

Thanks to the hospitality of [Penrith City Council](#) and Alan Stoneham, General Manager, the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) met at Penrith Council offices on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 February 2013.

The main focus of the meeting was the assessment of the Greater Blue Mountains for the [National Heritage List](#) and the Committee agreed to research and write up succinct papers on the values of the World Heritage Area so as to provide the Department and the Council 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:

- ✓ Liz Tasker, OEH on the Fire and Climate Change project;
- ✓ Duncan Scott-Lawson, NPWS who outlined the Enhanced Bushfire Management Program;
- ✓ Bill Dixon, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority who introduced the Local Land Services and proposed boundary changes to CMAs affecting the Greater Blue Mountains;
- ✓ John Merson and Peter Shadie who gave an update on the projects and research of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute; and
- ✓ Randall Walker, Blue Mountains Lithgow Oberon Tourism Ltd who described the Greater Blue Mountains National Landscape as one of Australia's 16 iconic destinations and his enthusiasm for the Blue Mountains Crossings Bicentenary Celebrations.



The Advisory Committee and guests enjoyed a cruise on the [Nepean Belle](#) to appreciate the Blue Mountains National Park, heart of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

At the launch of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in June 2001 at Govetts Leap, the then Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon Senator Robert Hill, stated that the Australian Government would renominate the GBMWA for the World Heritage List for its Indigenous cultural values at some time in the future, providing that there was enough evidence to indicate a likely listing by the World Heritage Committee. This reflected the decision by the World Heritage Committee, when it considered the nomination in November 2000, that there was not at that time enough evidence to support World Heritage listing for Indigenous cultural values.

Since then, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act has been amended to establish the National Heritage List. The GBMWA and some adjacent lands are being assessed by the Australian Heritage Council for their potential National Heritage values, including Indigenous cultural values. The Council must provide its recommendation to the Minister on whether the GBMWA should be listed for values additional to those for which it is already listed by the end of June 2015. The boundary of the place will be reviewed at the same time. Following the Minister's decision on that recommendation, a decision will be made whether to seek the addition of the GBMWA to the World Heritage Tentative List and to commence the preparation of a new nomination document.

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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