



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 11 July 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
	Mr E Reale	Glenorchy City Council (until 11.38am)
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Mr C Attfield	TasWater
	Ms R Warrenner	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Ms F Smith (TasWater), Cr M Kendall (Glenorchy CC),
Ms T Ross (PWS), Ms J Parnell (PWS)

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.

The Trust acknowledged that the meeting was being held during NAIDOC week.

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 2 May 2024 as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

The General Manager left the meeting. The Trust discussed the recruitment of a new GM following the resignation of the incumbent.

The General Manager returned to the meeting.

Item 9 General Manager's Report (part) was brought forward to discuss the State Growth review of Wellington Park.

The General Manager provided an update on communication to date with State Growth staff conducting the review. Further, the Trust has been instructed to refer all enquiries regarding the review to the State Growth website.

The General Manager and Chair met with State Growth on 3 July to sight and discuss the draft Terms of Reference for the review.

The Trust expressed concern that the draft ToR had not been made available to the Trust for consideration.

Item 10.1 Management Plan Review Status was brought forward.

The General Manager advised that at a meeting with State Growth on 7 June, it had been agreed to pause the Management Plan review process for one month until the ToR had been finalised by the review steering committee, expected to occur at their meeting on 11 July. This was deemed prudent as the next stage of the Management Plan review was public consultation, and this would now conflict with consultation timelines indicated by the State Growth review. It is also conceivable that a revised Management Plan may pre-empt and/or contradict the outcomes of the State Growth review.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to write to the State Growth review steering committee, copying in the Minister for Parks, to:

- a) Request a presentation on the review
- b) Convey the Trust's expectation that the Trust be consulted early in the review process, noting that agencies were already being consulted separately
- c) Advise that the Trust is continuing with the review of the Management Plan in line with its statutory obligations, but recognises that the two public consultation processes cannot occur concurrently, and will therefore defer further consultation until the State Growth review is complete
- d) Advise that the Trust will need to update the public Management Plan review calendar on the Trust website accordingly

7. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled.

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 30 June 2024. The General Manager also advised that the Draft Annual Financial Report had been received the day prior in preparation for Audit and Annual Report publication.

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

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Request for permission to publish the Park Values Consultation Report on the Trust website.
- Background information on the Tazzip proposal, noting that there had been no formal approach to the Trust beyond an exploratory discussion between the proponent and the Trust General manager in November 2022.
- Receipt of a new commercial operator licence from Palawa-owned BlakLed Tours.
- Budget Estimate Briefs requested for preparation by the Trust.
- Resignation of the Trust's Natural and Heritage Values Coordinator and deferral of a new appointment until a new General Manager was in place.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust resolved to publish the Park Values Consultation Report on the Trust website.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

10.2 AARDVARK ADVENTURES LICENCE RENEWAL

The Trust was apprised of recent activity and communications by and with Aardvark Adventures regarding the conduct of illegal abseiling activities at The Springs Lookout. School groups had also been detected undertaking this activity and corrective action had been taken. Permanent 'no abseiling' signage has now been erected by the Trust at the lookout.

E Reale left the meeting at 11.38am.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

1. Advise PWS Leases and Licences that the Trust would support the renewal of a commercial operator licence for Aardvark Adventures if requested by the operator, subject to the conditions that:
 - i. abseiling activities are restricted to the Organ Pipes
 - ii. any abseiling activity undertaken outside of this area will result in immediate cancellation of the licence to operate in Wellington Park
 - iii. the operator maintains TICT accreditation, this being a standard licence condition
2. Direct the General Manager to write to the Dept of Education and all private schools notifying that abseiling is restricted to the Organ Pipes, and that The Springs Lookout balustrade and seating was not rated for use as a rope tie-off or rope hold.

10.3 BUSH HUTS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The General Manager advised that the Bush Huts Management Policy was a legacy project completed by the Natural and Heritage Values Coordinator in consultation with member agencies. The Policy was designed to clarify and standardise the management of 'secret huts' in Wellington Park.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to adopt the the Bush Huts Management Policy for application by Park Management Agencies.

10.4 BIENNIAL REVIEW OF HR POLICIES

The Trust discussed revised HR polices presented by the General Manager.

Resolution:

1. The Trust directed the General Manager to confirm and reinstate an Employee Assistance Program, and update the policy accordingly.
2. The Trust resolved to endorse the revised HR policies.

10.5 BIENNIAL REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT POLICY

The Trust received a revised Procurement Policy prepared by the General Manager. There was discussion regarding the relevance of the Treasurer's Instructions to the Trust given its independent status. A correction to the value threshold in section 5 was noted.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to endorse the revised Procurement Policy.

11. ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

The Trust received the draft Annual Report for review. Dark Sky application content is to be added. The Chair's opening letter will be updated to reference the State Growth review. The document is provided to the Trust for review as the General Manager is seeking to complete the bulk of the report prior to her finishing date. The Trust will have another opportunity to review the document with completed financials at its September meeting.

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

11.2 FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The General Manager reported on positive interactions with the Tasmanian Fire Service and, if approved by TFS management, will see the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy reframed as one or more Greater Hobart Strategic Fire Management Plans. This is a better outcome than the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy as a stand-alone document outside of the hierarchy of Tasmanian fire management plans and strategies

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

11.3 CORRESPONDENCE

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

11.4 WPMT WORK PROGRAM

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

11.5 WPO SUMMARY

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

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair thanked the outgoing General Manager for her service to the Trust.

The Chair reminded members that an additional meeting would likely be scheduled to receive a formal update from State Growth.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55am.