



Indigenous Advisory Committee Bulletin Meeting of the 20 January 2026

The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) met on Wednesday 20 January 2026.

National Environmental Standards

The IAC received an update on the development of the draft National Environment Standards, a key element of the Australian Government's reforms to national environmental law.

They discussed the structure, clarity and intended purpose of the draft standards, including:

- how they can underpin a more outcomes focused approach to environmental protection.
- opportunities to maximise the elevation of First Nations knowledge and values in decision-making.
- the importance of the draft standards in providing clear and consistent expectations for environmental assessments, approvals and compliance and emphasised the need for drafting that is clear and accessible for both regulators and proponents.
- the need for consistency and interlinkages between and across all standards.

The IAC also considered how the draft standards may operate in practice once implemented. Members supported the intention for the standards to be outcomes driven, strengthening environmental protections while avoiding unnecessary regulatory complexity, noting the importance of the standards operating with the legislation as a cohesive and aligned framework.

The IAC will continue to provide advice as drafting progresses and more information becomes available.

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 (Chair)
Ms. Liz Wren

Dr. Cass Hunter
Ms. Rebecca Halliday