



## **AGENDA**

**For the quarterly meeting of the  
Association to be held on  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
at 10.30am at  
Venue Cymru Llandudno**

### **1. Welcome**

To receive a welcome from the Chair.

To receive a welcome to the meeting by the

### **2. Record of attendance**

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

### **3. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting**

To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting held in  
October 2023 - see appendix A

### **4. Visiting speaker**

To receive a presentation Fields in Trust.

### **5. Actions taken from the last meeting**

To note the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Completed
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Details to be agreed.
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Completed
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	TFW meeting held Awaiting Ministers office replay ORR replied Awaiting H&S reply
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Being arranged
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Completed



## **6. Executive**

To note the executive meeting minutes from the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023. See appendix B

**7. Financial and governance.** To receive a financial report and to note the bank balance.

To note completion of the audit.

## **8. Transport Committee**

### **8.1 Update on survey report**

To consider an update on the survey, railways and where we are.

## **9. Holywell (Greenfield Station)**

To consider an update on the new station at Holywell. There are also new stations planned for Wrexham and Deeside.

## **10. Homeless**

To consider an update on progress as reported. To consider the White Paper on Homeless in Wales. See appendix C.

## **11. National Park for North East Wales**

To consider the consultation on the proposal to introduce a new National Park in North East Wales. See appendix D.

## **12. Any other business**

To consider any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the meeting.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

To note the date of the next meeting – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**APPENDIX A****MINUTES**

**of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

at the offices of Rhyl Town Council,  
Civic Offices, Wellington Community Centre  
at 10.30am in person and by video  
link

**Present were**

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair)	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies (Vice Chair)	Flint Town council
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE (President)	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Jeannette Chamberlain-Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Lynda Carter	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Cllr Lynda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinnell Bay Town Council
Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Barry Mellor	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Peter Morgan	St Asaph City Council
Gareth Nicols	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Ted Palmer	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Adrian West	Prestatyn Town Council
Daryn Wilcox	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE (Secretary)	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council
Part of the meeting the Independent Review Panel of Wales members attended.	

**Apologies for absence received from**

Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Paul hinge	
Cllr Carol Holliday	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Alan James	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Bob Murray	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Mike Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Suzanne Wilson	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town council



A lot of members were hoping to attend but due to the very poor weather conditions could not get there.

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

The Mayor of Rhyl Town Council - Jacquie McAlpine -addressed the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting**

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in July 2023. The only alteration being to note that Cllr Helen Roberts should be noted under Conwy Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Joan Butterfield and seconded by Cllr Lynette Edwards. The vote was unanimous.

### **3. Actions taken from the last meeting**

The meeting noted the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

Item	Status
Prepared and publish minutes	Completed
Report on future membership of association	Report at this meeting
Complete rail surveys and report	Completed
Progress with new web site with new information format	Completed
Prepare and launch a Facebook page	Prepared
Arrange to meet Minister's Office regarding A55 traffic maybe on zoom at a future meeting.	Report at this meeting
Youth forum meeting to be held	Completed

The meeting considered the details of the matters to be raised with the Minister's Office regarding the A55 so that a meeting can be arranged. The Chair is to consult with those needed to come up with a plan.



## **5. Executive**

The meeting noted the executive meeting minutes from the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

## **6. Finance and governance**

The meeting received a financial report with bank balances reported as £4,306.45pm. This is lower than usual due to the membership fee notices not going out until after this meeting.

Members were asked to note their council's name on BACS payments so that the secretary can see where the payment has come from.

The Audit of the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 is well in hand.

## **7. Future role of the Association**

The meeting received a report from the Chair on membership arrangements into the future for the Association proposing no change to current situation. The meeting **AGREED** that arrangements will be made asap for hybrid meetings. The meeting also noted that although each member council may send multiple representatives (up to 3 plus the Clerk) this does not affect voting as in all cases it is one vote per council.

## **9. Transport Committee**

To receive a presentation on the rail surveys completed in the past two months and to consider an update on the results and the actions the Association should consider taking forward.

A youth forum for North and Mid Wales was held with no attendees. There is a short report on transport within the document from Llanfair Caereinion' Youth Council.

Many members gave accounts of their travel experiences which support what the document outlines.

The meeting also confirmed the statement 'unsafe bordering on dangerous – possible illegal'.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to the following:

- i) To adopt the report
- ii) To publish the document widely
- iii) To issue the report to Welsh Government, TFW, ORR and Health and Safety.
- iv) To seek a meeting with the minister and with the CEO of TFW
- v) The youth view should be sought from individual local council youth forums.
- vi) Further surveys to be completed in November.



