



Indigenous Advisory Committee Bulletin Meeting 54

The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) held its 54th meeting on Thursday 21 August 2025 virtually.

The Committee were informed that the Department's new Secretary Mr. Mike Kaiser commenced in his role on 14 July 2025. The Committee look forward to meeting with him soon.

Environmental Law Reform

The Department (Environment Law Reform Taskforce) briefed the Committee on the Government's revised approach to environmental law reform, shifting from introducing a new Act to amending the existing EPBC Act, with a focus on implementing the core principles of the Samuel Review. Key reforms include stronger environmental protections, efficient project assessments, and the creation of an environmental protection agency, Environment Information Australia, and National Environmental Standards, such as a First Nations Engagement Standard. The proposed amendments aim to strengthen First Nations involvement in environmental decision making.

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) Grant round

The Committee was asked to endorse the inclusion of three to participate in the upcoming moderation panel for the next IPA grant round. The Committee supported their inclusion.

Australia's Strategy for Nature Implementation plan

The department sought IAC advice on halting biodiversity loss and supporting First Nations representation and participation. The IAC provided input on the proposed outcomes in the draft implementation plan for Australia's Strategy for Nature through a workshop style discussion. This built on previous work to update the Strategy with national targets and 'enablers of change' to align it with the Global Biodiversity Framework. The Committee will encourage colleagues and networks to participate in the Department's consultation activities and look forward to receiving updates on this work.

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. Teagan Shields (Deputy Chair)
Ms. Liz Wren
Dr. Cass Hunter
Prof. Stephen van Leeuwen

Mr. Damian Morgan-Bulled
Mr. Stan Lui
Prof. Anne Poelina
Ms. Rebecca Halliday