

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council provides the Minister for Energy and Environment and the NPWS executive with independent, informed advice on a wide range of issues impacting national parks.

The following summarises matters considered by Council on 9 September 2020 at its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting which was held online to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

NPWS Executive Director Park Programs Robert Quirk updated Council on NPWS priorities including:

- **Bushfire response and recovery** - NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry (findings and recommendations recently released), funding, resourcing, risk assessment, fire season preparation and fire trail upgrades.
- **Expansion of national parks estate** – Acquisitions including Narriearra Station, Guula Ngurra National Park to protect koala habitat.
- **Kosciuszko NP wild horse control**, including the NSW Land and Environment Court challenge and ongoing research
- **COVID-19 recovery** – campgrounds and visitor management including park user education, booking system and challenges of increased visitation rates.
- **Cross tenure pest control, collaboration and approval processes.**

### Leases and licences

NPWS staff provided Council with a report on the current status of leases and licences on NPWS reserves.

### Plans of Management

Council reviewed the forward plan for Plans of Management for 2020/21 and NPWS briefed Council on the Draft Plan of Management for Royal NP, Heathcote NP and Garawarra SCA.

### Discussion and briefings

NPWS briefed Council on the:

- 2020/21 NPWS Business Plan and mechanisms for members to contribute
- NPWS Revocations Bill.

Council discussion also focussed on:

- Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct
- Conserving the natural values of parks in a time of increased usage
- Future management of park issues relating to diverse park use
- Council forward planning and strategic planning sessions.

For further information contact [npws.advisorycouncil@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.advisorycouncil@environment.nsw.gov.au)



### Council members

**Assoc Prof Tracey J Dickson**  
(Acted as chair): Expertise and experience in ecotourism or the sustainable visitor or tourist use, enjoyment and appreciation of reserves.

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

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

**Cr Phyllis Miller OAM:**  
Experience in planning and local government, nominated by Local Government NSW (for 24 November only).

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

**Ms Cathy Parsons:** Expertise and experience in bush fire management.

**Ms Bronwyn Petrie:** Expertise and experience in agriculture and rural issues, nominated by the NSW Farmers' Association

**Mr Ted Rowley:** Expertise and experience in rural and regional development and planning issues.

**Mr Craig Thomas:** Representing peak recreational bodies.

**Dr Kevin Mills**  
NPWS Regional Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).

**Mrs Marie Russell AM:** NPWS Regional Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).

**Ms Dianne Thompson OAM:**  
Expertise in non-government organisations concerned with the conservation of nature, nominated by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (attended as observer).

**Ms Iris White:** Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee member (attended as observer).