Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 30 April 2026 | Riverview Room, Hobart Council Centre

NOTE: MINUTES OF ALL 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 UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:	Dr C Mucha	Chairperson
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr M Stretton	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

OBSERVER: Ms A Macdonald, Tourism Tasmania member nominee
APOLOGIES: Ms M Kendall (Glenorchy City Council), Mr E Reale (Glenorchy City Council)

The meeting opened at 9.35am.

The Trust acknowledges and pays respect 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 advised.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 February as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

Not requested.

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager provide a verbal report to the Trust.

- An update on the Our Mountain's Future review had been sought for the Trust meeting but was not received.
- Jefferys Track is now closed north and south of Wellington Park, and private forestry harvesting activities have commenced on the property to the north.
- The Wellington Park Dark Sky Park application has been submitted to Dark Sky Tasmania and the regional member of the DarkSky International assessment panel for feedback.
- The Wellington Park website was down for several days during April owing to a global outage with the provider. Steps are being taken to establish a back up that can be toggled on should this occur again.
- Budget Estimate Briefs on relevant Wellington Park matters are in preparation.
- The new Strategic Bushfire Risk Management Plans are still awaiting sign off from all agencies, a process being coordinated by the Tasmanian Fire Service.
- The General Manager attended the multi-agency community drop-in session for the planned Humphreys Rivulet Burn on Sunday 26 April. The burn will be far larger than any other fuel reduction burn conducted in the past and will be highly visible from Greater Hobart. Communications and engagement are being led by the Tasmanian Fire Service.
- Three General Master Keys have been lost by emergency services. This is a significant security lapse and key security is once again being reviewed.

Resolution: The Trust directed the General Manager to:

1. Contact State Growth and insist that the Trust receive a briefing on the Our Mountain's Future review outputs before it is made public.
2. Investigate air tag or similar tracking options for Wellington Park General Master Keys.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 WELLINGTON PARK BUSINESS CASE

The General Manager noted that the Business Case cover report had been produced as an outcome of the previous Trust meeting and was an articulation of the Trust's position based on the consultants' outputs. Feedback was sought to ensure that discussion had been captured accurately.

The Trust discussed sequencing issues owing to the pending release of the Our Mountain's Future review, the need to brief the Minister, and relevant agency briefings before business case documentation is circulated.

A cost-benefit analysis would likely be required by Treasury and Finance in order to progress to the next stage of the SIIRP.

The endorsement being sought was queried, noting that not all members endorse every aspect of the Business Case, but instead viewed the Business Case as useful work that will inform options.

It was also noted that the Business Case had not yet been presented to member agencies for discussion before a preferred position was endorsed. The General Manager contended that the Trust's position was being sought to then use as a basis for such discussions, and that consultation had been scaled back due to potential conflict with the Our Mountain's Future review process.

The Trust also discussed the Business Case as a necessary response given that the Trust is otherwise approving an annual operating budget that is not sustainable.

The General Manager sought clarity on the application of per-customer fees for customers of licensed commercial operators as part of the Business Case outcomes.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Approve the finalisation of the Wellington Park Business Case documents as provided by the consultants.
2. Agree that the Cover Report summarises the Business Case consultancy and is a starting point for a revenue generation solution.
3. Agree that the Cover Report is a starting point for engagement with stakeholder agencies but is not for release or further circulation at this time.
4. Agree that the Business Case needs to align with the Our Mountain's Future review and the Halls Saddle project.
5. Release the Business Case consultancy documents, with an appropriate confidentiality agreement, to the City of Hobart for the purpose of the Halls Saddle project.
6. Direct the General Manager to contact the Advisor to the Minister – Parks to advise that the Business Case consultancy documentation was being provided to the City of Hobart for the purpose of the Halls Saddle project and offer same if requested.
7. Direct the General Manager to contact the Department of Treasury and Finance to advise that the Business Case consultancy documentation was being provided to the City of Hobart for the purpose of the Halls Saddle project and offer same if requested.
8. Apply per-customer fees to all customers of licensed commercial operators in Wellington Park, regardless of their mode of Park entry, once these proposed fees are introduced.
9. Undertake further discussion with respect to the quantum and allocation of funds received through licensed commercial operators.

