The Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) met at the Yarramundi on Friday 20 August 2010 and enjoyed the hospitality of the Lutanda Recreation and Conference Centre.

The Committee thanked Donna Johnson and Vicki Lett, NPWS staff for their introduction to the Hawkesbury Area and overview of management issues.

The Chair explained that she accepted an invitation from the Australian Government to attend the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia, Brazil (24 July 3 August) as a cultural advisor to the Australian delegation. She noted that the Australian Convict Sites was included on the World Heritage List at that meeting.

Andrew Growcock, Management Effectiveness Unit, Parks and Wildlife Group provided an overview of the State of the Parks reporting tool used by National Parks and Wildlife Service and how the data can be incorporated into Section II of the Periodic Report, providing almost 60% of the required information.

The Committee resolved to provide comment to the Department of Planning’s World Heritage SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy) discussion paper.

The AC noted the Executive Summary from the Managing for Ecosystem Change project finalised by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute.

The AC visited the Yellomundee Bushcare site, shared a picnic lunch with NPWS staff and the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group and heard about the bush regeneration activities.

It was agreed that the November 2010 meeting of the Advisory Committee would be held on Thursday 18 November at Katoomba to precede the Living Country Culture Camp at The Gully Aboriginal Place, Katoomba.
The GBMWHA 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 GBMWHA, 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