



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE FEBRUARY 2018



The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee meeting was held at Wombeyan Caves where members and guests experienced the Fig Tree Cave self-guided tour and a tour through the Wollondilly Cave.

A major focus of the meeting was a workshop for the developing the GBMWA Strategic Management Framework which will replace the [GBMWA Strategic Plan](#) in line with the 10 year review due in 2019.

The Committee received an update on the assessment of additional values of the Greater Blue Mountains for the National Heritage List. It noted the Chair's advice that a national benchmark for Indigenous values for National Heritage listing was not the intention in the drafting of the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) legislation. The Committee were pleased to hear that consultation with stakeholders may commence in the next few months.

The Committee noted the IUCN Conservation Outlook assessment report was live 15 November 2017 and the Greater Blue Mountains was rated as 'good with some concern', the same as for the 2014 report. The NSW and Qld governments raised concerns about the consultation process which did not allow sufficient time for World Heritage property managers to comment on the accuracy of the information in the draft assessments. This was particularly concerning as some of the draft assessments contained significant and numerous factual errors. <https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/explore-sites/wdpaid/220294>

Representatives from Water NSW provided an update on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall and requested further information about inundation modelling for potential impacts on the OUV (Outstanding Universal Value) of the GBMWA, upstream of the Warragamba Dam.

A review of research priorities across the GBMWA was discussed and the Committee agreed to provide further input.



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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