- vii) The secretary with support from the Chair to deal with interviews and press coverage.

## **10. Consultation**

To consider a consultation by Welsh Government regarding the increase in numbers of members for the Senedd. It was agreed that the members needed more information so the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

## **11. Consultation on Local Councils and representation**

A consultation has just been published by the Welsh Government and details will be sent to each member over the next week.

## **13. Independent Review Panel for Wales**

The meeting received a presentation by zoom from the IRPW regarding the annual report for 2024-2025.

The main matters arising out of the report were:

- i) The basic allowances are tax free – a letter on the subject is being issued.
- ii) The dates of issue of the report (out of line for setting budgets) are set in statute. The IRPW was asked to consider the dates again.
- iii) The view was put forward that mandatory should mean that. However with the new rules on publishing those taking allowances this was not considered necessary.
- iv) The new rules do not require individual members to be identified but an overall figure only is now allowed.

The secretary is to write to the IRPW to confirm the above views.

## **14. Date of next meeting**

The meeting noted the dates for future meetings.

## **15. Actions being taken forward**

The following actions are to be taken forward from the meeting:

No	Subject	By
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Secretary
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Secretary





3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Chair
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Secretary
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Secretary

**APPENDIX B****MINUTES**

**of a meeting of the Executive of the Association  
held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
at 10.30am by Zoom**

**1. Record of attendance****Present were:**

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair)	Cllr Norma Davies (Vice Chair)
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Cllr Michael Davies
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Cllr Peter Hodge
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Cllr Jabez Oakes
Robert Robinson (Secretary)	

**Apologies for absence received:**

Cllr Joan Butterfield

**2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting**

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

**3. Actions taken from the last meeting**

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting:

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Completed
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Details to be agreed.
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Completed
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	TFW meeting held Awaiting Ministers office replay ORR replied Awaiting H&S reply
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Being arranged
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Completed





#### **4. Financial and governances**

##### **4.1 General**

The meeting noted the bank balance of £

The meeting noted that the audit for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 has been completed with no issues.

##### **5. Agenda for next quarterly meeting – January 2024**

The meeting considered and approved the proposed agenda as set out at appendix A of the agenda.

##### **7. Rail surveys**

The secretary is to prepare and agree dates for the rail surveys in February 2024.

##### **8. Date of next meeting**

To note the date of the next executive meeting which is to be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 10.30am by Zoom.

##### **8.1 Venue of January 2024 meeting**

Various locations were considered for the January quarterly meeting.

The meeting **agreed** that Venue Cymru should be the preferred location.

The Secretary pointed out that it is an expensive venue.

The meeting **agreed** that funds can cope with such expenditure. The secretary is to book this location.



## **APPENDIX C**

### **HOMELESS WHITE PAPER (a simple guide to what is planned)**

#### **Getting support sooner**

**Proposal:** We want anyone at risk of becoming homeless in 6 months time or less to get help. Right now, it's 8 weeks.

We think 8 weeks isn't enough time, and people need support before then.

#### **Planning support**

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have to give people a Personal Housing Plan (PHP) as part of their assessment.

When someone is at risk of homelessness, the local authority talks to them and assesses their needs. Some local authorities give people a PHP, but others don't. We think everyone should have PHP because it helps people know what's happening, when it's happening, and why.

**Proposal:** We want the PHP to be reviewed at least every 8 weeks.

Things change, and we want to make sure PHPs are up to date.

**Proposal:** We want to make sure people have a say and their views are included in their PHP.

People should be involved in decisions about their lives, especially about where they live.

**Proposal:** We want people to have the right to ask for a review or challenge decisions in their PHP.

Not every PHP will be perfect. Local authorities should tell people how to raise concerns and challenge decisions.



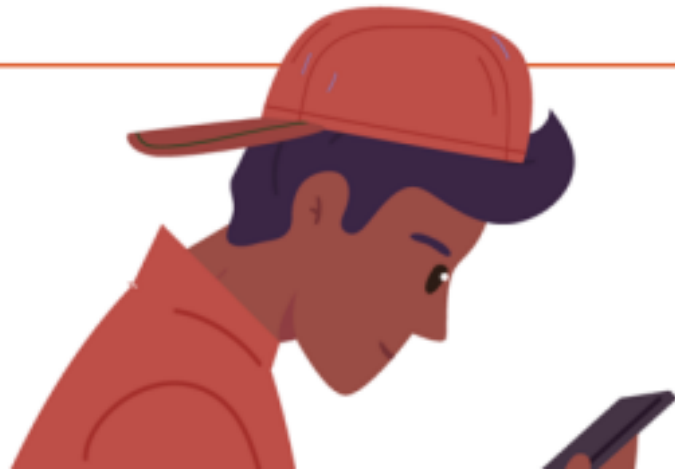
## Helping people who need it the most

### **Proposal:** We want to end the Priority Need Test.

Removing the priority need test means that people facing homelessness won't have to prove they meet the Priority Need Test before getting the help they need.

