



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 2 May 2024 | Council Chambers, Glenorchy City Council

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
	Mr E Reale	Glenorchy City Council (observer)
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE (until 11.26am)
	Ms T Ross	PWS (from 9.45am)
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT
	Ms E Sorensen	WPMT (secretariat)

APOLOGIES: Ms F Smith (TasWater), Mr C Attfield (TasWater)

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.

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

Nil

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

Clarification was sought on the revision of Zone content presented at the February meeting prior to its circulation to member agency representatives. Following feedback from the meeting, this was subject to detailed revision prior to circulation. To note, the key request arising from the February meeting to include leasing and licensing as a Use in the tables of Allowable Activities, Use and

Development was considered and ultimately rejected as it is not the act of issuing a lease or licence that is itself a regulated act, but rather the use/activity for which a lease or licence is required.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 February 2024 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, citing one incident involving a visitor trip hazard in The Pinnacle Observation Shelter.

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 23 April 2024. The 2023-24 WPMT Financial Audit Strategy provided by the Tasmanian Audit Office was tabled.

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

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Progress on the Recreational Trails Strategy
- A late report provided by the Palawa engagement consultancy was tabled and discussed.
- Upcoming fuel reduction burns within and adjacent to Wellington Park.
- Closure of the Limekiln Track in the Glenorchy section of Wellington Park due to safety concerns raised by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.
- City of Hobart meeting and identification of budget allocated to master planning and a review of governance for Wellington Park.
- New deputy members for PWS and Glenorchy City Council
- Negotiation of MoUs with PWS and TasWater
- Instrument of Authorisation sought for the Trust's Education and Regulations Coordinator to conduct the prescribed duties of a Ranger under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*

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

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 REGISTER OF FEATURES OF INTEREST

The Trust was provided with further detail on the proposed Register of Features of Interest approach as part of the review of the Management Plan. Although there was concern regarding the perceived workload of administering the proposed system and the possibility of the process being weaponised by pressure groups, controls are available to manage these risks.

Resolution: The Trust agrees to proceed with the concept of a Register of Features of Interest into the next stages of Management Plan review and consultation.

8.2 GOVERNANCE PROCEDURES AMENDMENT – MEETING PAPERS

Following feedback from member agencies, the Trust discussed an amendment to the WPMT Governance Procedure to provide access to meeting papers by the heads of member agencies. It was noted that some matters would need to be withheld for Trust member consideration only.

The proposed amendment is:

Section 1.4 - Trust meeting agendas, reports and minutes are to be considered confidential. *However, Trust meeting agendas and reports may be provided in confidence to the head of Trust member agencies on request. The Trust Chair may instruct the Trust General Manager to withhold or redact reports provided to the head of Trust member agencies.*

Resolution: The Trust resolved to amend the WPMT Governance Procedures to provide for Trust meeting papers to be provided in confidence to the head of Trust member agencies if requested.

8.3 INTERNALISING COMMERCIAL OPERATOR LICENSING

The General Manager requested that the Trust again consider the prospect of internalising commercial operator licensing as a means of generating revenue for Park management, establishing communication links with commercial operators using the Park, and to improve access to Park user data and visitor counts.

In particular it was noted that email advice to commercial operators on the close of the Park during Extreme fire weather in March was largely rejected or remained unopened, as most operators would not recognise the Trust's authority in Wellington Park as their operator licence contact is through PWS.

The Tourism Tasmania nominee noted that the original intent of the one-stop-shop licensing approach was to create efficiencies for operators using multiple reserves, and that consultation should first occur with the TICT and DST before changes were considered.

The PWS nominee indicated that an internal departmental review of leases and licences was ongoing.

Resolution:

The Trust directed the General Manager to:

1. Investigate an exit from the one-stop-shop licensing arrangement, including consultation with the TICT and DST.
2. Scope alternative licensed operator fee structures.
3. Present alternative models to the Trust for consideration.

8.4 DARK SKY PARK INVESTIGATION

The Trust received a preliminary report on requirements to have Wellington Park certified as a Dark Sky Park through DarkSky International, noting the popularity of the Park with astrophotographers, aurora observers and the recurrence of dark sky appreciation in Park Values feedback. It was advised that certification only lasted as long as certification requirements are met, and is not a permanent designation.

The Trust briefly discussed the possible implications of increased use of the Park at night, including road safety, the risk of increased road kill and other safety aspects. Dark Sky Park classification was noted as the lowest category of certification with the least rigorous standards that still afforded flexibility in Park use.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to prepare a Dark Sky Park application in consultation with member agencies to test Park eligibility.

8.5 HORSE RIDING PERMIT FEES

The Trust considered proposed changes to horse riding permits from 1 July 2024. If approved the six current annual permit holders will be contacted to advise in advance of the change.

Resolution: The Trust resolved to impose a fee of \$20/rider for one-off horse-riding permits, and \$80/rider for annual horse riding permits in Wellington Park effective from 1 July 2024.

S Fletcher departed the meeting at 11.26am.

8.6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TRUST DELEGATIONS

In accordance with the Trust's annual Work Program, delegations under s 14 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* were reviewed.

As PWS no longer administers 4WD or horse riding permits for Wellington Park, this delegation was proposed to be revoked.

An internal NRE review has found that the department does not have the head of power to issue permits for the taking of or disturbance of flora and fauna in Wellington Park. NRE have requested that this delegation be revoked.

Resolution:

1. Pursuant to s 14 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, the Trust resolves to revoke the delegation of powers to NRE and PWS.
2. The Trust resolves to maintain the existing delegations to the Chair, General Manager and Education and Regulations Coordinator.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 PINNACLE ROAD TRAFFIC UPDATE

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager and the Wellington Park Project Officer.

9.2 FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The completed legislative and policy review has identified that the Wellington Park FMS does not fit within the existing architecture of Tasmanian fire management planning and the current review is an opportunity to correct this.

Resolution: The Trust noted the report by the General Manager and the Natural and Heritage Values Coordinator.

9.3 WELLINGTON PARK BUSINESS CASE SCOPE

Following a Trust workshop in March and subsequent work requested of the General Manager, there was further discussion on a business case for an alternative management framework for the Park.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.

2. The Trust requested that the General Manager write to the City of Hobart to provide scoping information, request further detail on the Council's proposed master planning activities, and to invite further discussion.

9.4 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

In accordance with the Trust's annual Work Program, the Corporate Strategic Plan and associated work plan was reviewed.

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

9.5 WELLINGTON PARK OFFICE FUNCTION AND RESOURCING REVIEW

In accordance with the Trust's annual Work Program, the WPO function and resourcing was reviewed.

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

9.6 MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK PATROL SOP

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

9.7 CORRESPONDENCE

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

9.8 WPMT WORK PROGRAM

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

9.9 WPO SUMMARY

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

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Trust Chair advised that NRE would be advertising an Expression of Interest for the Chair position on 4 May, with the Chair's term expiring on 30 June 2024.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 11 July at the Hobart Council Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.