



National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting summary – Sydney, 14 and 15 February 2023

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council provides the Minister for Environment and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) executive with independent, informed advice on the priorities, design, implementation and evaluation of NPWS policies, strategies and programs to help achieve the objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Council also plays a key advocacy role through engagement with stakeholder organisations and networks.

On 14 February Council hosted Chairs from all 8 National Parks and Wildlife regional advisory committees, as well as a representative of the Karst Management Advisory Committee, to discuss communications, collaboration and strategic solutions to shared challenges.

The Hon. James Griffin, Minister for Environment and Heritage, attended and addressed the joint meeting, thanking all members for their valuable advice on management plans. Policies and programs and discussed:

- monitoring of ecological management outcomes
- fire management and resourcing needs, particularly in response to recent seasonal weather patterns
- communications between committee Chairs and the Minister's office to maintain the capacity for timely, relevant advice and committee understanding of the outcomes of that advice
- the importance of the provision of all relevant information to enable committees' deliberations on management plans
- government rewilding and conservation programs
- emerging recreational trends and management.

On 15 February NPWS provided Council with updates and items for discussion:

- NPWS's major recruitment drive, with 250 new staff dedicated to conservation and fire management programs
- NPWS fire and hazard reduction program outcomes for 2022-23, including the delivery of a number of cultural burns on national park
- The Minister's recent launch of NPWS Great Walks
- Recent acquisitions of national park estate
- Safety across all NPWS operations
- NPWS's commitment to zero extinction in national parks
- NPWS Aboriginal Joint Management program
- Future directions in NPWS Education programs
- NPWS Threatened Species Framework, including eco health monitoring
- NPWS Feral Animal Management Programs and
- NPWS Leases and Licences program.

More information: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/national-parks-and-wildlife-advisory-council

Council members

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Chairperson): Experience in planning and local government, nominated by Local Government NSW

Mr Ted Rowley (Deputy Chairperson): Expertise and experience in rural and regional development and planning issues.

Assoc Prof Rosemary Black: Expertise and experience in environmental education and community involvement in environmental education.

Ms Rhonda Ashby: Expertise and experience in Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation.

Mr Brian Everingham: Expertise in non-government organisations concerned with the conservation of nature, nominated by NSW National Parks Assoc.

Cr Romola Hollywood: Experience in planning and local government, nominated by Local Government NSW

Mr Paul Knight: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee member

Assoc Prof Julie Old: Scientific qualifications in an area associated with the conservation of nature.

Ms Cathy Parsons: Expertise and experience in ecotourism or the sustainable visitor or tourist use, enjoyment and appreciation of reserves

Mrs Erica Smits: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee member

Mr Craig Thomas: Representing peak recreational bodies.

Mr Ross McDonnell: Expertise in non-government organisations concerned with the conservation of nature, nominated by the NSW Nature Conservation Council

Mrs Bronwyn Petrie: Expertise and experience in agriculture and rural issues, nominated by NSW Farmers

Dr Rebecca Spindler: Scientific qualifications in areas associated with the conservation of nature

Dr Allison O'Sullivan: Qualifications in cultural heritage research

Mr Gregory Mullins: Expertise and experience in bushfire management