

The first full meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was held at the [Starline Alpacas Farmstay](#), Broke on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August.

Presentations were received from Bryony Horton (NPWS) about the current Bell Miner Associated Dieback Project in conjunction with the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. Professor Peter Read and Julia Torpey (University of Sydney) described their *Deepening Histories* project.

Major issues of discussion included Coal Seam Gas extraction in the Hunter, water level variations at Thirlmere Lakes and the Winmalee Wastewater System Improvement project.



The Committee agreed that Co-management, especially through finalisation and adoption of the GBMWA Co-management Strategic Plan, is one of their key priorities for this term which also includes:

- ✓ Reservation of Gardens of Stone Stage II;
- ✓ The proposed World Heritage SEPP and appropriate regional land-use strategies and planning instrument zonings and provisions for adjacent land;
- ✓ Effective monitoring -- both through the State of Parks process and in terms of implementation of the GBMWA Strategic Plan;
- ✓ Working with BMWHI on application of research related to "managing change";
- ✓ Progressing the National Heritage List re-assessment - there was a suggestion that we should establish subcommittees with particular tasks/drafting responsibilities;
- ✓ Glenbrook Visitor precinct -- contributing to assisting with new visitor services and, hopefully, an appropriate interpretation centre; and
- ✓ Improved community engagement through pre-meeting media coverage, direct meetings and ongoing connections.



Members of the local community met with the Advisory Committee from 5pm and were welcomed by the Chair who gave a brief overview of the GBMWA and the role of the Advisory Committee. Community folk explained that Coal Seam Gas extraction and local access to Wollemi and Yengo National Parks were issues of concern.

The AC and guests enjoyed a visit to the nearby Baiame Cave where member Kevin Duncan explained the significance of the art site.

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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