



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Greater Blue Mountains Area
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2000



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE AUGUST 2018

The 43rd meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee was held at Penrith with speakers providing updates on the Western Sydney Airport and the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

The Committee noted the update from the Chair regarding the work of the Cultural Values Working Group from AWHAC (the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee) who are focusing on Objective 1: Continue to support Australia's iconic World Heritage properties of the Australian Heritage Strategy (2015) to *progressively review existing World Heritage places that have been listed for natural values only to identify whether the areas may contain internationally significant cultural heritage.*

The Committee received with thanks, presentations from:

- Garth Taylor, General Manager, Western Sydney Unit, Cwth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development for his update on the WSA including the Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan.
- Ross Coster, Convenor, No Western Sydney Airport Sub-Committee, Blue Mountains Conservation Society for his overview of the BMCS and update on the No Western Sydney Airport campaign.
- Alison White, Infrastructure NSW for her impromptu presentation and update on the *Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities* Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Brett Whitworth, Department of Planning for his overview of the strategic and statutory planning response – Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Peter Cinque, Region Controller, NSW State Emergency Service - Sydney Western Region who provided an overview emergency services/evacuation plans in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Sharyn Halls for her presentation on the recent cultural heritage surveys conducted as part of the draft EIS for the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. Sharyn also provided an update on a recent Aboriginal Place nomination by the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc (GAHAI) for the Gundungurra Cultural Landscapes – Creation of the Wollondilly and Coxs Rivers and other sacred sites.
- Taylor Clarke for her acknowledgment of Country and presentation on the potential impact to Gundungurra cultural heritage sites and Country from inundation if the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall by 14 metres proceeds.
- Bob Debus and Harry Burkitt for their update on the Wild Rivers Campaign and the update on their visit to the World Heritage Committee meeting in July in Bahrain and following that, to IUCN in Geneva.



The Committee resolved to write to relevant Ministers raising concern for the potential impact on the OUV (Outstanding Universal Value) of parts of the GBMWA if the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall proceeds; and to write in support of the Gundungurra Cultural Landscapes Aboriginal place nomination.

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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