



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Friday 1 December 2023 | River View Room, Hobart Council Centre

NOTE: MINUTES OF TRUST MEETINGS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE WELLINGTON PARK WEBSITE FOLLOWING THEIR APPROVAL BY THE TRUST. INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC MINUTES MAY BE REDACTED IF THE TRUST CONSIDERS IT IS EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:	Dr C Mucha	Chairperson
	Cr M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council
	Mr C Attfield	TasWater
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT
	Ms E Sorensen	WPMT, secretariat

APOLOGIES: Ms F Smith (TasWater), Cr B Lohberger (City of Hobart)

The meeting opened at 9.35am.

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge the Muwinina people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we gather. We acknowledge and pay respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, all of whom have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity and culture.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS

Nil

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2023 as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

Nil

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled. The Trust discussed access to road incident reports through external agencies.

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 23 November 2023.

The Trust discussed the single 2022-23 audit finding and proposed control, and management of unbudgeted expenses.

Resolution: The Trust noted the report prepared by the General Manager

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trust received a verbal report from the General Manager, including:

- Key office activities, regulatory workload, and new staff appointment
- Outcomes of meetings with the Minister – Parks and scheduled monthly meetings with the Minister's Adviser – Parks
- Executed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Hobart
- Recreational Trails Strategy progress
- Multi-agency meeting convened by TFS to discuss fire management in Wellington Park. The Trust has been asked to consider giving permission to use flame retardants in the Park in emergency situations. This will need to be discussed with TasWater.
- Pending outcome of application submitted under the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program for revision of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy
- Opening of the recreational 4WD season on the East West Trail, current fee structure and trail maintenance requirements

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust resolved to increase 4WD permit fees to \$40/vehicle/day from 1 January 2024.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

8.1 PARK VALUES STATEMENTS

The Trust discussed the review of consultation feedback and revised Park Value Statements. The function of the proposed Register of Features of Interest, and possible rendering as a planning overlay was discussed, with more information requested for the next meeting. The Drinking Water values were also scrutinised, with alternative phrasing to be discussed with TasWater.

The Trust acknowledged that there is no hierarchy in the purposes for which the Park was set aside, therefore tourism and recreation is not secondary to other purposes as was asserted in some feedback responses.

On feedback that queried the statistical rigour of the survey method used, the General Manager clarified that the Statements presented in the survey were taken from the 2013 Management Plan that was backed by a number of assessments and reports on the values of Wellington Park. The surveys sought to provide a ‘temperature check’ on the validity of those long-standing values with the opportunity for respondents to make addition comment. Despite the polarity of views evident among respondents, each Value Statement was supported by a clear majority, meaning that the values as identified in 2013 remain valid today. The Trust requested that the General Manager make this clear in the public consultation feedback report.

Resolution:

1. The Trust notes the revised Park Value Statements and will discuss further prior to release.
2. The Trust requested that the General Manager prepare a paper on the proposed Register of Features of Interest for discussion at the next meeting.

8.2 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

The Trust received a draft 2024-25 State Budget Submission as prepared by the General Manager on using the template provided by NRE, noting that NRE have requested that the Trust seek support from the Minister’s office prior to including the Trust submission in the department’s package as required.

Resolution:

1. The Trust endorses the General Manager to discuss the submission further with both NRE and the Minister’s Office.
2. The Trust requested the General Manager advise members if changes are recommended prior to final submission to NRE in January 2024.

8.3 TASMANIAN HERITAGE REGISTER NOMINATIONS

The General Manager advised that the first three of seventeen sites proposed by the Trust to be nominated to the Tasmanian Heritage Register have had mixed success. The Exhibition Gardens does not meet the criteria for entry. The Fingerpost Track and the Wellington Falls Track may meet at least one criterion for entry and will be considered for inclusion on the Priority Assessment List. These three sites were nominated first as they had the most substantial evidence packages. Evidence packages for the remaining proposed sites are incomplete.

The Trust noted that community members are also able to nominate Wellington Park sites to the Tasmanian Heritage Register with or without the support of the Trust.

Resolution: The Trust will not pursue further nominations to the Tasmanian Heritage Register unless further evidence of significance becomes available.

8.4 CORPORATE DOCUMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

The revised Corporate Governance Policy and Protocol, and the WPMT Strategic Risk Register were received by the Trust. The annual review of the WHS Policy is almost completed pending revision of safe operating procedures for new positions. This will be presented in full at the next Trust meeting.

Resolution:

1. The Trust endorsed v2.5 of the WPMT Corporate Governance Policy and Protocol.
2. The Trust endorses v1.2 of the WPMT Strategic Risk Register.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 PALAWA ENGAGEMENT

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

9.2 CONFERENCE REPORT – SUSTAINABLE PLACES, SPACES, PEOPLE AND HABITATS

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

9.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the Natural and Heritage Values Coordinator.

9.4 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

9.5 WPMT WORK PROGRAM

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

9.6 WELLINGTON PARK OFFICE SUMMARY

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

The City of Hobart member tabled a paper for discussion regarding shortcomings of the current Wellington Park management framework and the financial imposition being placed on a local council to manage a state-significant tourism asset.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to convene a special meeting in March 2024 to discuss alternative Park management frameworks that would deliver better outcomes for Wellington Park and visitors to the Park.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The Trust reviewed a proposed calendar of meetings and different venues for 2024. The next meeting will be held in February on a date to be advised subject to venue availability at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

MINUTES OF MEETING (ADDITIONAL)

1.30pm Thur 14 December 2023 | via Teams

11. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:	Dr C Mucha	Chairperson
	Cr M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Cr B Lohberger (City of Hobart)

The meeting opened at 1.30pm.

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge the Muwinina people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we gather. We acknowledge and pay respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, all of whom have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity and culture.

12. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS

Nil

13. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

3.1 RE-ALLOCATION OF BUDGET

The Trust discussed a proposal to re-allocate \$19,000 from the \$30,000 budget allocated to the development of a Facilities and Services Development Plan to the second stage of the Palawa Engagement Process for the Management Plan review, following the receipt of the consultancy quote.

The Trust also discussed authorisations under the WPMT Procurement Policy and Procedures, which are silent on the signing authority for contracts in excess of \$50,000.

Resolution:

1. The Trust endorsed the re-allocation of \$19,000 from the Facilities and Services Development Plan budget (\$30,000) to the delivery of the stage 2 Palawa Engagement proposal.
2. The Trust exempted the requirement to obtain three written quotes for the stage 2 Palawa Engagement proposal in recognition that this is an additional service by an original supplier.
3. The Trust authorised the Chair to sign a contract for services valued at \$74,000.

3.2 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2024-25

The Trust was updated on consultation with NRE regarding the proposed budget submission. This has resulted in a reframing of the Trust's budget submission into three separate submissions relating to priority capital investment, business case development for a financially independent Park management framework, and additional operational support for the Trust.

Further, the Trust is advised to investigate business case funding available through the Dept of Treasury and Finance's Structure Infrastructure Investment Review Process.

Resolution:

1. The Trust endorses the preparation of three 2024-25 State Budget Submissions to seek funding for urgent capital works, resourcing of a comprehensive business case for a self-funding Park management model, and support for Trust staffing and operations.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The Trust will next meet on 29 February.

Minutes of the additional meeting held on 14 December are to be circulated with the next agenda and included in the minutes as per the WPMT Governance Procedures.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2pm.