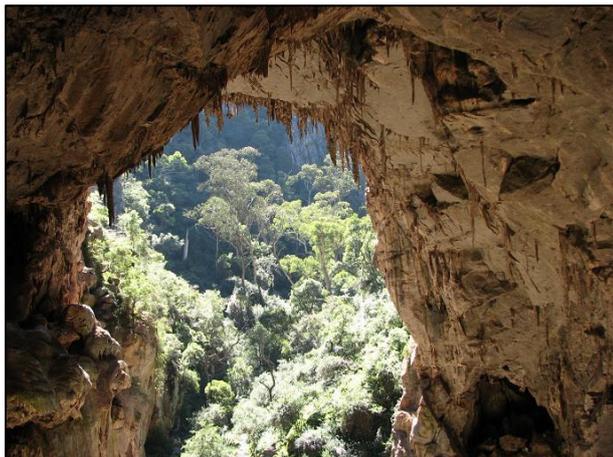


The May 2007 meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was held at Jenolan Caves with a focus on visitation, interpretation and tourism in the GBMWA.



Steve Meehan, Karst Manager with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) outlined the process of the Jenolan Caves Plan of Management to which the Committee resolved to provide comments.

Committee member Julia James informed the Committee about the importance of including Wombeyan Caves, which recently came under the care and control of the DECC, as part of the GBMWA. This was supported by the Committee with the recommendation that Wombeyan Caves be included in the National Heritage List assessment and boundary updates to the World Heritage Committee by the Commonwealth Government.

Bronwen Johnston, the Tourism Committee member described the visitation and tourism issues of the GBMWA, with a particular focus on the Blue Mountains Region and interactions with other tourism organisations associated with the GBMWA.

Blue Mountains Walking Tracks Project Manager Shaun Elwood gave the Committee an overview and update of the Project.

Grant Commins, Manager Cave Operations Jenolan described tourism and interpretations initiatives at the Caves and invited attendees to participate in a self-guided tour of the newly opened Nettle Cave.

The next meeting is to be held at Warragamba Dam in August 2007.



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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