



Media Release

Thursday 7 August 2025

MR RENE WOODS JOINS THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION AS FIRST ABORIGINAL ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Natural Resource Commissioner Prof Hugh Durrant-Whyte today announced that Mr Rene Woods will join the Natural Resources Commission as Assistant Commissioner (Healthy Country).

Prof Durrant-Whyte said Mr Woods – a proud Nari Nari man – will bring over 20 years' experience in Aboriginal natural resource management (NRM), sustainability and policy to the Commission.

"I am delighted to welcome Mr Woods to the Commission and look forward to his strategic support as we provide independent advice on a range of NRM issues, including Aboriginal NRM and Healthy Country," said Prof Durrant-Whyte.

"He brings deep Cultural knowledge, strategic influence, and extensive networks across government and all community sectors to this important role."

"Mr Woods role will help us deliver on our commitments to improve our Cultural capabilities, engage Aboriginal communities, and strengthen our advice with Aboriginal knowledge, culture and experience."

Mr Woods is currently a board member at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Associate Professor of Practice at UNSW Sydney. He has also held senior roles at The Nature Conservancy Australia and Nari Nari Tribal Council. Mr Woods said he is excited to bring his wealth of expertise to help the Commission deliver robust advice to the NSW Government.

"My goal as Assistant Commissioner is to make people aware of Aboriginal Culture and heritage, our land and water management on Country, and our rights and interests, as well as getting local communities back on Country and involved in natural resource management," said Mr Woods.

About the Natural Resources Commission

The Commission provides independent, evidence-based advice to the NSW Government to sustainably manage natural resources over the long term and ensure the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Our work includes independent advice on complex issues, oversight of contested forestry issues, assurance in water planning and implementation, and audit and evaluation in a range of areas. In forming our advice, we draw upon the best experts and research and consult broadly with stakeholders.

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