



National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council provides the NSW Minister for the Environment and the 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.

Meeting summary – 13 September 2023

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, Minister for the Environment, attended and addressed the meeting, and discussed:

- The portfolio's key priorities.
- The need for the right policy settings and tools to address major environmental issues.
- The importance of maintaining a landscape focus and engaging all stakeholders to be part of the environmental outcomes achieved.
- The importance of the community valuing and loving national parks.

NPWS updated Council on:

- Training and other NPWS programs contributing to the protection of Aboriginal Cultural heritage across NSW.
- Progress on the state-wide consultation on Aboriginal joint management of NSW national parks and reserves.
- NPWS's contribution to the major fires in Canada.
- Recent additions to the NSW national park system and the contribution of private land conservation initiatives to the National Reserve System.
- NPWS fire and hazard reduction program outcomes for 2022-23, including the delivery of a number of cultural burns on national park.

Council members and NPWS discussed:

- NPWS reserve planning and major project notification processes.
- Identification and management of threats to sensitive ecosystems.
- NPWS scientific licensing.
- Fire and incident management framework.
- NPWS Accessible Parks Policy.

More information: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NPWS/NPWSAdvisoryCouncil.html

Council members

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

Mr Ted Rowley: 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.

Vacant: 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

vacant: 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