

## Indigenous Advisory Committee Bulletin Meeting 35

The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) held its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting on 23 and 24 August 2018 on Ngunnawal Country in Canberra.

### Indigenous Protected Areas

The Committee discussed the management of the existing Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program with representatives from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and considered governance actions to strengthen ties between the Committee and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Committee provided advice on the upcoming new IPA program competitive funding round, including ways in which the new program could be made more accessible to smaller and less experienced Indigenous groups. The Department undertook to consult the Committee on New IPA Program funding guidelines.

### Australian Marine Parks

The Committee was provided with an update on Australian Marine Parks, including the \$35 million Fisheries Assistance and User Engagement package. The Committee provided advice on the role of Indigenous representation in governance and advisory capacities across the Australian Marine Parks. The Committee heard how the new management plans for Australian Marine Parks include principles to support Indigenous engagement in marine park management and Indigenous engagement programs that aim to foster social, cultural and economic benefits for traditional owners.

### Indigenous heritage

The Committee discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Heritage Council to strengthen collaboration and improve heritage outcomes for nationally significant heritage places. The Committee also discussed Australia's collaborative approach to World Heritage nominations, including the recent nomination of the Budj Bim cultural landscape, Australia's first property nominated solely for Indigenous heritage.

### National Environmental Science Program

Following on from participation by the Committee in the NESP Indigenous Gathering in February 2018, discussions continued on key opportunities to integrate Indigenous perspectives into a future version of the program. Respectful and effective Indigenous inclusion would enrich the science and maximise good outcomes for the environment and Indigenous communities. The Committee continued to support Indigenous people forming a governance model that could work across the future program to guide and support Indigenous leadership and inclusion in research projects. It was agreed this would require adequate lead times, and clearly identified Indigenous research priorities.

### Closing the Gap

The Committee provided advice on the Government's Closing the Gap Refresh and how it could capitalise on the critical role Indigenous peoples' connection to the environment in delivering economic, social, and cultural outcomes that all contribute to reduce Indigenous disadvantage.

### Great Barrier Reef

The Committee sought clarification on Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) governance and traditional owner involvement in delivery of the Reef Trust-GBRF Partnership. The Department updated the Committee on the Reef 2050 Plan traditional owner project, which involves consultation with traditional owners to inform advice to government on the delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan, including engagement, monitoring, reporting and adaptive management, and delivery of the GBRF Partnership.

### Threatened Species Scientific Committee

The Chair of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC), Emeritus Professor Helene Marsh, joined the Committee to discuss an updated protocol for collaboration between the two committees and engagement of Indigenous communities in conservation planning for threatened species and ecological

communities.

## About the Committee

The Indigenous Advisory Committee is a statutory committee established in 2000 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

All members of the Committee are Indigenous Australians and are ministerially appointed based on expertise in Indigenous land and sea management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and cultural heritage management. Members are not appointed to represent particular regions or organisations.

## Members:

- Mr Robert (Robbie) Dalton (Chair)
- Ms Teagan Goolmeer (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Ronald (Ricky) Archer
- Ms Cecilia (Cissy) Gore-Birch
- Dr Leah Talbot
- Mr Duane Fraser
- Ms Chrissy Grant
- Dr Stephen van Leeuwen
- Ms Sandy Marty

Further information can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/committees/iac.html>