

Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 10 July 2025 | Riverview Room, Hobart Council Centre

NOTE: MINUTES OF ALL TRUST MEETINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND AS SUCH ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE OR DISCLOSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO ANY PERSON/S WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE TRUST

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:	Dr C Mucha	Chairperson
	Cr M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council
	Ms R Warrenner	Tourism Tasmania (from 10.09am)
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Cr B Lohberger (City of Hobart), Cr Ryan Posselt (City of Hobart), Ms T Ross (PWS), Ms J Parnell (PWS)

The meeting opened at 9.35am.

The Chair noted that this would be a short meeting to be followed by a Trust workshop with the consultants appointed to deliver progress on the Wellington Park Business Case project.

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. This meeting is being held during NAIDOC Week, a time to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for 2025 is 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy'. It is timely, then, that today the Trust has received from its Palawa Knowledge Circle the consultation report on the Palawa values of Kunanyi and the land within Wellington Park, providing the Trust with the opportunity to work with Palawa to incorporate these privileged insights into the future of Wellington Park.

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

Cr Ryan Posselt provided a notice in meeting papers advising his Chair and coordination role for a new group brought together as the voice of Kunanyi recreational trail users, comprising representatives

from the Climbing Club of Tasmania and Cragcare, Hobart Trail Runners, Hobart Wheelers/Dirt Devils, Pandani Bushwalking Club, Hobart Walking Club and Destination Southern Tasmania. The group seeks 'to influence the future of the mountain outside of government agencies and land managers'. As a deputy Trust member, Cr Posselt receives Trust meeting papers and minutes but does not attend Trust meetings unless the corresponding member is absent, and is therefore not party to moderating discussions on Trust matters. The Trust noted that Cr Posselt was nominated to the Trust by the City of Hobart, and that this appointment ends in December 2025.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Advise Cr Posselt that the Trust would prefer that he stand down from his position of Trust deputy member unless he is able to demonstrate how he will manage conflict of interest issues related to his new role.
2. Seek confirmation through the City of Hobart CEO that Cr Posselt remains the Council's preferred nominee to the position of Trust deputy member in light of the new role.

3. PRESENTATION – STATE GROWTH 'OUR MOUNTAIN'S FUTURE' REVIEW UPDATE

State Growth staff provided a short presentation to the Trust on the status of the mountain review. Following release of the Vision document, the next stage is the preparation of an action plan for release in late 2025, noting that the State election had introduced some uncertainty into the process.

It was acknowledged that the Trust General Manager had expressed frustration at preliminary recommendations proposed for inclusion in the action plan however it was noted that these were rudimentary and the review team was open to further one-on-one consultation on the recommendations.

The review team will be undertaking a comparison of the current model of park management against other models, and a preferred model may be recommended for further research as an action. It was further acknowledged that there is no funding committed to the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Trust noted:

- that review commentary falls to a single Minister, who is notably not the Minister for Parks to whom the Trust reports, when ideally the review would be a whole-of-government approach.
- general agreement that the review should be apolitical and broach sensitive topics like user-pays systems. In response, the presenters pointed out that the review is a Minister's Review and although the Vision document was approved through Cabinet, the review is the initiative of a single Minister.
- that it is not surprised, nor does it disagree, with the Vision statement produced by the review.

Trust members:

- questioned why the cable car was included as a draft recommendation. In response, the presenters advised that there was a recognised need for all-weather access and other methods of transport.

Trust member R Warrener joined the meeting 10.09am.

- noted that the review needed to be fearless and support big decisions.
- noted that the Trust wants to be bold but risks being in conflict with government messaging.

State Growth staff left the meeting at 10.20am.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May as a true record of that meeting.

5. IN CAMERA SESSION

N/A

6. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled, noting 4 visitor incidents and 2 staff incidents. The focus of discussion was a vehicle rollover incident on the Humphreys Rivulet Fire Trail that resulted in the write-off of the Trust vehicle but no staff injury. The incident has been the subject of multiple debriefs with staff, a WHS investigation undertaken by Glenorchy City Council, and has resulted in additional amendments to the Trust's field work protocols. A second-hand replacement vehicle has been purchased with the insurance pay out.