### **Proposal:** We want to end the Intentionality Test.

The Intentionality Test checks if someone's making themselves homeless on purpose. If someone fails the test, it might stop them getting the services they deserve. Some local authorities use it, others don't. This isn't fair for people across Wales.





## Local connection

**Proposal:** We want to add more groups of people to the list of exemptions so more people can move out of their area if they need to. We'd like to add people who:

- are care-experienced
- are Veterans
- are at risk of or have experienced domestic abuse, other abuse or exploitation
- are leaving prison.

Sometimes people need a new start because of circumstances in their lives. But the law right now doesn't let this happen.

## Stop homeless repeating

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to help people keep the accommodation they've been given.

Sometimes people need help so they don't keep becoming homeless. When someone gets secure housing, services should work together with landlords to make sure they don't become homeless again.



## **Making systems easier**

**Proposal:** We want to remove the Relief Duty which means local authorities have to find people accommodation for at least 6 months.

Everyone who's at risk of homelessness will get ongoing support and interim accommodation so we don't need this anymore.

**Proposal:** We want to set out clearly what an unreasonable failure to cooperate is, and what it isn't.

Being homeless can have a huge effect on people's lives and we want to limit the application of the unreasonable failure to cooperate test. We want to set out clearly that unreasonable means:

- threatening behaviour towards staff.
- consistent non-contact with housing services.

## **Communication**

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to communicate with people in ways that are easy to understand and meet their needs.





## Support for children, young people, and care experienced young people

**Proposal:** We want to make sure:

- young people aged 16-17 get the right support and aren't in unsupported temporary accommodation like hotels
- local authorities give care leavers extra support.

## Support for people leaving hospital

**Proposal:** We want people to get an assessment of their housing needs before they leave the hospital so they don't end up on the streets.

## Support for survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)

**Proposal:** We want to change the definition of domestic abuse to include controlling or coercive behaviour, economic or psychological abuse.

This means more people will get support with housing and be safe.





### **Supporting disabled people**

**Proposal:** We want all local authorities to have a register (list) of housing that can meet the needs of disabled people.

### **Supporting veterans**

**Proposal:** We want all local authorities to understand and support the needs of Veterans and their families, and involve them in decisions that affect their lives.

### **Supporting adults in the Criminal Justice System**

**Proposal:** We want to make sure people get an assessment of their housing needs when they go to prison so they don't face becoming homeless when they leave.

**Proposal:** We want to make sure all parts of the local authority help children who've been in the youth custody system and are preparing for release.



### Keeping people healthy

**Proposal:** We want to make sure no one is given accommodation that has Category 1 hazards like damp, mould, and excess cold. Things like that can seriously damage people's health.

### Keeping people safe

**Proposal:** We want to stop people being offered shared sleeping space, even in temporary or emergency accommodation.

People can share facilities like kitchen and laundry but have their own bedrooms.

### Stopping overcrowding

**Proposal:** We want to make sure that the right number of people are in accommodation and stop overcrowding.

### Supporting young people

**Proposal:** We want to make sure people aged under 25 aren't placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

### Challenging decisions

**Proposal:** We want people to have the right to ask for a review of their accommodation at any time, not just in the first 21 days.

**Proposal:** We want the local authority to have to complete reviews within 3 weeks so people get decisions quickly.

### Location

**Proposal:** We want to make sure accommodation is only seen as suitable if it is in the right place to meet people's needs.

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have to take into account people's health and well-being, any impairments, family needs, and other circumstances if they're offering accommodation outside the local area.



### Using Social Housing in the right ways

**Proposal:** We want to make sure Social Housing helps the people who need it the most.

**Proposal:** We want to make sure RSLs can't refuse a referral from a local authority unless they have valid reasons to.

### Removing people from the waiting list

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have the power to remove people from the Social Housing waiting list if they're not in need of housing.

