

National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting summaries 2 November and 24-25 November 2020

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council provides the Minister for Energy and Environment and the NPWS executive with independent, informed advice on a wide range of issues impacting national parks.

Council held an online out-of-session meeting on 2 November followed by its first face to face meeting, since COVID-19 restrictions, in Jindabyne 24 - 25 November.

Leases and Licenses

Council provided advice to the Minister on the proposed new lease to:

- Transgrid for an electrical substation in Kosciuszko National Park to provide power for Snowy 2.0, and
- Selwyn Snow Resort.

Plans of management

Council provided advice to the Minister on the draft plans of management for the:

- Doodle Comer Swamp Nature Reserve, and
- Blue Mountains National Park (accessibility improvements).

Discussion and reports

- **Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP)** and park management issues/challenges across Southern Ranges NPWS Branch
- **Budget stimulus** for NPWS with 300 new field officer roles and investment in weed work to commence from 1 January 2021
- **Legislative amendments** in response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry
- **New NPWS Ecological Risk Management Team** will drive the identification of the most significant ecological and cultural assets in the national park estate (with dedicated funding over five years)
- **Revocations Bill** progress through Parliament
- **NPWS priorities** including pest and weed control, acquisitions, and post-fire recovery (including visitor infrastructure and fire trails)
- **Building staff resilience** following an ecological and socially impactful year
- Council's **strategic forward plan**
- Activities of **NPWS Regional Advisory Committees**.

Council membership

- NPWS Executive Director Robert Quirk acknowledged the efforts of departing Council members – Dr Tracey Dickson, Mrs Marie Russell AM and Dr Kevin Mills – and thanked them for their positive contributions.

Site Visit

Council inspected potential sites for activation within Kosciuszko National Park.



NPWS Principal Project Officer Anthony Evans briefing Council at Island Bend, Kosciuszko National Park

More information www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NPWS/NPWSAdvisoryCouncil.html

Council members

Assoc Prof Tracey J Dickson
(Acted as chair): Expertise and experience in ecotourism or the sustainable visitor or tourist use, enjoyment and appreciation of reserves.

Assoc Prof Rosemary Black:
Expertise and experience in environmental education and community involvement in environmental education.

Mr Brian Everingham: Expertise in non-government organisations concerned with the conservation of nature, nominated by NSW National Parks Assoc.

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM:
Experience in planning and local government, nominated by Local Government NSW (for 24 November only).

Assoc Prof Julie Old: Scientific qualifications in an area associated with the conservation of nature.

Ms Cathy Parsons: Expertise and experience in bush fire management.

Ms Bronwyn Petrie: Expertise and experience in agriculture and rural issues, nominated by the NSW Farmers' Association

Mr Ted Rowley: Expertise and experience in rural and regional development and planning issues.

Mr Craig Thomas: Representing peak recreational bodies.

Dr Kevin Mills
NPWS Regional Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).

Mrs Marie Russell AM: NPWS Regional Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).

Ms Dianne Thompson OAM:
Expertise in non-government organisations concerned with the conservation of nature, nominated by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (attended as observer).

Ms Iris White: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).