

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee enjoyed the stunning location and outstanding hospitality at [Newnes Hotel Cabins](#) at its meeting on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 February, as well as a self-guided walk of the historic Newnes Shale Oil ruins.

The Advisory Committee welcomed new member Councillor Allan Stapleford from Cessnock City Council, one of the two local government nominees, joining Brad Staggs from Wollondilly Shire Council on the Committee.

The Advisory Committee considered and agreed on research priorities for the GBMWA that align with the newly formed [National Environmental Science Program](#) (NESP) and agreed to write to the NESP Hub leaders directly in support of applied research to support the Outstanding Universal Value of the GBMWA:

- Extension of Outstanding Universal Value particularly eucalypt systems
- Landscape Biodiversity Monitoring program
- Ancient fire monitoring
- Buffer zone and edge effects.



Rosalie Chapple and Peter Shadie from the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute provided an informative update on current and proposed projects, in particular planning for a national conference on World Heritage.

Brendan Millet, Executive Assistant Manager, Emirates One & Only Wolgan Valley described a number of ongoing conservation initiatives at the Resort nearby.

Neil Stone NPWS Ranger updated management issues, priorities and projects around the Newnes Valley/Plateau and Gardens of Stone area including pest and weed management, visitor management and track work.

The Advisory Committee and guests valued their experience with Dr Ian Baird, investigating Long Swamp at the headwaters of the Cocks River in a vain search for *Petalura gigantea* the Giant Dragonfly.



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
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