### Helping people who need it the most, first

**Proposal:** We want people who are homeless, in targeted groups or have urgent housing needs to be given social housing before others on the list.

### Having a housing register

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have one Housing Register that clearly shows all the accommodation and social housing available in their area.





### **Unacceptable behaviour test**

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to be able to stop people having social housing if they are abusive or guilty of unacceptable behaviour.

### **Being fair**

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have a 'Deliberate Manipulation Test' that they can use before someone gets social housing.

Even though local authorities will still have a duty to find them accommodation, we don't want people to become homeless on purpose so they can jump the list and get social housing sooner. That isn't fair.

### **More housing options**

**Proposal:** We want local authorities to have more housing options they can offer like:

- supported lodgings
- supported accommodation
- returning to previous accommodation, including the family home, if this is safe.



## Systems

**Proposal:** We want to use the systems that each local authority has to deliver these changes.

The systems we have right now, work well:

- Local authorities know their areas, they run homelessness services and allocate accommodation. They check how they work, deal with complaints and make sure people get the right support.
- There are already organisations in place who check that services and accommodation are good.
- If there are concerns, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) can investigate.
- We want to find other existing ways we can support our changes.

## Gathering information

**Proposal:** We want to have the power to ask for data collected by local authorities.

We need to understand homelessness better. Information about the number of people needing support across Wales, how services work, and other things would help us meet people's needs and plan for the future.

## QUESTIONS?

Where will all these new homes come from to meet the new criteria?

Is it open to abuse?

What will it cost?

Is this achievable?

