



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Greater Blue Mountains Area
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2000



ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting update November 2017



With a focus on destination branding, tourism and visitation, the November 2017 meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee was held at Blackheath. Members and guests experienced a guided tour through the recently revitalised Grand Canyon Walking Track. The Committee congratulated the NPWS Blue Mountains Walking Track team for their extraordinary work and passion that is evident in the beauty of this lovingly restored iconic walk.

They also visited the Grand Canyon Exhibition at the NPWS Blue Mountains Heritage Centre and commend all involved in bringing the evocative and important story to print so that many more can experience the grandeur of the Canyon.

Louise Clifton presented the current NPWS Blue Mountains tourism program, Patricia Lane-Gonzales from Blue Mountains City Council introduced the recently endorsed Destination Management Plan for the Blue Mountains and Rosalie Chapple Director Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute shared the pilot project for training with Scenic World. The Committee resolved to support the development of a proposed GBMWA Tourism Training/Accreditation program.



The Committee congratulated the NPWS for the recent announcement of the certification of the Blue Mountains National Park as an Ecotourism Destination, a destination which demonstrates exceptional commitment and responsibility to the local community, the park's natural and cultural values, and sustainable development.

Members prepared a submission to the Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd, Tahmoor South Project EPBC Referral, adjacent to the Thirlmere Lakes National Park, one of eight conservation reserves that make up the GBMWA. The Committee notes that it is essential to consider any significant direct and indirect impacts on World Heritage listed values as is required by section 12 of the EPBC Act. The submission notes that the GBMWA could possibly be affected by groundwater drawdown, especially since the longwalls for Tahmoor South are likely to be larger/wider/higher and would be at about 2.6km from the GBMWA.

The Committee also visited the new NPWS Memorial near Govetts Leap, a place that honours NPWS staff who have lost their lives in the service of the NSW community.

The Advisory Committee acknowledges the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri language groups as the traditional custodians of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Representatives of those who share connection to Country form the GBMWA Aboriginal Reference Group who meet regularly to provide advice to the Advisory Committee.

The GBMWA Advisory Committee is made up of scientific, technical, Aboriginal and community members appointed by the State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers. The [Strategic Plan](#) for the Area is used by the Committee to guide its operations and in providing advice to those Ministers regarding issues relevant to the Area.

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly in different locations around the million hectares of spectacular national parks and reserves that comprise the GBMWA, recognised and protected for its outstanding universal values.

For more information contact the World Heritage Executive Officer
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