

National parks review

By GARY SHIPWAY

The NT News

Wednesday 31st March 2021

288 words

Page 9 | Section: NEWS

220cm on the page



National parks review

EXCLUSIVE
GARY SHIPWAY

Territorians in advisory group

THE joint management of federal government-controlled national parks will be reviewed and three Territorians will have key roles in the process.

Central Land Council chief executive Joe Martin-Jard and former NT Chief Minister Shane Stone will join Yothu Yindi Foundation chief executive Denise Bowden in the federal senior advisory group, which will review the joint

management of federal national parks. The key advisory group is in line with federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley's commitment to work with Traditional Owners in the management of federal National Parks.

Mr Martin-Jard will co-chair the six-person senior advisory group with former federal Minister Amanda Vanstone.

The announcement follows meetings between Ms Ley and Traditional Owners in the Northern Territory last year, which saw several structural changes within Parks Australia, including increased Indigenous management representation.

The panel comprises Amanda Vanstone (co-chair), Martin-Jard (co-chair), Helen Williams, Mr Stone, Nolan Hunter and Ms Bowden. Boo-

deree, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta national parks are all Aboriginal sites that are leased to the commonwealth to be jointly managed with the Director of National Parks through Parks Australia.

"These are sites of enormous cultural significance and of rich environmental biodiversity," Ms Ley said.

"The group will help identify the best ways to protect

these values and ensure that the Traditional Owners, who hold the title to these sites, have control over the way the land is managed.

"In some cases, current management arrangements have been in place for over 40 years, and it is time we looked at them through the lens of today and the nation's recognition of both Traditional Ownership and title."

The Senior Advisory Group will provide its recommendations in the second half of 2021.