



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 27 November 2025 | 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
	Ms E Morris	Tourism Tasmania
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms F Smith	TasWater (from 10.30am)
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Cr J Kelly (City of Hobart)

The meeting opened at 9.36am.

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

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

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

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

Not requested.

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled. The Trust discussed a request from Tasmania Police Missing Persons for Ranger assistance.

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 20 November 2025. The General Manager noted that an income variance related to the delayed invoicing of the final instalment of SIIRP funding due to the delayed commencement of the project. This invoice has since been sent.

The General Manager also advised that the 2025-26 audit had already begun, with the Audit Entry meeting completed with Audit Tasmania on 21 November and the first tranche of documents requested.

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

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager provide a verbal report to the Trust.

- Project Officer has finished with the Trust after choosing not to renew her contract.
- Nominations for all Trust member and deputy member positions expiring on 31 December 2025 had now been received and appointment packages had been provided to the Minister's office.
- Sixty stakeholder and agency representatives had registered to attend the Trust's annual end-of-year breakfast on 3 December.
- Following an offer of briefing to all MPs and MLCs, the General Manager had so far met with 8 MPs (plus 4 more scheduled for future dates) and 4 MLCs (plus one more scheduled for a future date). The Trust Chair also attended the briefing with the Greens and the Labor leader and deputy.
- The General Manager attended the Hobart and Southern Fire Management Advisory Committee meeting on 11 November.
 - There was further discussion on Wellington Park fire management questions fielded by the Minister for Parks at recent Budget Estimates hearings.
 - The Trust noted that there is a public misconception about the application and value of fuel reduction burns in wet forests and drinking water catchments
- The General Manager will be providing a Business Case update to ERHOA at its meeting on 9 December.
 - The Trust discussed the likelihood of receiving SIIRP stage 3 funding following completion of the business case, including identification of start-up infrastructure requirements. It was acknowledged that this would be challenging in the current environment.
 - The Digital Transformation Fund was identified as another possible source of support given the nature of reforms being discussed.

- The General Manager had been invited to sit on the working group for the City of Hobart's Urban Precincts and Partnership Program-funded Halls Saddle project.
- The General Manager would now be taking the lead on the Trust's Dark Sky Park application.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to add Wellington Park fire management to the Trust's list of Question Time Briefs provided to the Minister for Parks.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 ANNUAL REVISION – GOVERNANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Trust considered minor edits to the Governance Policy and Procedures to address ambiguity on deputy member attendance at Trust meetings, clarify the Trust's authority to prepare submissions to introduce, amend or revoke legislation, and to remove reference to delegated functions that no longer occur.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the revised Governance Policy and Procedures with an additional amendment to formalise the procedure through which a deputy member is invited to attend a Trust meeting.

8.2 CLOSURE OF JEFFERYS TRACK

The General Manager provided a summary of an unfolding issue on Jefferys Track, where a private landholder intends to install locked gates on Jefferys Track in accordance with advice from multiple sources. The landholder has been provided with a planning exemption by the Huon Valley Council to install the gates.

F Smith joined the meeting at 10.30am.

The core issue is that no public authority has accepted management responsibility for Jefferys Track where it passes through three private properties at Crabtree. For much of this length, the road is located outside of the road casement. When the landholder had sought planning permission to build a house on their block, upgrade and maintenance of Jefferys Track through the entire property was made a condition of approval, and the landholder has also received legal advice that they bear the liability for public use of the road.

Although situated well outside Wellington Park, Jefferys Track through Crabtree is the recommended route for recreational 4WD permit holders for the East West Trail to exit Wellington Park. In the absence of an alternative exit route, the Trust is unable to open the recreational 4WD permit season, noting that based on track inspections, the East West Trail has not yet been approved for opening. The General Manager has been in contact with 4WD Tasmania and the Land Rover Owners Club of Tasmania to advise of the situation, and has facilitated contact between 4WD Tasmania and the private landholder. LROCT has also provided the General Manager with an alternate exit route through the Russell Ridge Conservation Reserve to Judbury that is currently being investigated.

In discussion, it was acknowledged that Jefferys Track could be argued to be a Right-Of-User road under common law principles.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Contact PWS Property services and seek to facilitate a land swap.
2. Investigate alternative routes for recreational 4WD user access through Wellington Park.

8.3 CRUISE SHIP VISITOR FEES

The Trust considered a proposal to investigate a cruise ship onshore excursion passenger fee similar to that applied by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. The Trust discussed cruise ship onshore excursion visits to The Pinnacle based on data collected in the 24-25 season, direct costs incurred by the City of Hobart associated with additional septic pumping and potable water delivery on cruise ship days, options to position a Ranger or Mountain Ambassador at The Pinnacle, and other possible enhancements to the visitor experience.

It was noted that if applied, the onshore excursion company would be invoiced for the visitor charge on receipt of final visitor numbers. Consultation with the Australian Cruise Ship Association undertaken as part of the Wellington Business Case indicated no issue with charging, as this was common practice for most attractions visited by onshore excursions. All that was required was sufficient lead time to work new charges into pricing schedules.

The Trust concluded that a fee would be proposed to cover administration and infrastructure costs, and to reinforce the Trust's authority as the main contact for Wellington Park for the provision of Park closure and risk information.

