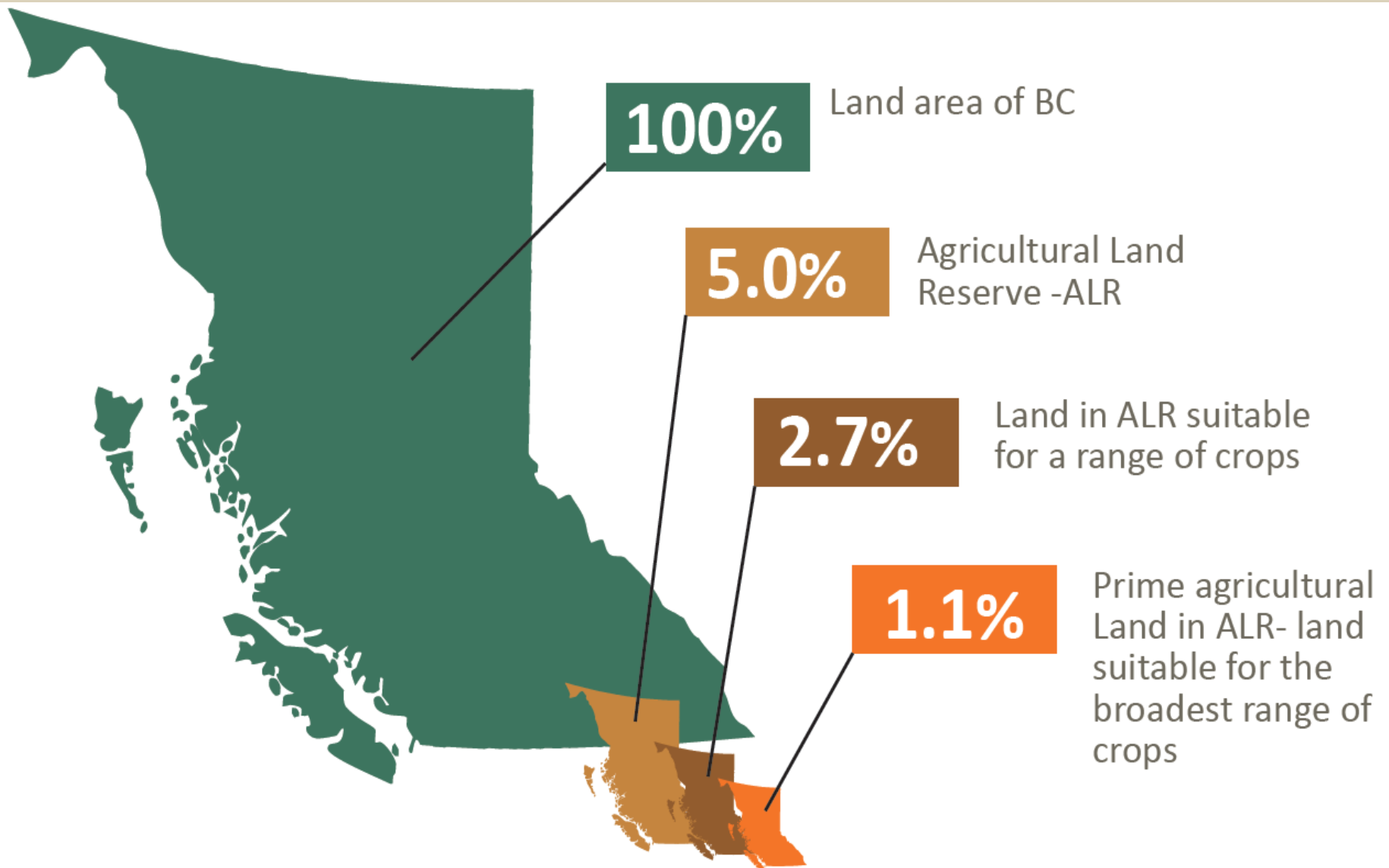
An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are green fields, a river, and a small farmstead with several buildings. A road and a railway line run through the middle ground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

