



30 | YEARS
1993–2023

Wellington Park

Member induction

January 2023



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Overview

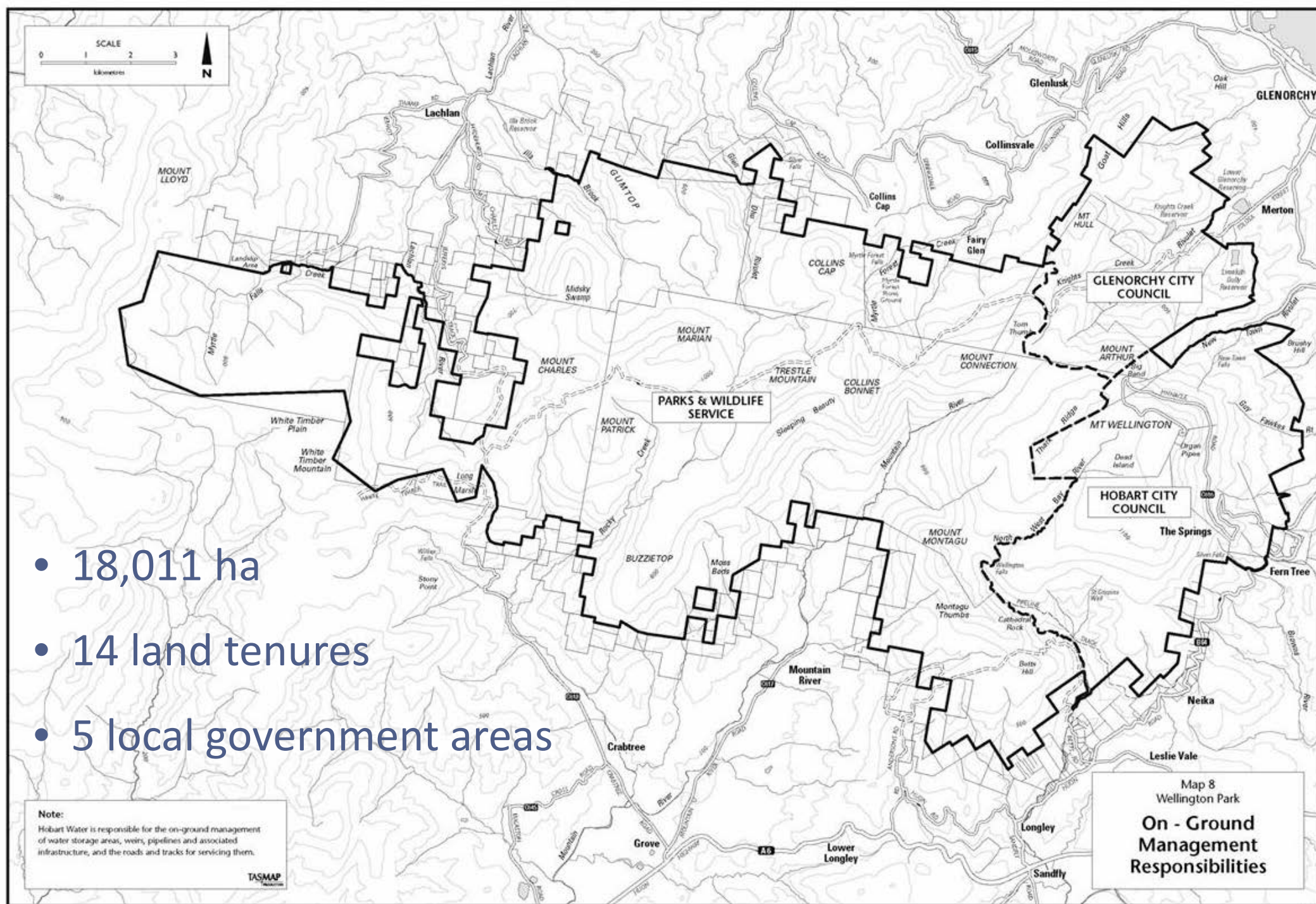
- The Park
- The Trust – composition and roles
- Key functions
- Governance
- Meeting processes
- Wellington Park Office
- Work Plan
- Issues & discussion



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

The Park

- Established in 1993 by the *Wellington Park Act*
- Set aside for the provision of recreational and tourism uses and opportunities consistent with the preservation or protection of flora, fauna, scenic amenity, features of Aboriginal / heritage / scientific / architectural / geomorphological interest, and drinking water catchment values





