

Indigenous Advisory Committee Bulletin Meeting 37

The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) held its 37th meeting on 10-12 September 2019 on Ngunawal country in Canberra.

Second independent review of the EPBC Act

The Committee discussed the upcoming independent review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and provided feedback on how the reviewer can engage most effectively with the Committee and the broader Indigenous community.

International Issues

The Committee received an update on international issues including the Australian Government's engagement in developing the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee encouraged the Department to seek to nominate an Indigenous Australian expert to be part of the Indigenous Knowledge Taskforce.

Climate Change

The Committee received an update on climate change initiatives, including the Emissions Reduction Fund (incentivising adoption of practices and technologies that reduce emissions), the Climate Solutions Package (to deliver on Australia's 2030 climate commitments), and the Climate Compass tool (developed by the Department to help Australian public servants manage the risks from the changing climate to policies, programs and asset management).

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Committee discussed opportunities through the Department's next Reconciliation Action Plan, to enable better co-development of the Department's externally-facing policies and programs with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

National and World Heritage Listing

The Committee noted the nominations currently under assessment for the National Heritage List, and places on, or proposed for inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Committee noted measures taken to reform administration of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act), resulting in improved performance in decision-making (including declarations). The Committee provided advice on more substantial reform needed for the ATSIHP Act to be efficient and effective.

Australia State of the Environment 2021

The State of the Environment team sought early engagement with the Committee for the next report, due in 2021. The Committee provided advice on the report's design and content to improve the representation of the Indigenous management of natural resources, and increase its prominence in the report. The 2021 State of the Environment Report will look to balance scientific, local and traditional knowledge to meet the needs of our target audiences.

Indigenous Data and the Information Strategy

The Committee provided advice to the Department on the appropriate gathering, use and storage of Indigenous data in the Department's Information Strategy.

National Environmental Science Programme

The Committee received a paper about Indigenous inclusion in current NESP research to inform future investment into environmental research.

Commonwealth Environment Water Office - First Nations Engagement Strategy

An update paper was provided to the Committee on the proposed process for developing a First Nations Engagement/Participation Strategy for the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. The Strategy is intended to enhance the involvement of First Nations people in the planning, delivery and monitoring of Commonwealth water for the environment in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)

The Committee was updated on progress in delivering the new IPA program.

Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef: The Next Generation of Reef 2050 Actions

The Committee noted the release of the *Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef: The Next Generation of Reef 2050 Actions* report, including commitments to deliver on the recommendations. The Report's findings and recommendations will inform the comprehensive review of the Reef 2050 Plan, due for completion in 2020. The Committee will continue to engage as this work progresses.

Committee Membership

The Chair, Mr Robert Dalton, announced his intention to resign from the position of Chair following IAC Meeting 37, to spend more time with his family. He hopes to continue on as a member. Mr Dalton has been the Chair of the Committee since 2017.

Mr Ricky Archer notified members that he would not be seeking re-appointment to the Committee at the end of his term (31 December 2019) due to limited availability to give the role. The Chair thanked Mr Archer for his contribution to the work of the Committee during his XX years of service.

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)
- Dr Leah Talbot
- Mr Ronald (Ricky) Archer
- Mr Duane Fraser

- Ms Chrissy Grant
- Dr Stephen van Leeuwen
- Mr Stan Lui

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