



Indigenous Advisory Committee Bulletin Meeting of the 20 April 2026

The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) met virtually on Monday 20 April 2026.

Appointment Process and Election of Interim Co-Chair

The recruitment process for new members is currently underway. The final composition of the IAC is at the Minister's discretion.

On 20 February 2026, amendments under Part 19 of the EPBC Act relating to the IAC commenced. The new appointment provisions require the Minister of the Environment to appoint a female Co-Chair. Members elected Ms Rebecca Halliday to act as interim Co-Chair in accordance with EPBC Act regulations, until a formal appointment process is undertaken.

National Environmental Standards

The Environmental Law Reform Taskforce provided a status update on the National Environmental Standards. The IAC was advised that substantial work has been undertaken since the last IAC meeting held in January 2026, including consultation. The initial public consultation period has now closed on the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and Environmental Offsets standards which is being considered.

Revised drafts will be out for statutory public consultation in due course. The IAC will continue to provide advice as the Standards progress.

National Environment Protection Agency Update

The Department provided the IAC with an update on the establishment of the National Environment Protection Agency (National EPA), which is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2026. The National EPA will be established as an independent statutory regulator, taking on environmental regulatory, compliance and enforcement functions currently delivered by the Department, while policy responsibility will remain with the Department. Recruitment for the CEO is underway, and initial arrangements will support close collaboration between the Department and the Agency, including shared ministerial oversight during establishment to enable a smooth transition. The IAC discussed the importance of strong engagement with First Nations communities, effective compliance and enforcement, and the IAC's future advisory role as the National EPA is stood up.

About the IAC

The IAC is a statutory body established in 2000 under the EPBC Act. All IAC members are First Nations Australians and are ministerially appointed based on expertise in land and sea management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and cultural heritage management.

Members

Dr. Rohan Henry (Co-Chair)

Ms. Rebecca Halliday (Co-Chair)

Dr. Cass Hunter

Ms. Liz Wren