30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

The Trust

- Composition defined in the Act – 7 members + independent Chair
- Membership is by Ministerial appointment (resignation also by written notice to Minister)
- Member agencies may nominate deputies to perform duty only if member is unavailable
- 3 year term, eligible for reappointment



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

The Trust

Chair	Dr Christine Mucha - The Act does not provide for a deputy Chair	TasWater	Ms Frances Smith Deputy – Mr Christian Attfield
City of Hobart	(Cr John Kelly) (Deputy – LM Cr Anna Reynolds)	Parks & Wildlife	(Ms Tory Ross) Deputy – Ms Jo Crisp
City of Hobart	(Cr Ben Lohberger) (Deputy – Cr Ryan Posselt)	Dept of NRE	(Mr Stuart Fletcher) Deputy - Ms Krissy Ward
Glenorchy CC	(Ald Molly Kendall) Deputy – Mr Emilio Reale	Tourism Tasmania	Ms Rita Warrener Deputy – Ms Anne Greentree

Role of the Trust

- Provide for the management and maintenance of WP consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside ('the purposes')
- Give effect to any Management Plan in force
- Enforce the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*
- Prepare Management Plan and keep provisions under review
- Ensure development in WP is consistent with the purposes and management plan
- Advise on proposals relevant to WP when required by Minister



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Role of the Trust

- Carry out, or arrange to be carried out, research and other activities useful for administration of Act
- Be the managing authority of WP
 - Management Plans for Governor approval
 - Subsidiary policies, plans and strategies
 - Delegate authority in accordance with Act
 - Ensure appropriate resourcing
 - Monitor business systems and practices



30 | YEARS
1993-2023
Wellington Park

Role of the Chair

- Lead Trust in discharge of functions and powers to meet responsibilities
- Chair meetings and other sessions, ensure clear conclusions and proper recording
- Be kept fully informed by management on current & emerging issues
- Establish agendas in consultation with management
- GM performance management
- Act as spokesperson on matters of policy and Trust decisions
- Exercise formal delegations eg financial approval



30 YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Role of members & deputies

- Act in good faith in best interests of the Trust as a whole
 - Member experience and agency insights are brought to Trust discussions but votes are cast in the best interest of the Trust and Wellington Park
 - AICD principles – the overriding duty of a fiduciary is the obligation of undivided loyalty, obliging members to act in the Trust's interests
- Act for proper purpose, and with care, skill and diligence
- Avoid conflicts of interest (ACNC Register of Interests template)



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Role of members & deputies

- Refrain from making improper use of Trust information
- Refrain from taking improper advantage of the position
- Behave honestly and with integrity when attending to Trust duties
- Maintain the confidentiality of matters dealt with, subject to the information-sharing protocol outlined in the Trust's Governance Procedures
 - Meetings, reports, agendas and minutes are confidential



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Role of members & deputies

- Comply with Act and any other legislation, regulations and policies
- Suitably prepare for and participate in meetings to assist efficient and effective decision making and meeting conduct
- Work collegially with the Chair and other Trust members
- Members to fully brief deputy before deputy attends meetings



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Key Trust Functions

- Policies, strategies and master plans
- Work with the General Manager
- Approve Trust policies
- Approve legal proceedings commenced by the Trust in its name
- Act with the highest ethical standards and comply with obligations under codes and standards
- Risk management and WHS – the Trust is a *PCBU*
- Monitoring and oversight



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Key Trust Functions

- Ministerial and stakeholder relations – administration of the WP Act is assigned to the Minister – Parks, with responsibility conferred upon NRE
 - Minister may give directions regarding performance of function, and Trust must comply. This is not to be exercised to:
 - *Prevent Trust from performing any function required under Act*
 - *Interfere with formation by Trust of any opinion or belief in relation to any matter to be determined in order to perform the Trust's functions or powers*
- Ongoing duty of disclosure of any direct or indirect interests, including pecuniary interests



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Governance

- Access to professional advice
- Delegations – instruments issued to Chair, Management, selected Park management agency positions
- Material provided for consideration that is by its nature confidential, or marked confidential, must not be disclosed to third parties except with approval of the Trust
- Members may discuss non-confidential information with their organisations at their discretion



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Governance

- Information must not be used for personal or non-official purposes
- Approved minutes are made available to public following resolution at the next meeting
- Act provides that members and delegates are immune from personal liability, however Trust is not precluded from that liability
- Remuneration – State Service officers/employees not entitled, other members are entitled to remuneration (\$150/meeting)



