

[Guesthouse Mulla Villa](#) at Wollombi provided a motivating setting for the August 2015 meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee.

Meeting agendas are structured to cover the 10 key issues of the GBMWA Strategic Plan:

- Integrity
- Major impacts
- Biodiversity
- Geodiversity
- Water catchment protection
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape, natural beauty and aesthetic values
- Recreation and visitor use
- Social and economic issues
- Education, community participation and consultation



Advisory Committee members and guests visited Finchley Aboriginal Area, created in 1976 to protect one of the largest and most accessible engraving sites in the region; and are pictured here at the spectacular Finchley Trig lookout, framing Mount Yengo Aboriginal Place in the distance.

Meetings also provide updates on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee, NPWS Regional reports and an out of session opportunity to meet the local community to discuss local issues.

At the August meeting the Advisory Committee resolved to prepare a submission on the South Bates (Wambo Seam) Underground Mine Modification Environmental Assessment and review [Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030](#).

Ian Turnbull, Principal Natural Environment Planner, Cessnock City Council described the citywide economic development strategy; noted environmental protection priorities; how increased awareness of the GBMWA followed identification of coal seam gas proposals; and that the Economic Development Team at Council are investigating ways to further promote the environmental and cultural heritage benefits of the Hunter Region.

Peter Shadie from the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute provided an informative update on current and proposed projects, in particular planning for a national conference on World Heritage.

Doug Benson agreed to edit the Advisory Committee authored-essays to support a well-informed National Heritage List assessment. [Values for a New Generation](#) is now published and available on online:

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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