The Trust questioned if this was a notifiable incident. The General Manager responded that the incident did not meet Worksafe Tasmania notification criteria as a motor vehicle is not Registered Plant.

The second staff incident was a minor strain injury.

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 30 June 2025, noting that these were preliminary reports and 2025 Financial Statements were still in preparation.

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

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

In light of meeting time constraints, the Trust received a brief verbal report from the General Manager.

The Trust has received the Palawa Values report contracted as part of the Management Plan review, to be circulated in confidence to Trust members.

The General Manager advised the Trust that the 2025-26 Budget had assumed a CPI of 2.5%. The actual figure was 1.6% so income will be below budget.

Feedback - recommendations

1 message

Amy Russell <amy.russell@wellingtonpark.org.au>

17 July 2025 at 16:09

To: "Thiessen, Sam" <Sam.Thiessen@stategrowth.tas.gov.au>, "Hall, Briallen" <Briallen.Hall@stategrowth.tas.gov.au>

Hi Sam, Briallen,

Please find attached the Trust's feedback on the draft recommendations. The Trust has largely abstained from comment on Administration given that this work is yet to come.

Thanks
Amy

[Amy Russell](#)

General Manager - Wellington Park Management Trust

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In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, I acknowledge and pay my respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of this land.

 **Options summary - WPMT feedback.pdf**
316K

WPMT feedback

Usage and Values

SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
1.1 [REDACTED] - The Trust will have completed the application form for Dark Sky Park registration prior to the completion of the OMF review. 1.2 [REDACTED] - Visual amenity considerations, including guard rail painting, were tested by the Trust prior to the works permit being issued to CoH. - The slimline w-beam railing is itself a concession to visual amenity, being the optimum solution based on safety, visual amenity and cost. - Paint would need to be reapplied frequently owing to alpine conditions and there is a significant natural values risk in the release of deteriorating paint flakes into the sensitive alpine environment. - Railing installation is a 1 in 100 year intervention, this being the first road barrier replacement since construction in 1930. This is not a recurring activity and the temporary scenic amenity impact is a trade-off for road safety and guard rail longevity, noting that the in-situ oxidation (dulling) of the metal guard rail creates a protective coating on the rail to extend life. 1.3 Support the WPMT to complete the review of the WP Management Plan to improve guidance on the interpretation of natural values, assessment of impacts and appropriate controls. 1.4 Work with the five councils neighbouring Wellington Park to develop and implement strategies to reduce light pollution to maintain the Dark	1.5 [REDACTED] - This should only refer to the lattice tower. The large tower has recently been significantly renovated and it's design life extended significantly. - This will be a commercial decision by WIN TV but the government could make a representation to WIN, noting that [REDACTED] have confirmed that there is capacity for consolidation of WIN equipment and transmissions into the larger broadcast building and tower. - The lattice tower presents a significant ice fall safety hazard and its removal would eliminate this risk. - Removal of the lattice tower and relocation of equipment makes the building footprint available for other uses. - The site is leased to WIN by CoH, the tower and building is owned by WIN, and the facility is maintained by [REDACTED] under contract to WIN.	1.6 [REDACTED] - Note: in the workshop, this was clarified [REDACTED] - A case of national significance would be difficult to build, noting that state significance would also be difficult to justify based on the Trust's experience in submitting Park features for Tasmanian Heritage Register listing, none of which have met the criteria. The Mountain Water Supply Scheme, partly within Wellington Park, is the only state heritage-listed feature in the Park. - In terms of management outcomes, does this infer any more (or less) protection than is currently afforded by the Wellington Park Act 1993, the WP Regulations and the WP Management Plan?