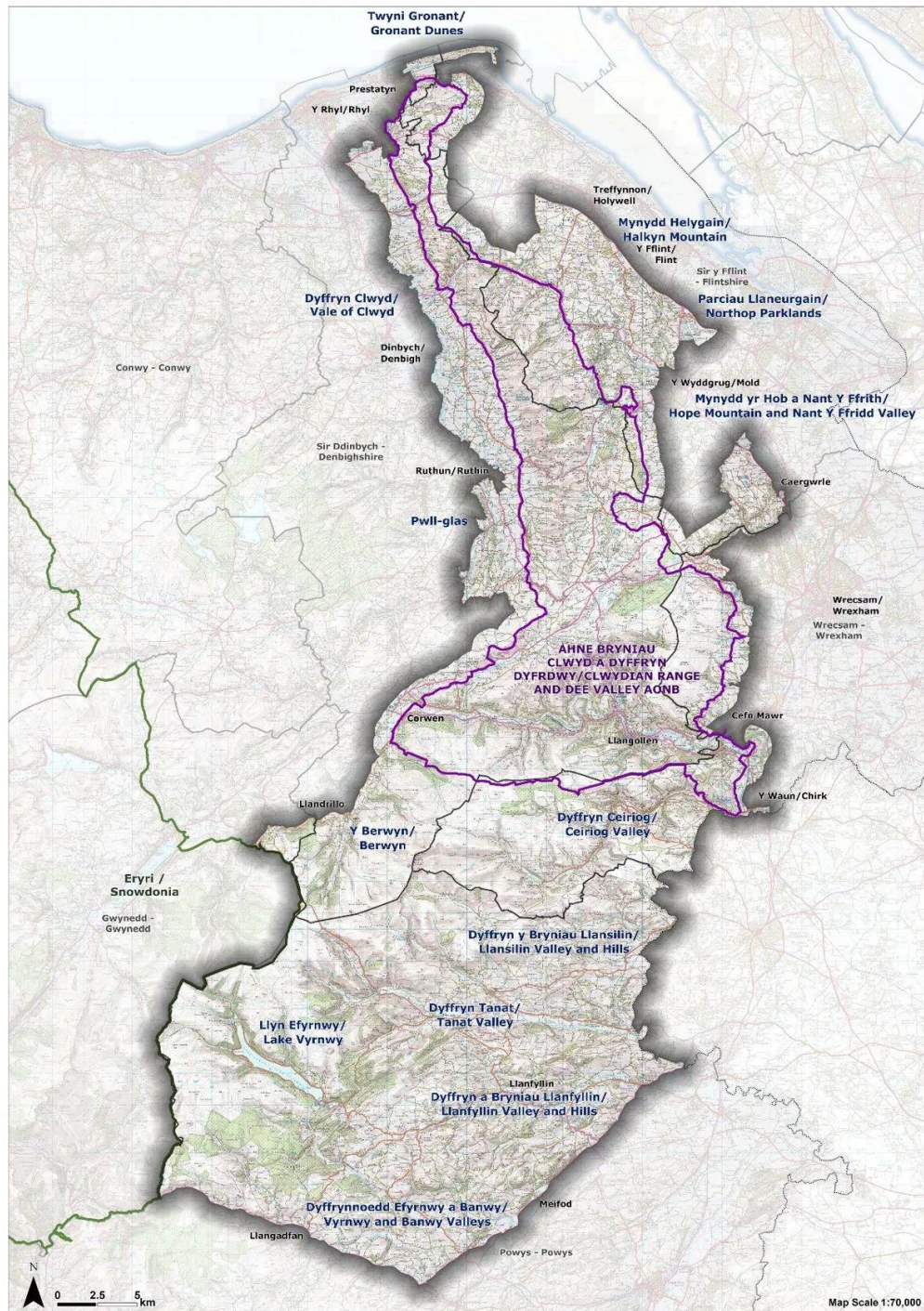




## APPENDIX D

### A new National Park for North East Wales

Where is it?







## **The advantages and disadvantages of a National Park status**

### **Pros of National Parks**

1. **Preservation of Biodiversity:** National parks play a crucial role in conserving and protecting diverse ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife species.
2. **Recreation and Outdoor Activities:** National parks offer opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to engage in various recreational activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife watching.
3. **Educational and Research Opportunities:** National parks serve as living classrooms, providing educational programs and research opportunities for students, scientists, and conservationists.
4. **Economic Benefits:** National parks can stimulate local economies through tourism, job creation, and revenue generation.
5. **Cultural and Historical Preservation:** Many national parks possess cultural and historical significance, preserving the heritage of indigenous communities and historical landmarks.
6. **Natural Beauty and Aesthetics:** National parks are known for their breathtaking landscapes, scenic vistas, and picturesque views.
7. **Climate Regulation and Carbon Sequestration:** National parks play a vital role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
8. **Health and Well-being:** Spending time in nature has numerous health benefits, including stress reduction, improved mental well-being, and increased physical activity. National parks provide accessible spaces for people to connect with nature and reap these benefits. The Forest of Dean in the UK, a national park, offers tranquil woodland areas for recreation and relaxation.
9. **Environmental Protection:** National parks act as buffers against urbanization, pollution, and industrial activities, safeguarding natural resources and ecological integrity.

### **Cons of National Parks**

1. **Visitor Overcrowding and Pressure:** Popular national parks often face challenges of overcrowding, especially during peak tourist seasons, which can lead to environmental degradation, trail erosion, and disturbance of wildlife.
2. **Conflicts with Local Communities:** The establishment and management of national parks can sometimes lead to conflicts with local communities, particularly regarding land use, resource extraction, and traditional livelihoods.



3. **Limited Access and Exclusion:** The designation of national parks can limit access to certain areas, restricting the use of resources and land by local communities, who may have ancestral or cultural ties to those places. This can lead to feelings of exclusion and marginalization.
4. **Financial Constraints and Maintenance:** National parks require funding for maintenance, infrastructure development, and staff salaries. However, limited budgets can lead to inadequate facilities, deferred maintenance, and reduced visitor services. This is evident in some national parks where aging infrastructure, such as visitor centres and trails, may not receive timely upgrades or repairs.
5. **Invasive Species and Ecological Disruption:** National parks face the constant threat of invasive species, which can outcompete native flora and fauna, disrupt ecosystems, and threaten biodiversity.
6. **Natural Disasters and Climate Change:** National parks are vulnerable to natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, and storms, which can cause extensive damage to ecosystems and infrastructure. Climate change exacerbates these risks, leading to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. For example, the Australian bushfires severely affected national parks like the Blue Mountains National Park, leading to habitat loss and wildlife devastation.
7. **Illegal Activities and Poaching:** National parks face challenges related to illegal activities such as poaching, wildlife trafficking, and illegal logging.
8. **Conflicting Management Priorities:** Balancing conservation goals with visitor experiences and recreational activities can pose challenges in national park management. Conflicting priorities can arise, particularly in cases where the preservation of sensitive habitats conflicts with activities like off-road vehicle use or fishing.
9. **Lack of Diversity and Inclusivity:** National parks have historically faced issues of limited diversity and inclusivity, with underrepresentation of marginalized communities in visitorship, employment, and decision-making processes. Efforts are being made to address this, but further progress is needed to ensure equitable access and representation for all.
10. **Geopolitical Challenges and Transboundary Issues:** National parks that span international boundaries may face geopolitical challenges and differing management approaches.