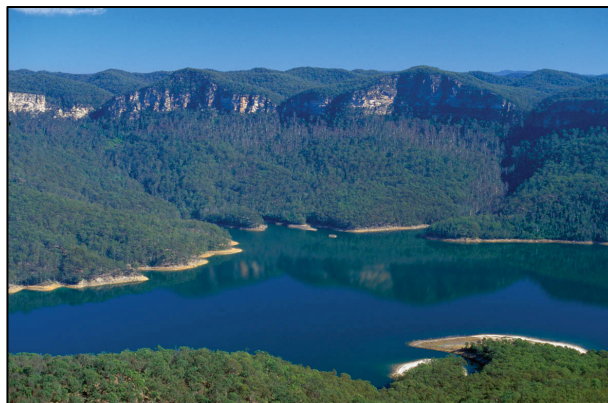


The August 2007 meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was held at Warragamba Dam with a focus on water quality/catchment and pest management issues.

Greg Sheehy, Compliance Manager for the Sydney Catchment Authority, welcomed the Committee and provided a short overview of the Sydney Catchment Authority, its operations and in particular the Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management.



The Committee resolved to recommend that the Australian government pursue boundary variations with the World Heritage Committee, therefore increasing the listed Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to the boundaries of the eight nominated properties as they exist as at 1st July 2007 (ie from 1,032,649ha as originally nominated to 1,069,762ha as recorded at 1st July 2007).

Staff from the Blue Mountains Region were thanked by the Committee for their informative presentations: Glenn Meade (Regional Operations Coordinator) for his presentation on General issues of Fire Management; Bruce Mitchell (Research Officer) for his briefing regarding the Special Area feral pig project; and Chris Banffy (Pest Management Officer) for an overview of pest management issues.

The Committee resolved to write to the NGOs who were involved in the tabling of a petition about the impact of climate change on the GBMWA and seeking its inclusion on the 'World Heritage In Danger' list at the most recent meeting of the World Heritage Committee to invite representatives to meet and discuss their concerns with the Committee.

The proposal regarding the forthcoming Greater Blue Mountains (GBM) Drive project to use information developed for the Northern and Southern Journeys Guide Books be included in a GBM Drive Companion Guide and map was discussed and endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee thanked Peter Sully from the Sydney Catchment Authority for his guided tour of Warragamba Dam.

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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