Resolution: The Trust resolves to develop a ~~cruise ship~~ cruise ship onshore excursion fee system for Wellington Park for the 2026-27 cruise ship season for review by the Trust.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 PINNACLE ROAD – OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE AND DUTY OF CARE

The General Manager tabled a report on ownership, maintenance and duty of care related to Pinnacle Rd following questions from the City of Hobart and Trust discussions regarding congestion management. Legal advice had been sought following the September Trust meeting.

The City of Hobart is responsible for the maintenance of Pinnacle Rd. If the Trust limits the exercise of the Council's statutory responsibility, some liability may attach to the Trust.

Both the Trust and the City of Hobart have the power to control activity and limit access to Pinnacle Rd, although this power is exercised for different purposes by the two organisations. It was noted that the functions of the Trust and the Council can overlap. Liability associated with the failure to manage foreseeable risks associated with visitor numbers and recreational activities could attach to the Trust, but would likely be shared with the Council.

Resolution: The Trust directed the General Manager to raise the liability issue with the *Our Mountain's Future* review as another example of the under-resourcing of the Trust impacting its ability to uphold its risk management duties.

9.2 RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Following discussion on a report tabled by the General Manager, the Trust considered common practice regarding which RTI disclosures are posted to Disclosure Logs and the need for a second assessor should a Trust RTI disclosure be appealed. The Trust Chair offered to be the appeal assessor. The General Manager also undertook to circulate information assessed for disclosure to all Trust members at the time of release instead of via the correspondence log routinely tabled at Trust meetings.

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

9.3 BUSINESS CASE UPDATE

The Trust received a written update from the consultant consortium as part of a report tabled by the General Manager. Modelling is now progressing following the outcomes of market research conducted in September-October. The consultants have noted the financial impact of a shuttle bus as part of the solution for Wellington Park as operating costs need to be covered by revenue generated. The Trust remains committed to the inclusion of a shuttle bus option to reduce road congestion and improve visitor management.

The Trust noted the consultants' intention to provide a final draft to the Trust in February for full review prior to the final document being completed for March 2026.

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

9.4 FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Trust received the draft Hobart-Glenorchy Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, the first of the mosaic of three plans covering the Wellington Range to replace the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy. It was noted that the remaining two plans were due before Christmas.

The General Manager advised that remaining NDRRGP grant funding was being used to fly high resolution aerial imagery for the majority of Wellington Park in 2025-26, with an accompanying request to TASVEG to revise vegetation mapping using this new data. As TASVEG is important input data for bushfire risk and behaviour modelling, a revision of this data will improve the quality of bushfire risk planning in Wellington Park.

The General Manager further advised that she had strongly advocated for the recognition of the Wellington Range plan mosaic in the *Our Mountain's Future* Review recommendations in lieu of a new, stand-alone fire management process that risked replicating the disadvantages of the original Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy.

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

9.5 INDIGENOUS RANGER PROGRAM AGREEMENTS

The Trust noted that the General Manager has been working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Division Manager – Country and Culture to develop two instruments to formalise arrangements between the Trust and the TAC for the purpose of the Indigenous Ranger Program. A standing permit

will be issued for matters relevant to the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*, and an MoU will recognise a cooperative working relationship between the two parties.

On review of the full list of possible activities that may be undertaken by the Kunanyi Rangers as provided by the TAC, most are readily included in a standing permit with standard conditions. However, some activities such as cultural burning, animal trapping for monitoring and drone use, will be excluded and instead be subject to case-by-case permits owing to the need for additional consultation and participation by individual management agencies. Once drafted, the standing permit will be circulated to agencies for feedback, and a meeting between all parties is also being considered to build working relationships.

The General Manager provided a verbal report to the Trust on a meeting with TAC representatives the day prior to the Trust meeting. This included further discussion on the potential for Palawa representation on the Trust, highlighting enthusiasm and renewed interest following the Palawa Values consultation undertaken as part of the Wellington Park Management Plan review.

The General Manager sought permission from the Trust to investigate options for Palawa involvement on the Trust in the absence of legislative reform.

Resolution: The Trust:

1. Noted the report provided by the General Manager.
2. Resolved to investigate options for respectful, genuine Palawa involvement on the Trust, recognising that outright membership is not possible under the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.
3. Directed the General Manager to advise the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs that Palawa involvement on the Trust is being investigated.

9.4 VISITOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOL UPDATE

The Trust received updated track and traffic counter data, noting that three of the busiest days on record on Pinnacle Rd had occurred since the September Trust meeting, and that 6 September 2025 was the busiest day on record with 1906 vehicles entering the Park. Each of these days were snow days.

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

9.7 CORRESPONDENCE

The Trust noted that the Red Tape Reduction portal submission made by the Trust with reference to the scale of the annual Trust audit had been referred to the Minister for Parks.

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

9.8 WPO WORK PROGRAM

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

9.9 WPO SUMMARY

The Trust noted the potential WHS impact on the General Manager in the absence of adequate staffing.

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

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 2026 MEETING DATES

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the 2026 schedule of meeting dates.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 19 February at the Hobart Council Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.09pm.