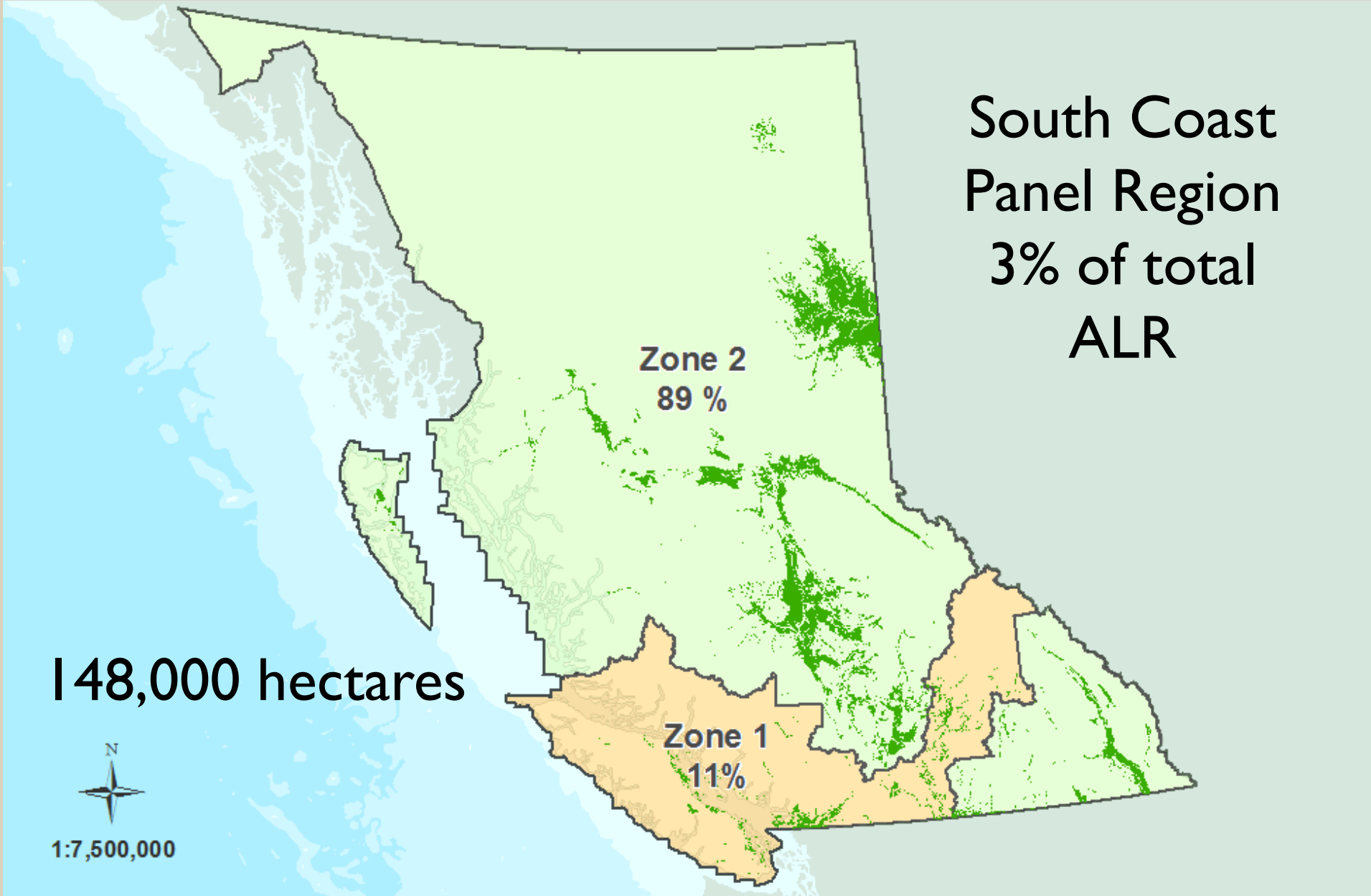
The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

**A provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use.
Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are restricted.**

