



STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2012

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWH) was awarded World Heritage status in the year 2000. Its natural and cultural heritage values are outstanding, and the large forested area provides a wide range of essential ecosystem services for the Sydney basin, the largest urban conurbation in Australia.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI) was founded as an independent not-for-profit organisation in 2004, as a response to the increasing challenge and complexity of environmental governance. The Institute focuses on knowledge needs relating to the conservation and management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The Institute's members comprise government agencies involved in management of the World Heritage Area and research organisations including universities.

Caring for the GBMWH presents challenges within its boundaries as well as challenges relating to external impacts arising from urban and agri-industrial development in the region. The Institute was established to help address these challenges through building the knowledge base and encouraging stakeholder collaboration.

MISSION

To broker and facilitate research and community engagement that supports the management and conservation of the irreplaceable values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

THE BMWHI VALUES:

- Research that is relevant, rigorous, interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and collaborative
- Science that informs policy and management of the GBMWH
- Decision-making that is transparent
- Dialogue that builds social capacity and helps understanding of complex issues from a range of perspectives
- Acknowledgement and respect for the traditional, historical and contemporary associations that Aboriginal people have with the GBMWH
- Participative rather than consultative engagement with communities
- Stewardship and advocacy for the natural and cultural heritage of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- Partnerships and collaboration with diverse stakeholders including local and international communities
- Integrity and openness in relationships with stakeholders
- Effective communication of knowledge to the wider community

GOALS

Knowledge gaps – To identify the knowledge needed for the conservation and adaptive governance of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and its environs

Research - To define, broker and coordinate interdisciplinary research that addresses identified knowledge gaps

Partnerships and knowledge use - To build and maintain partnerships to actively support the creation, uptake and use of knowledge

Internal governance and capacity - To have an effective organisation with optimal staff, board members and resources

STRATEGIES

Knowledge gaps

- Collectively identify and prioritise policy and management issues relating to the GBM WHA and its region
- Identify and review knowledge gaps in relation to these policy and management issues

Research

- Broker, facilitate and monitor, and if appropriate coordinate, interdisciplinary research teams to implement projects to address knowledge gaps
- Establish and maintain coherent long-term programs
- Facilitate adequate resourcing of identified projects

Partnerships

- Initiate, broker and sustain new partnerships as needs are identified
- Use community engagement processes, including arts and cultural expression, to enable dialogue and meaningful participation of the public in knowledge production and application

Knowledge use

- Ensure research outcomes are effectively translated into adaptive policy and management for the GBM World Heritage Area and for relevant more universal application
- Communicate research outcomes and relevant information to the wider regional community about the issues facing the region, to increase understanding of environmental and management issues, and promote public stewardship of the cultural and natural heritage of the GBM WHA
- Integrate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values into policy and management

Internal governance and capacity

- Develop and implement a governance framework for the conduct of Board members and staff
- Ensure all activities are in accordance with a strategic business plan
- Record, monitor and report on the breadth and depth of the Institute's work, both internally and externally from local to international levels
- Secure funding to support optimal staffing levels and infrastructure
- Develop and nurture collaboration between the Institute and its member organisations