Sky quality in Wellington Park.		
2. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
2.1 [REDACTED] - Refer to the Wellington Park Recreational Trails Strategy (Draft, 2025 – not yet released for consultation owing to agencies questioning the authority of the Trust to undertake this work whilst the Our Mountain's Future review is ongoing). The Strategy includes a trailhead audit and signage / user info recommendations. - Visitor dispersal recommendations mean focus is needed at multiple trailheads, not just The Springs. - Funding will be required - No electricity at The Springs to support 'multi-modal' options and the only available wi-fi is provided (and powered via generator) by the Lost Freight café operators. - The Trust is a registered Public Lands Partner on AllTrails and is able to curate and update trail information on this platform. 2.2 Provide GIS support to the Trust to produce quality track and trail mapping and contemporary interpretation products. 2.3 Support the Trust to implement trailhead, wayfinding and interpretive signage recommendations in the Wellington Park Recreational Trails Strategy (Draft, 2025).	2.2 [REDACTED] - The Trust notes that Riding The Mountain is a CoH strategy and does not include land owned by GCC. The strategy is also not contemporary, with multiple new mountain bike park/track offerings now available in the region, such that use of several MTB tracks in WP is declining. - WP already has 46km of MTB trails, more than dedicated MTB Parks at Meehan Range (41km) and Queenstown (32km). Maydena has also come on line since the release of Riding The Mountain with an additional 63km of MTB tracks. The need for further MTB track development in WP requires careful assessment, also noting that Riding The Mountain track proposals are flagged in areas with significant colonial timber industry heritage sensitivities that have been elevated to the Heritage Minister by heritage stakeholders. 2.X Support the Trust to address gaps in the trail network identified in the Wellington Park Recreational Trails Strategy (Draft, 2025). 2.X Work with the Trust and GCC to create an attractive recreational trail offering above Tolosa Park in former Drinking Water Catchments that will no longer be Restricted Areas (as endorsed by TasWater) under the revised Wellington Park Management Plan, noting that this will also aid in visitor dispersal across Wellington Park. 2.3 [REDACTED]	2.4 [REDACTED] - Feasibility study completed in 2013 ('Wellington to Wilderness') federally funded as part of the Tas Forests Agreement. - <i>Scope: 'Test the economic and environmental case for multiuser recreation access routes in a corridor running from Hobart through WP and the Styx Valley to Maydena, and via the Snowy Range to the Russell River. Within this corridor options to cater for at least 3 user groups (mountain bikers, horse riders and walkers) should be considered as well as options for part-day, day and multiday trips by each user group. Where possible, routes should provide economic opportunities for communities along the route.'</i> - <i>'The report concludes that there are few features of interest that would justify the development of any new walking trails or horse riding trails in the study area beyond what already exists.'</i> - Multi-day experience scoping referenced in Wellington Park Recreational Trails Strategy (Draft, 2025) – consideration being given to linkage with Maydena MTB park and/or a Palawa-led experience similar to wukulina walk to build interest into a landscape that has otherwise been found to be of little interest.

		[REDACTED] - Why is seasonality seen as an issue? More visitation during winter comes with greater risks to visitor safety. The Trust participates in an annual Inter-Agency Emergency Rescue and Road Safety meeting before winter, with CoH, Tas Police, Tas Ambulance and Police Search and Rescue to ensure seasonal safety arrangements are in hand. Any thought of proactively seeking to increase winter visitation, noting that winter conditions on the mountain extend from May-Oct, would have significant visitor safety implications. - Assuming that the commercial interpretation of 'smoothing seasonality' applies, where winter visitation is boosted to match summer visitation, this is a visitor growth strategy in disguise. Current visitation exceeds infrastructure capability, so any move to increase visitation must be preceded by improved visitor dispersal, visitor safety measure, transportation and basic infrastructure. Visitor growth must also be moderated by the preservation or protection of the natural and cultural values for which WP was set aside.	
3.			
	SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
3.1	[REDACTED] - Sustainability and consistency with park values is key in this recommendation. - The Trust is subject to pressure from event organisers wanting to access more remote areas of the Park due to the prevailing opinion that the lower reaches of the mountain are now 'full' of events. Organisers are seeking a point of difference for their event, which means seeking access to more	3.2 [REDACTED] - The Trust already offers fee-free commercial operator licences for Palawa businesses. Only one business has taken up the offer. 3.3 [REDACTED] - Will be subject to the Zoning, Allowable Uses and Standards for Use and Development set down in the WP Management Plan. - Why is there an imperative to building year-round visitation in the Park (see previous comments	