The ALR
is a finite
resource.
Only
5%
of the
Province





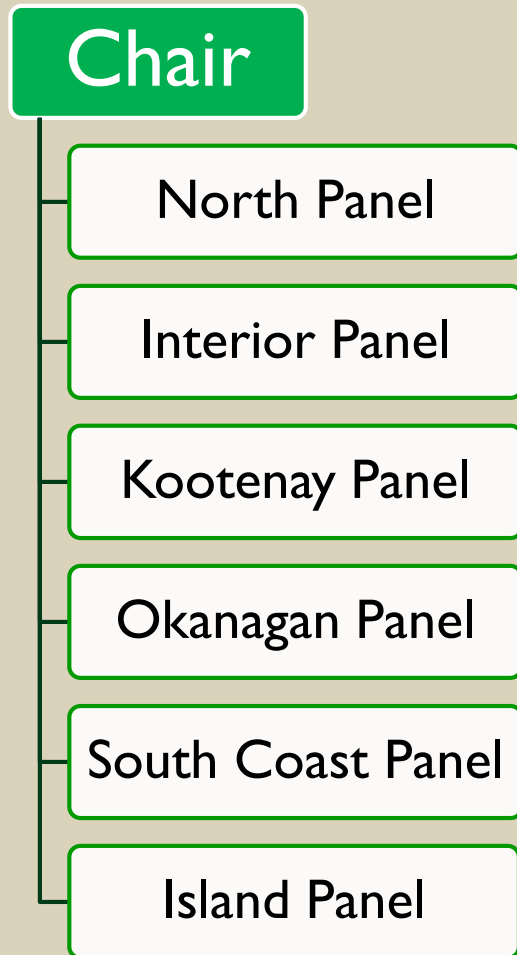


Agricultural Land Commission

- ALC is an independent administrative tribunal
- Carries out mandate set out in ALC Act
- Interprets & applies the legislation written by gov't



ALC Governance Model



Full Commission = 19 members

Regional Panels = 1 Vice Chair + 2 Commissioners

Executive Committee = Chair + 6 Vice Chairs

Chair

Chair Oversight – Application Process

Refers all applications

- Region Panel
- Executive Committee (EC)

Reviews all panel
decisions
(within 60 days)

- Re-affirms decision
- Directs EC to reconsider



Operational Changes

- Monthly Panel and Executive Committee meetings
- New application processing targets

Performance Indicator	2016/17 Actual	Target
Percent of Applications processed in 60 business days	65%	90%
Percent of Applications processed in 90 business days	92%	100%

- Working to increase engagement with regional and municipal governments
- Development of more comprehensive compliance & enforcement program

Local Government Partners

- Local governments, regional and municipal, are partners in agricultural land preservation
- First step in application process (Sec 34 *ALCA*)
- Regulate land use and issue permits for lands in the ALR
- Work together to achieve compliance

75% of the ALR is under local government jurisdiction

ALC Act vs Local Government Act

- We have concurrent jurisdiction – must comply with both;
- S. 46(3) of ALCA

“nothing in this Act affects or impairs the validity of local government bylaw relating to the use of agricultural land in the ALR.”

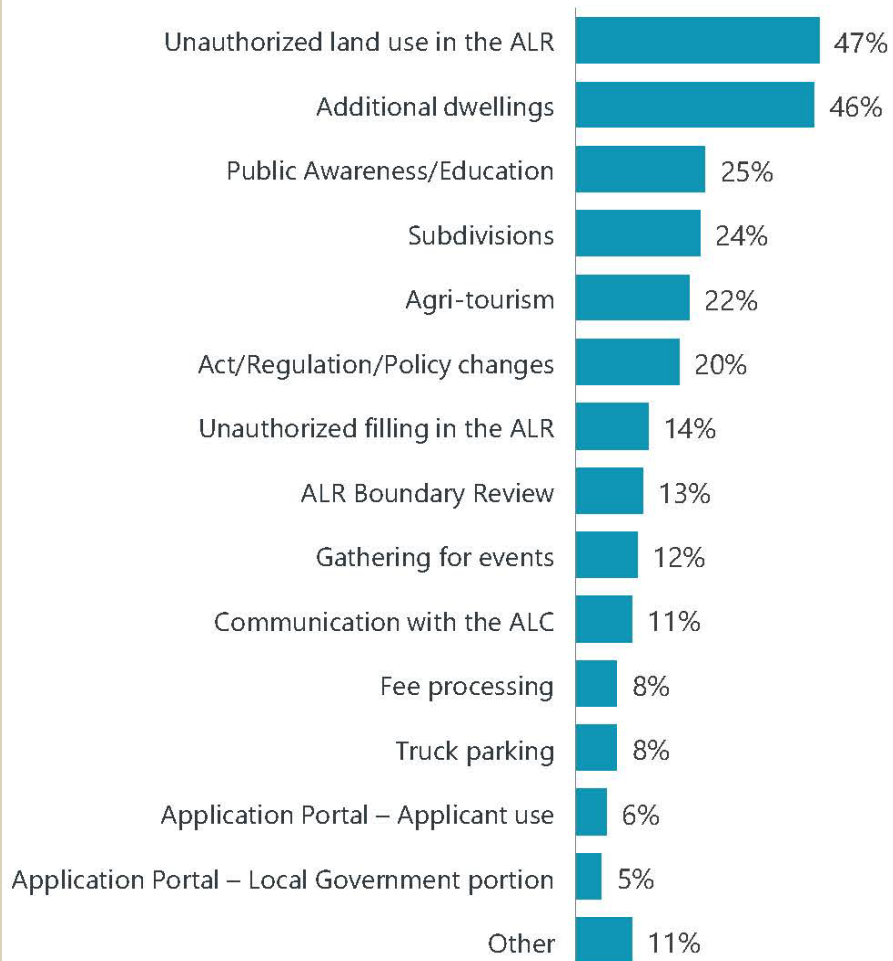
- If local government bylaws inconsistent or in conflict with ALCA, the ALCA prevails

