

The meeting of Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was held at the Glenbrook office, [Blue Mountains National Park](#) on Thursday 9 February, preceded by the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on Wednesday 8 February.

The Committee welcomed and thanked speakers:

Paul Godfrey, NPWS Area Manager for his welcome to the Blue Mountains National Park, the historical and management context with issues such as weeds and pathogens, visitor pressures, urban interface, fire management, ongoing maintenance, orchards and flying foxes for eg.

Steve Meehan, Manager Karst & Geodiversity Unit, NPWS, for his informative presentation on Geodiversity in NSW and Karst Significance Assessments.

Stephen Ryan and Eve Bartolo from Freeman Ryan Design for their update on progress of interpretations in the World Heritage Exhibition as part of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

The Committee noted:

- ✓ Correspondence with Forests NSW and understands the commercial balance between planting pines or natives and recommends that it would be logical to plant native species next to national parks, especially in areas adjacent to world heritage;
- ✓ that the COAG Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW) was established;
- ✓ that OEH recommends that reservation of GOS2 is warranted, but that it has complex issues and will take time to resolve, is working through liaison and discussion with stakeholders, has Ministerial and broad OEH support to keep progressing;
- ✓ the update on the Inquiry into water levels of Thirlmere Lakes.
- ✓ that Deputy Chair Julia James and the Executive Officer attended the inaugural Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa Conservation Forum on 28/11/2011.

Due to major flooding in the area, the Advisory Committee agreed to postpone their planned inspection of the site and heard from NPWS Project Officers Tim Lanyon and Rosie Garthwin about progress of the Glenbrook Visitor Precinct upgrade. The Committee recommended further engagement to provide appropriate messages, partly Welcome to Country, World Heritage brand, World Heritage values and that signage incorporates World Heritage logos where applicable according to the NPWS Signage Manual. The Committee also noted the need to consult with Aboriginal people and the importance of considering the natural and cultural heritage of any new track works.

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
by telephone on (02) 4784 7326 or via email to gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au