



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 28 November 2024 | 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 M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Ms E Morris	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms T Ross	PWS (until 10.56am)
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Ms R Warrener (Tourism Tasmania)

The meeting opened at 9.40am.

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. Although the Muwinina did not survive invasion, we recognise the Palawa custodianship of their traditional lands. 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

Ms E Morris advised that she was a member of Destination Southern Tasmania and that organisation would be submitting a response to the *Our Mountain's Future* review.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

The General Manager advised the Trust of the outcome of legal advice sought after the last meeting regarding the conduct of the Management Plan review, noting that this advice was consistent with the outcome of a similar query by the Trust in 2014.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2024 as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

N/A

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled, with no visitor or staff incidents reported since the last meeting.

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 20 November 2024.

The General Manager advised that the draft Memorandum of Audit Findings had been received from the Tasmanian Audit Office, noting an unresolved finding from 2022-23. The finding related to the absence of independent checking of journals, following the identification of a small number of errors in journal processing. Recommended controls were to employ a bookkeeper on staff, which the Trust does not have the resources to do, or appoint a contractor. However, two out of three errors were made by the independent contractor that the Trust uses for payroll and assistance.

The Trust noted that resource constraints that impact the Trust's ability to implement best practice financial and risk management should be noted in the submission to the State Growth mountain review.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report prepared by the General Manager.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to resolve the audit finding in the manner most appropriate for the Trust's operation.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Staff update
- Recent meetings related to the SIIRP business case
- Indigenous Ranger Program
- Palawa engagement update and issues encountered due to the State Growth mountain

review

- Recruitment of an additional ranger to support the Education and Regulations Coordinator
- Participation on the speakers panel at the Friends of the Mountain forum on 24 November

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

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 STATE GROWTH MOUNTAIN REVIEW SUBMISSION

The General Manager presented a draft submission to the mountain review for discussion. The draft focuses on the Administration review theme, acknowledging that much of the Trust's intelligence on user experience and values comes from the community that is now invited to provide direct submissions to the government review. The Trust has previously provided the review team with multiple reports and resources on these themes.

The Trust noted its preference that the submission be available to the public through the review process.

It was noted that references to current licensing arrangements for commercial operators in Wellington Park should cite the ongoing review of commercial operator licensing being undertaken by PWS.

There was some concern that the draft submission was too negative and it was important to draw out the achievements of the Trust despite the challenges faced, in particular as an example of successful, long-term distributed governance. The Trust's strengths must be recognised.

The Trust discussed:

- the various land tenure issues that should be highlighted in the submission
- the need for urgent action in light of growing visitation
- increasing regulatory burden due to more users, increased media attention and more diverse types of uses
- changes in visitor expectations, with today's visitor expecting more
- the continued lack of awareness of Wellington Park beyond Kunanyi / Mount Wellington and the Trust's role as the whole-of-Park manager
- complexity of licence, permit and approvals with multi-agency involvement
- the absence of three local councils from the management structure despite the Park overlapping these local government areas

Resolution:

1. The Trust directed the General Manager to include further edits to the draft submission and circulate to members for a 24hr period for review.
2. The Trust resolved to submit the edited document to the mountain review.

8.2 SIIRP Business Case

The General Manager presented a work plan for the implementation of the SIIRP Business Case project. The Trust discussed procurement protocols and agreed to target a number of providers to quote on the required work.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Approach a minimum of three providers to provide quotes to deliver the project as a single contract.
2. Receive the Request for Quote document for review prior to distribution.
3. Endorse the project title 'Development of a financially sustainable management model for Wellington Park'.
4. Receive a revised work plan when a consultant has been appointed.
5. Ensure that the concept of building a social licence for change is at the core of Request for Quote documentation.

Ms T Ross left at 10.56am

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The Trust received an update on the revised approach to the review of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy, including the outcomes of the multi-agency meeting on 26 November. The NDRRG program has approved the variation to the grant-funded project. The three bushfire management plans that will collectively cover the whole of Wellington Park will be completed by March 2025.

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

9.2 RECREATIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

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

9.3 MTB TRAILS – OFFER AND USAGE TRENDS

The Trust received a briefing on the scale of the MTB network in Wellington Park compared to dedicated Tasmanian MTB parks, and an update on track user counts. The MTB track offering in Wellington Park is on par with dedicated facilities despite this not being a primary function of Wellington Park. It was noted that the provision of more extreme tracks and facilities is unlikely to be compatible with the other values of Wellington Park. All monitored dedicated MTB tracks are showing decreasing use, except for Drops Middle Track which is showing steady use. All monitored shared use tracks except for North South Track at Lenah Valley and Crosscut Track are showing increasing use, likely by pedestrian users.

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

9.4 STATE GROWTH MOUNTAIN REVIEW UPDATE

The General Manager relayed a verbal update received from the Mountain Review team.

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 WPMT 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

The 2025 calendar of meetings was noted.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 27 February at the Hobart Council Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.18am.