ALR, Use, Subdivision & Procedure Regulation

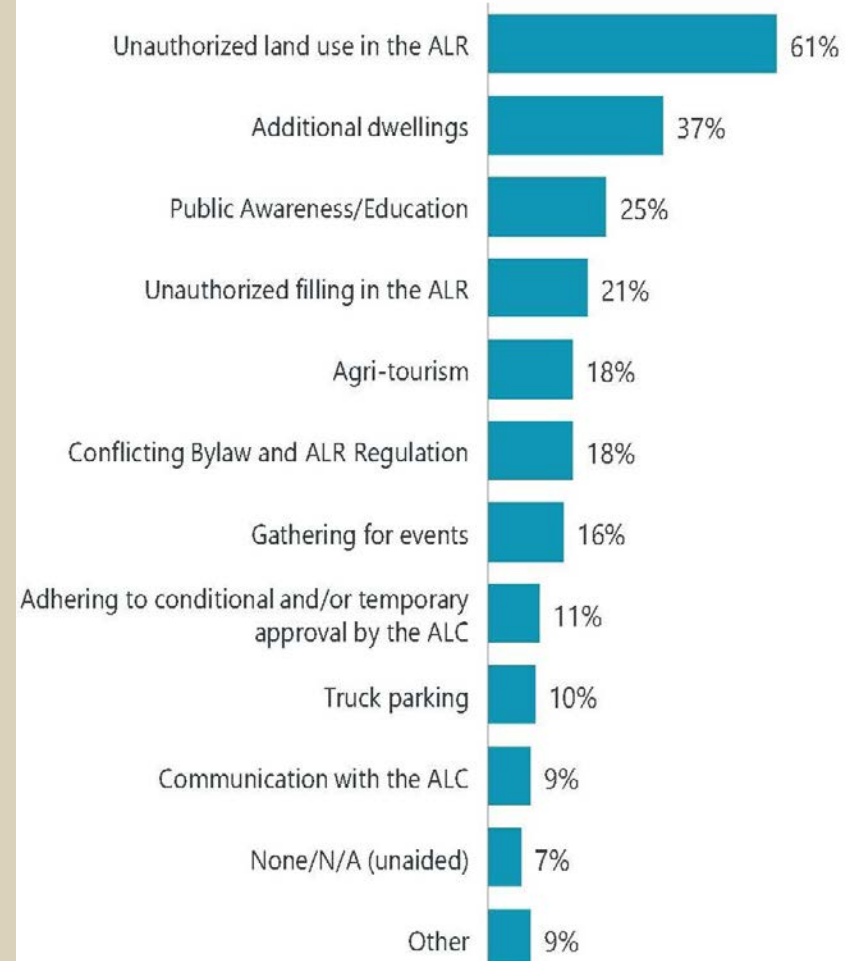
- May not use ALR land for non-farm use unless permitted
- May not subdivide land unless permitted
- Permitted farm and non-farms uses set out in regulation