remote areas, more difficult trails, requesting to cut new trails specifically for events, or seeking access to the Park after dark. The Trust and Park Management Agencies typically do not support these requests for a range of safety, user impact and values protection reasons. - March and November are the peak event months, for various reasons including weather favourability and stability, and no school holiday or peak tourism congestion. In past years, Pinnacle Rd has been closed at least one morning of every weekend in March and November due to an event, compounded by an annual week-long road maintenance closure in November. Further event pressure in these months and on the eastern face/foothills of Kunanyi could not be supported without significant impact on other Park users. Events outside of these months need significant weather and congestion-busting contingencies in place, which has not been attractive for event organisers. - Wellington Park is not an appropriate location for events that involve large gatherings of people. - Tolosa Park, as a large open space and a northern gateway to Wellington Park, should be supported as a Park-adjacent event space and/or event hub. 3.X Support the tourism industry to grow [its] contribution to land management agencies to increase resources for conservation and management, as set down in Key Direction 2 of the Tasmanian 2030 Visitor Economy Strategy.	re: seasonality)? This is a commercial tourism goal. The purposes for which WP was set aside include to provide recreational and tourism uses and opportunities, but not to proactively grow visitation. There appears to be an overarching repositioning of Wellington Park as a commercial tourism product. If this is the intent, it should be acknowledged in introductory text in the Action Plan. Such repositioning would also change the context of the Wellington Park Management Plan, as tourism marketing has not previously been a function of park management. - Actively building visitation (over and above organic growth) before current visitation can be safely accommodated is not supported. 3.4 [REDACTED] - Part of the Wellington Park Business Case, noting that the Business Case will flag a valid model, but support will be required to implement this.	
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Usage and Values (Cont'd)

4. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
4.1 Work with Palawa, the Trust and the CoH to Implement protective measures to prevent trampling and damage to the root system of the Octopus Tree. 4.2 Work with Palawa, the Trust and Hobart and Glenorchy councils to develop a Cultural Centre at the base of Kunanyi / Mount Wellington, including scoping options at Halls Saddle and Tolosa Park. 4.3 Support the Trust in scoping a 'Palawa Cultural Zone' for recognition in the WP Management Plan to provide for cultural access and use consistent with Park values. 4.4 Work with the Trust and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to support and expand the Kunanyi Indigenous Ranger Program.	4.5 [REDACTED] - Phrasing here is critical – this reads like a one-sided approach that has been explicitly rejected during the Trust's Palawa consultation process if it does not include a reciprocal and meaningful benefit for Palawa (eg co-management opportunities, Trust membership, areas accessible for Palawa-led tourism only). - Instead Support Palawa and the Trust to create Park signage to increase cultural respect and ensure the sensitive and respectful representation of Kunanyi. 4.6 [REDACTED] (storytelling has been identified as sensitive and for limited public sharing. Historical and environmental knowledge is less sensitive for public sharing) 4.7 Support initiatives to build Palawa capacity for co-management of Wellington Park.	4.3 [REDACTED] - Red flag - It is not for govt to develop a program such as this. - Instead, Support the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to expand the Junior Ranger Program into Wellington Park. - Support Palawa investigations into the establishment of personhood status for Kunanyi / Mount Wellington.
5. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
5.X Work with the State Heritage Council to expedite the assessment of the Fingerpost Track and the Wellington Falls Track for inclusion on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. 5.X Work with the City of Hobart, Kingborough City Council, TasWater and the Trust to implement the Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Management Plan, including maintenance and interpretation recommendations.	5.1 [REDACTED] - By default, features of cultural heritage interest are preserved or protected within WP by the Act and Regs, noting that active maintenance is largely limited to managing for safety purposes in	

	the absence of any funding. - The Act and Regs, further articulated by the Management Plan, are the 'framework for a unified approach'. What is missing is the resourcing of the Trust to retain a qualified heritage practitioner and an operational budget to implement this. 5.X Work with the City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council and the Trust to develop Conservation Management Plans for the historic huts of Wellington Park consistent with the Wellington Park Bush Huts Management Policy (2024).		
6.			
	SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
6.1	 • This exists (both the Trust and CoH) but is geared towards safety messaging. The Trust website is framed around the whole Park, not just the mountain, which is important given that visitor dispersal is key to reducing visitor pressure. The mountain and Park are not presented as a commercial tourism product in order to manage visitor expectations in line with available amenities. Refer previous commentary about the mountain as a commercial tourism product.		
6.2	 - Significant funding required. - PWS involvement also required as the Park Management Agency for 14,000+ ha of WP 6.X Support the Trust and the City of Hobart to expand the Mountain Ambassador program to provide visitor assistance at The Pinnacle and The Springs throughout the year.		
7.			
	SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 