8.2 WELLINGTON PARK REGULATIONS

The Trust discussed the need for changes to the Wellington Park Regulations to facilitate the application of fees, and the lead time required.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to progress and amendment to the Wellington Park Regulations 2019 to enable Park fees.

8.3 WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 REVIEW

The General Manager advised that the Wellington Park Management Plan review process was raised at a March meeting with senior Our Mountain's Future review staff. Review staff were supportive of the Trust continuing with the Management Plan review. The General Manager sought permission to recommence the review following an extended deferral whilst Our Mountain's Future consultation was undertaken.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Direct the General Manager to continue with the statutory review of the Wellington Park Management Plan 2013.
2. Direct the General Manager to advise the Department of State Growth Deputy Secretary (Strategy, Housing, Infrastructure and Planning) that following discussion with the Our Mountain's Future review team, the Trust was continuing the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.
3. Direct the General Manager to advise the Minister – Parks of the Trust's intention to continue the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.
4. Direct the General Manager to provide an updated timeline and progress report to the Trust.

8.4 2026-27 BUDGET

Following consideration of the draft budget in February, the General Manager provided a revised 2026-27 budget for adoption. It was noted that the March Qtr CPI for Hobart had been released the day prior to the meeting and was 5.1%, whilst the Budget had assumed 4%. This would be amended.

At the request of the Chair, the General Manager had recast the Budget assuming a 5% and 10% reduction in the State Treasury Allocation. This saw the Net Operating Profit decrease from $14,190 to $3,566 and -$16,084 (loss) respectively. The loss will require the Trust to draw on cash reserves, expected to be approximately $160K-$180K at June 30 2026.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Adopt the 2026-27 Budget, adjusted to reflect the March Qtr CPI (Hobart).
2. Direct the General Manager to generate a 3-year solvency forecast factoring in potential decreases in the State Treasury Allocation.
3. Note the depletion of cash reserves.

8.5 KUNANYI TRAIL SERIES TRACK ACCESS

The General Manager presented an appeal lodged by licensed commercial operator Trail Ventures Pty Ltd regarding the General Manager's decision to refuse the use of tracks on the boundary of and crossing the Drinking Water Catchment Zone Restricted Area for commercial trail running events owing to potential water quality impacts. The TasWater member underscored the sensitivity of this Zone and TasWater's support for the General Manager's decision.

It was also noted that the Wellington Falls/Milles Track had achieved Preliminary listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, although this was not expected to restrict use.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Defer the approval of any future events on trails bounding or crossing the Restricted Area of the Drinking Water Catchment Zone until such time as TasWater advises that this activity will not negatively impact drinking water quality.
2. Advise licensee and Destination Southern Tasmania of the Trust's decision.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 OUR MOUNTAIN'S FUTURE UPDATE

No update available.

9.2 REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

The General Manager undertook an annual review of delegations of the Trust's functions and powers and reported that no changes were made.

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

9.3 VISITOR RISK FRAMEWORK

The General Manager advised that the Trust's Visitor Risk Management Policy and Framework is being reviewed to align with Australian and NZ Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) best practice benchmarks. Key to this update is the incorporation of Zone-based risk management principles, using Management Plan Zones.

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

9.4 TRACK COUNTER SUMMARY

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

9.5 CORRESPONDENCE

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

9.6 WPO WORK PROGRAM

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

9.7 WPO SUMMARY

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

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

B Lohberger advised that contacts in the vicinity of the Crabtree end of Jefferys Track had reported a significant decrease in traffic on Jefferys Track since news of the track closure had been made public.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 9 July at the Hobart Council Centre. The Chair noted that an out-of-session may be called to receive a briefing on the Our Mountain's Future review prior to the next Trust meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.34am.