



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



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



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting update August 2017

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee met at the Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, Oakdale for their August 2017 meeting and were grateful for the warm hospitality from the Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre volunteers.

Local NPWS staff led a field trip for the Committee and guests to see some of the Schedule 1 areas likely to be inundated if the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall proceeds. They heard more about the proposal from Water NSW staff.

The Committee welcomed Shane Smith, acting in the Joint Management Coordinator position and looks forward to the revision of the GBMWA Aboriginal Joint Management Strategic Plan and reformation of the Aboriginal Reference Group.



The Committee heard about the joint prosecution of Centennial Coal by EPA and NPWS under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*; Centennial Coal pleaded guilty to all charges, and have shown concern at the severity of the impact of the spill into the Wollongambe River in July 2016; they spent \$2.5 million on the cleanup.

The Committee supported the proposed NSW Strategic Planning Framework approach to update the GBMWA Strategic Plan to assist in the delivery of the important work in protecting the OUV and other values of the GBMWA.



The Committee noted the AWHAC (Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee) Chair had met with the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy in July 2017 where the Minister committed support for both AWHAC and AWHIN (Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network). The Committee wrote to the Minister expressing its support for AWHAC and AWHIN with a recommendation that AWHIN be re-engaged with a face-to-face meeting.

Archaeologist and guide Michael Jackson, with Gundungurra ILUA Consultative Committee member Aunty Sharyn Halls, shared the significance of a local rock art site with members and guests.

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  
0419 307 099 or [gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au)