Top Land Use Planning Challenges

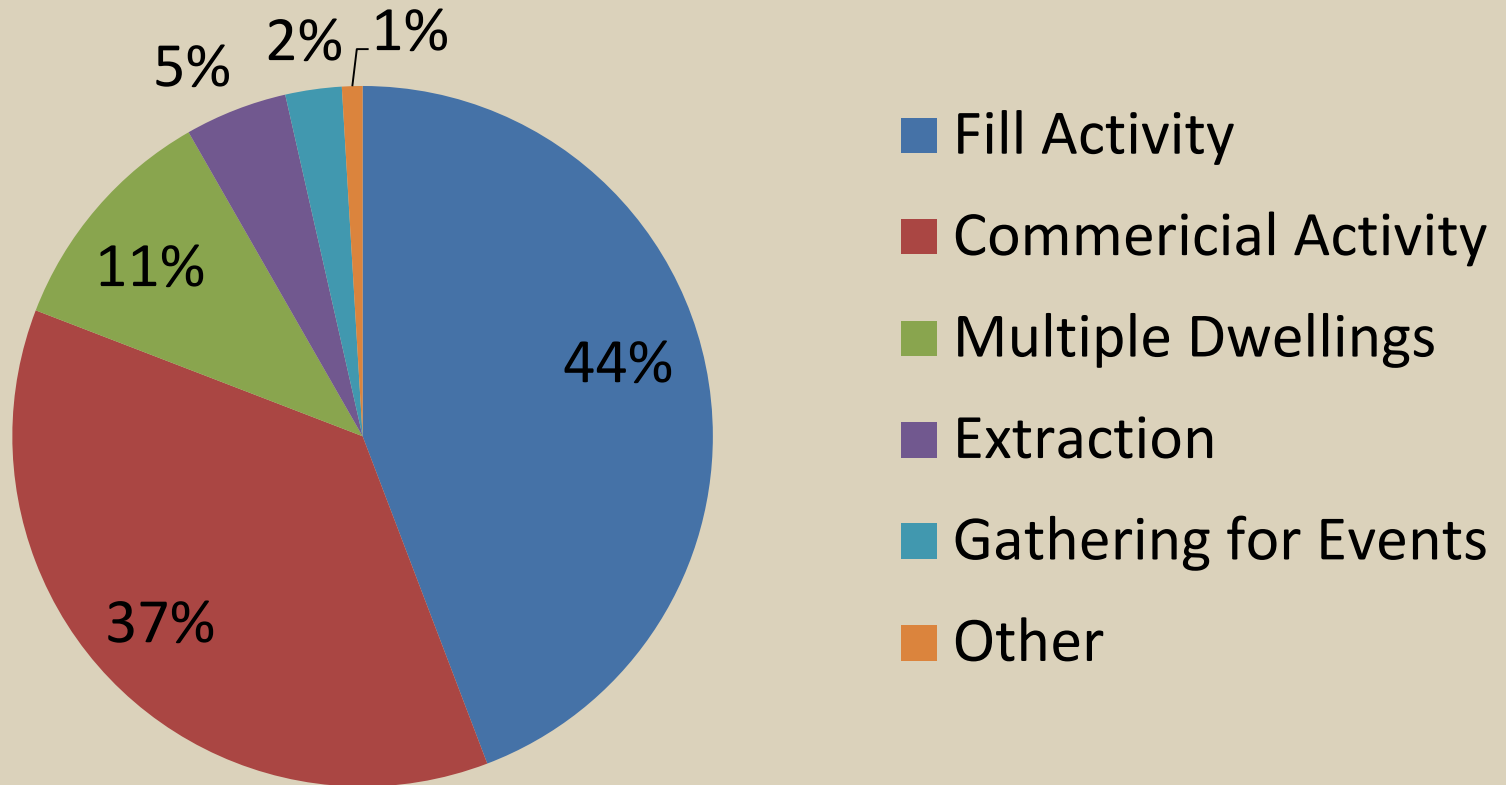


Top Bylaw Enforcement & Compliance Challenges



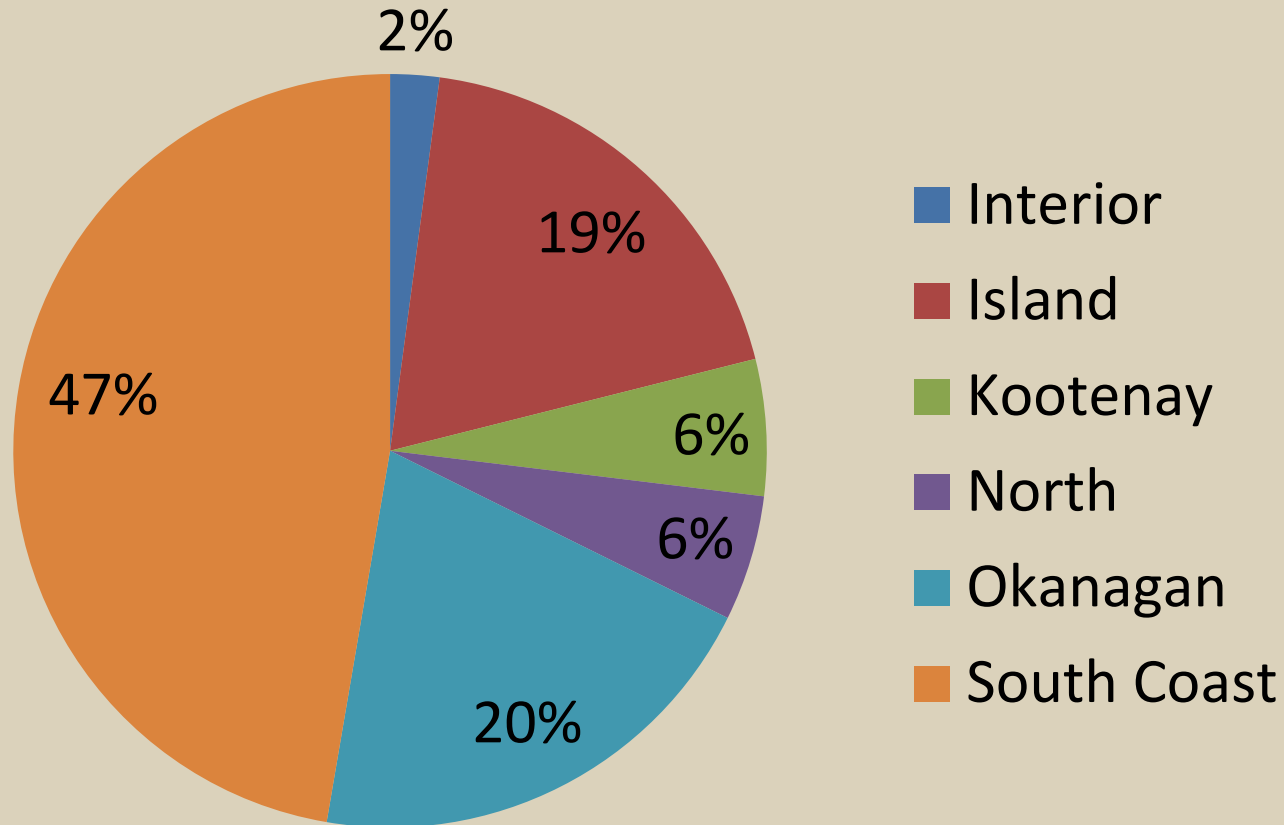
Compliance and Enforcement

2016/17 C&E Files by Type



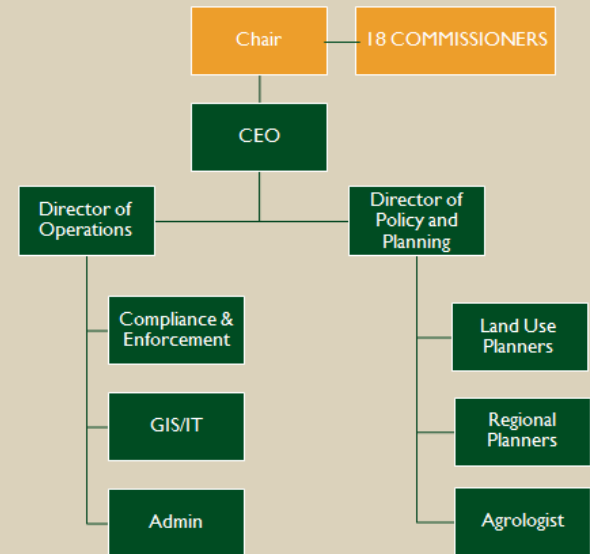
Compliance and Enforcement

C&E Files by Region



Staffing Changes

- 8 new land use planners
- New Manager of Land Use Planning
- New Director of Operations
- New C&E Program Assistant¹
- 5 C&E Officers & 22 NROs
- New Soils Agrologist
- New Office Manager



2016 – Act/Regulation Changes

- Exclusion of land by Commission's own initiative or application by local government
- Agri-tourism redefined
- New Gathering for Events regulation



Agri-Tourism & Event conditions:

- Must be classified a “farm”
- Activities with or without a fee
- No permanent facilities including conversions of existing buildings, permanent alterations to the landscape & construction of parking lots
- Activities to be ancillary to the production of farm product produced on the farm
- Can be regulated but not prohibited by LG

A scenic landscape featuring rolling green hills under a dramatic, cloudy sky. A dirt road winds through the middle ground, leading towards a small farm with a dark barn and other buildings. The foreground is filled with tall, vibrant green grass, and a thin wire fence is visible. The overall mood is peaceful and rural.

Thank you