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Meeting Process

- Quorum – 4 members including Chair
- 5 meetings/year (or as called by Chair + any 2 members)
- Aim for consensus. If voting, resolution passed by majority vote. If tied, Chair has casting vote in addition to vote as member
- No provision for circular resolutions via email – video- or teleconference only
- In-camera session available at start of each meeting
- Meetings not open to public



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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Meeting Process

- Agenda approved by Chair in consultation with GM (2 weeks prior)
- Agenda and papers delivered to members electronically 5 working days before scheduled meeting
- Minutes reviewed by Chair prior to release to members/deputies in attendance. Minutes tabled at next meeting for amendment/adoption and approval to release
- Agency briefing – operational advice circulated to member agencies



Key Documents

- Wellington Park Act 1993
- Wellington Park Regulations 2019
- Wellington Park Management Plan 2013 (amended 2015)
- WPMT Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (5-year prioritised program for implementing the Management Plan)
- WPMT Partnership Agreements
- Strategies – Visitor and Recreation, Walking Tracks, Bikes, Fire Management, Heritage conservation management plans etc



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Wellington Park Office

- GM – Amy Russell (commenced May 2022)
- Education & Regulations Coordinator (Ranger) – Ben Masterman (commenced 2011)
- Visitor & Recreation Strategy Coordinator – Lisa Counsell (p/t, commenced Nov 2022)
- Natural & Heritage Values Coordinator – Ellen Sorensen (p/t, commenced Jan 2023)



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Wellington Park Office

- Moderated by resourcing – until 22-23, State government provided annual Treasury allocation of \$128K/annum (not indexed).
- Supported by cash/in-kind contributions of Trust member agencies:
 - TasWater \$70,021 / yr
 - PWS \$10,000 / yr
 - Glenorchy CC \$37,641 / yr
 - City of Hobart \$36,942 / yr (Regulations Awareness Program) + office accom
 - Tourism Tasmania \$0



30 | YEARS
1993-2023
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Wellington Park Office

- With this level of resourcing, Trust has been a 1.9 FTE operation, despite the extensive remit of the Act
- In 22-23, State Government announced additional \$250K pa funding, included in forward estimates through to 25-26
- This additional funding has enabled the appointment of the VRS Coordinator and the NHV Coordinator



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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Work Plan – daily core business

- Park Activity Assessments, permits and approvals under the WP Regulations – works, events, research, 4WD, horse riding
- Commercial Operator Licenses – own and endorsed
- Filming and drone approvals
- Regulatory patrols, surveillance checks, Park monitoring
- Question Time Briefs – Minister for Parks
- Trust administration

Work Plan

- Visitor and Recreation Strategy
- Review of the WP Management Plan – 3 year process
 - Aspirational vs Realistic, Reactive vs Proactive?
- Proposed Act amendments – Aboriginal nominees, Park boundary amendments, 'contemporisation'
- Aboriginal engagement
- Heritage – proposed precincts, moves to 'list the mountain', backlog of listings, incomplete conservation management plans



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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Visitor & Recreation Strategy

- Priority under current Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Second round of public consultation ends 30 Jan 2023
- Commenced in 2019 – numerous setbacks including COVID, staffing, Aboriginal engagement
- Consultation on the current document is a legacy project – the real work now lies in the actions identified. Resourcing these will be an ongoing challenge



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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VRS Actions

- Commercial User Management Strategy
- Park Information and Interpretation Plan
- Separation of incompatible uses or infrastructure designed to reduce risk
- 10-year Park Facilities and Services Development Plan
- Identify areas for infrastructure development to disperse visitors
- Revise Mount Wellington Sustainable Transport System (2009)
- Springs Master Plan, + other high-use areas
- Identify & fill gaps in Park-wide track and trail network
- Inclusivity assessment of key visitation areas to identify key accessibility points



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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VRS Actions

- Feasibility study into alternative transport arrangements for Pinnacle Rd (Halls Saddle to Pinnacle)
- Stakeholder & Community Engagement Strategy
- Reference Panels – visitor groups, user groups, (Aboriginal people)
- Methodology to baseline and track visitation across the Park
- Methodology to baseline and track Park values for use in adaptive management
- Visitor Risk Management Framework
- Build a collaborative resource model for the Park
- Revise Bike Strategy, Walking Track Strategy



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
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Supporting Materials

Supporting materials provided:

WPMT Governance Policy & Procedure

WPMT Strategic Plan

Available on website:

Annual Reports

WP Management Plan



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Questions & Discussion

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