

The Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) met at the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden on Friday 7 May 2010 and heard from guest speakers Sally Barnes, Head National Parks and Wildlife Service; Rob Smith, Assistant Director Botanic Gardens Trust; Hilary Schofield, Parks Australia who provided a background to the [National Landscapes](#) program; and Karin Hartog, Blue Mountains City Council and Eva Baker, Freeman Ryan Design who are working on the [Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#).

The Australian Government is liaising with Australian World Heritage properties to prepare the Periodic Report to be finalised for UNESCO in 2011. A draft of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was provided to the Committee for comment and review. The [UNESCO Operational Guidelines](#) define the SoOUV:

- “reflect the criterion (criteria) on the basis of which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List”;
- provide “the basis for the future protection and management of the property”;
- “make clear why the property is considered to merit inscription on the World Heritage List”; and
- that the SoOUV is based primarily on the Nomination, Evaluation, Decision documents.



The Advisory Committee also enjoyed a sneak preview of the GBMWhA [Exhibition Centre](#) at the Garden, due to open in July 2010.



The August 2010 meeting of the Advisory Committee will be at Yarramundi focusing on culture and heritage.

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](mailto:gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au)

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Climate Change & Water**  
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