

The NSW and Cwth Environment Ministers recently extended members of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee to end December 2015 and appointed three new members. The first meeting was held on Thursday 29 May at the Office of Environment and Heritage, Goulburn Street, Sydney. The Committee was delighted to welcome the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Roza Sage MP Member for Blue Mountains to a part of their meeting.

Seven 'original' members:

Richard Mackay (Chair)  
Doug Benson (Botanical/ecological)  
Glenda Chalker (Indigenous/traditional owner)  
Kevin Duncan (Indigenous/traditional owner)  
Julia James (Water quality/aquatic environment)  
Ann McGrath (Archaeological/cultural heritage)  
Judy Smith (Zoological/ecological)

Are joined by three new members:

Bob Anderson (Outdoor self reliant recreation)  
Tara Cameron (Conservation organisation)  
Dylan Jones (Tourism)

Two local government representatives are yet to be appointed by the Ministers from recommendations made by Local Government NSW.

The main focus of the meeting was progress of the assessment of the Greater Blue Mountains for the [National Heritage List](#), noting the Department of the Environment had received with thanks, copies of the draft theme-based essays, authored by members and former members of the Advisory Committee, with expert advice, referencing and contacts for a range of important additional values including Indigenous culture, geodiversity, aesthetics, historic and contemporary connections and biodiversity.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the updates and advice from:

- ✓ Kristy Lawrie, Team Leader Park Management Planning OEH on the status of the [Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve Draft Plan of Management](#);
- ✓ Vanessa Wilson, Planning, Evaluation and Assessment Team OEH on the State of Parks 2013; and
- ✓ James Lotherington and Rob Nicoll, World Parks Congress Team OEH

The Advisory Committee are enthusiastically supporting the [World Parks Congress](#) in Sydney, 12-19 November 2014 and particularly the [Greater Blue Mountains Experience field trip](#) (8-11 November) showcasing collaborative research, adaptive management and community engagement across some of the spectacular landscapes of the Greater Blue Mountains area.

Advisory Committee members, NPWS Executive Officer and meeting guests from left to right: Chris Tobin, Bob Anderson, Doug Benson, Jacqueline Reid, Minister Stokes, Richard Mackay, Judy Smith, Dylan Jones, Julia James, Tara Cameron, Roza Sage MP and Brad Staggs



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)