7.1 [REDACTED] - Refer Recreational Trails Strategy (Draft 2025) – action identified	7.2 [REDACTED] - Significant funding required 7.X Support the CoH to incorporate accessibility concessions in the replacement of boardwalk assets at The Pinnacle as these assets approach end-of-life.	
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RTI - RELEASE - WPMT

Access and Visitation

[illegible]

3. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
3.1 [REDACTED] - Given the mountain-centric nature of recommendations, unlikely to be able to 'model' anything more accurate than: A) Number of visitors entering The Pinnacle Observation Shelter (track counter in place) B) Number of vehicles and vehicle class entering the Park (Pinnacle Rd traffic counter in place) 3.2 [REDACTED]	3.3 [REDACTED]	

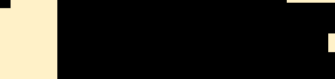
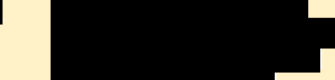
Facilities and Infrastructure

1.			
	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
		1.1	1.2
2.			
	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
		2.1	2.3
		Check on this – bus stops within WP are not technically ‘stops’ according to the Explorer Bus operators, but ‘pick-up/drop-off points’. May be additional road engineering requirements to establish these as ‘stops’, before accessibility amendments can be installed.	Note: additional constraint is the absence of a potable water supply in WP.
3.			
	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM

		3.1 [REDACTED] 3.2 [REDACTED] - instead of 'showcase cultural facilities', provide for a dedicated Cultural Centre within a hub development– Palawa consultation undertaken by the Trust has identified that a cultural centre at the base of Kunanyi is a community priority.
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RTI - RELEASE - V.1

Administration

1.			
	SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
1.x Work with local councils in whom Crown land in Wellington Park has been historically 'vested in' for the purpose of drinking water supply to have the investiture lifted in order to further clarify land management responsibilities within and outside of Wellington Park.			1.1        
2.			
	SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
2.1 			2.2    

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RTI - RELEASE - WPMT

Administration (Cont'd)

3. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
	3.1 [REDACTED]	
4. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
4.1 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
4.x Work with the City of Hobart, TasWater and the Trust to resolve the status of the St Crispin's Well Track. - track was closed following damage around the well viewing platform during a flood event in 2018. Has been closed ever since. - track is not a formal track asset of the City of Hobart and is therefore not managed by them. - TasWater used grant funding to install the viewing platform at the Well but does not maintain the platform or the track. - If the track is closed permanently, no need to install toilet. - viewing platform needs to be repaired and an agency needs to commit to maintaining it and the access track in order for the track to re-open. - the Trust is not resourced to deliver on-ground works.		
5. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 

	5.1 [REDACTED] - PWS section of the Park only – this is not relevant to the GCC/CoH sections of the Park. Rather, this will ensure PWS recognises and delivers against their bushfire risk management responsibilities in their section of WP.	
6. [REDACTED]		
SHORT TERM 	MEDIUM TERM 	LONG TERM 
6.1 [REDACTED] - Fire management aside, what will this entail that improves upon the protections already afforded by the Act, Regs and Management Plan? - What environmental degradation has occurred over the life of the WP Act that requires addressing through new Environmental Protection recommendations?	6.2 [REDACTED] - Why? How? The Park is a protected area. What is the value proposition here that would warrant the significant expense of a generic Species monitoring framework over 18,011 ha of land? What interventions would arise that are more beneficial than the protections already afforded? 6.3 [REDACTED] - What problem is this responding to – apart from occasional detections and some weed infestations in disturbed areas on urban fringes and power easements, there are no known significant feral/weed problems)	
SHORT TERM  1-2 YEARS	MEDIUM TERM  3-4 YEARS	LONG TERM  5+ YEARS