



National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The following is a summary of matters considered by the Advisory Council at its 42nd meeting held on 28-29 May 2013.

**Meeting with the Minister for the Environment**

Council members met with The Hon Minister Robyn Parker MP who responded to Council members' questions and discussed current issues.

**Membership**

This was the final Council meeting for Ms Tracey Carpenter (*experience in planning and local government nominated by the Local Government and Shires Association*) and Mr Ken Prendergast (*member of an advisory committee representing the geographic spread of the reserve system*) whose terms on Council end before the next Council meeting.

**Plans of Management**

Council made recommendations that the Minister adopt, with recommended amendments, the draft plans of management for the following areas:

- Seal Rocks Nature Reserve
- Couchy Creek Nature Reserve
- Dowe Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 1 – National Park
- Wondoba Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 3 – State Conservation Area
- Somerton Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 1 – National Park
- Trinkey Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 3 – State Conservation Area
- Leacock Regional Park

Council had robust and detailed discussions on a number of important matters, including:

**Horse Riding in Wilderness Pilot Program**

Council received an updated briefing on the Horse Riding in Wilderness Pilot Program. Draft Amendments to Plans of Management will soon be placed on public exhibition.

**Supplementary Pest Control Program**

Council also received an updated briefing on the Supplementary Pest Control Program which is currently on hold pending the review of governance of the NSW Game Council.

**Fire Management Report**

Council noted the following details regarding the current status of fire management activity by NPWS:

- The 135 000ha annual target has been met with a total of 176 000ha now treated.
- Almost 3 times more area treated than the average for last five years.
- 6-7000ha hazard reduction activity planned over the next week.
- Opportunity to increase positive community profile for NPWS.
- Statewide strategy with performance indicators in place at state and regional levels.

**Strategic Directions for NPWS 2013/14**

NPWS Branch Directors attended to discuss the Strategic Directions for NPWS for 2013/14 highlighting the new service themes developed as part of the current strategic realignment of NPWS. Council provided advice and recommendations to the Service on the strategic realignment and the way ahead for 2013/14.

**Management of Historic Heritage and Commercial Opportunities**

Council received a briefing on the recently released Auditor General's report into the Management of Historic Heritage in National Parks and Reserves.

**SUZANNE JONES, Chair, National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council**