



**Wellington Park**  
*Management Trust*

## MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 29 February 2024 | Banksia Room, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens

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### 1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:	Dr C Mucha	Chairperson
	Cr M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council (until 11am)
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart (until 11.08am)
	LM Cr A Reynolds	City of Hobart (observer)
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT
	Ms L Jolly	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Nil

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

Cr B Lohberger advised that he was standing as an independent candidate for the 2024 State Election. He had discussed his position with the City of Hobart Chief Executive Officer and was retained as the Council nominee to the Trust.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

**Resolution:**

1. The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2023 as a true record of that meeting. The Trust also endorses the minutes of the Additional meeting on 14 December as a true record of that meeting.
2. The meeting agreed to star Items for Noting 10.1-10.3 and 10.5-10.7 as read, with no further discussion to be undertaken at the meeting.
4. **PRESENTATION** – Yann Gagnon, Director, and Joseph Pickett, Commercial Operations Manager, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The Trust received a presentation on the RTBG's journey towards financial sustainability.

#### **5. IN CAMERA SESSION**

Not requested

#### **6. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled. The Trust discussed access to road incident reports through external agencies.

#### **Resolution:**

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust requested the Standard Operating Procedure for staff riding mountain bikes on tracks within the Park.
3. The Trust requested that the General Manager seek formal reporting of Park incidents from emergency services, noting that PWS receives this information.

#### **7. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 23 November 2023. The meeting was also advised of the early commencement of the 2023-24 Audit, with an audit fee of \$8,000 advised by the Tasmanian Audit Office.

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

#### **8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- An overview of the scope of briefings offered to MPs and MLCs
- New Minister's famil visit to Wellington Park
- Appointment of new PWS deputy, although Instrument of Appointment not yet received, and pending expiration of Glenorchy City Council deputy appointment
- An update on the Palawa engagement process for the Management Plan review, with three on-country experiences now completed
- Upcoming expiry of the 5-year MoU with PWS and initial meeting to develop new arrangements
- Unlikely execution of the Big Bend Fire Trail MoU owing to high maintenance costs
- Pending release of the UHRF Historic Tracks and Historic Huts publications

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

## 9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

### 9.1 2024-25 BUDGET

The Trust received a proposed 2024-25 Budget, which assumes no additional income for 2024-25 beyond what has already been included in forward estimates. Discussion points included:

- The City of Hobart's in-kind contribution, which does not appear in the budget, is now limited to IT support and the provision of office accommodation. This is reported in the Trust's Annual Report.
- The General Manager is to make enquiries to confirm, but the Trust's State Budget Submission papers cannot be made public as once submitted, they are confidential.

M Kendall left the meeting at 11am.

- There was discussion regarding circulation of the State Budget Submission to member agencies. Clarification is to be sought from the incoming Minister regarding which matters can be disclosed in full to member agencies. In the first instance, clarification to be sought from the NRE Deputy Secretary – Strategy and Business Services.

#### **Resolution:**

1. The Trust directed the General Manager to contact the NRE Deputy Secretary – Strategy and Business Services to clarify the disclosure of the Trust's State Budget Submissions to the public and member agencies.
2. The Trust directed the Chair and General Manager to meet with the incoming Minister to discuss what matters can be disclosed in full with member agencies.

### **ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD – GENERAL BUSINESS 11.1**

The General Business item 11.1 tabled by B Lohberger was brought forward as B Lohberger had to leave the meeting

- The Trust was petitioned to actively encourage the City of Hobart to work with stakeholders including the Trust to submit a proposal for Australian Government *Stream 1 Precincts and Partnerships* grant funding to scope the development of a visitor and transport hub at Halls Saddle.
- Following brief presentation of the paper, discussion was deferred to General Business

B Lohberger left the meeting at 11.08am.

### 9.2 PROPOSED REGISTER OF FEATURES OF INTEREST

The Trust received further detail on the proposed Register of Features of Interest proposed for development as part of the Management Plan revision. Detail was provided to seek endorsement to test the Register of Features of Interest through public consultation. Discussion included:

- The proposed nomination process, in light of the administrative burden posed by some of the models being considered.
- The option to include the Register of Features of Interest within the statutory Management Plan, where updates would not be possible, versus keeping it separate but referring to it in the Management Plan, enabling the Register to be updated as needed.
- The diversity of features already identified in Trust reports and documents that will make up the first draft of the Register.

**Resolution:** The Trust directed the General Manager to undertake further work on the Register of Features of Interest concept prior to a decision being made on adoption.

### **9.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN ZONES AND ALLOWABLE USES**

The Trust received the output of an internal review of Park Zones, Allowable Uses, Permitted/Discretionary/Prohibited Uses and definitions. Concerns were raised by the State Government nominees regarding entering into public consultation on same whilst the State Government is in caretaker mode, as some of the matters are considered sensitive.

The distinction between the current Remote and Natural Zone was queried, as the prime determinant identified by the Wellington Park Office based on a review of archives was the 650m topographical line.

There was concern raised about the lack of clarification on the issuing of Leases and Licences in the revised Zones based on the tables of Allowable Uses and Permitted/Discretionary/Prohibited Uses. This information is currently presented in the text of the Management Plan 2013, noting that much of the text will not transfer to the Local Provisions Schedule model of the next Management Plan. Ongoing review of the current text of the Management Plan is required to harvest content such as this that will need to be translated into the new format.

**Resolution:**

1. NRE nominee to provide the Wellington Park Office with additional information on differentiation between existing Remote and Natural Zones.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to begin consultation with member agencies to refine the revised content.
3. The Trust directed the General Manager to seek Trust endorsement before releasing for public consultation.

### **9.4 4WD TASMANIA RESPONSE TO PERMIT FEE INCREASE**

The Trust received correspondence from 4WD Tasmania and was advised of two additional individual representations made via email. The Trust considered a response, noting the consistency of the new fee with the daily per vehicle Parks Pass, low usage rates of the East West Trail versus the cost of maintenance for this use type, continued free recreational 4WD access to Jefferys Track and the White Timber Trail in Wellington Park and broader revision of permit and licensing fees.

**Resolution:**

1. The Trust resolved to retain the permit fee increase for recreational 4WD access to the East West Trail in Wellington Park.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to provide a written response to 4WD Tasmania.

### **9.5 RESERVE ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT REFORMS**

The Trust received correspondence from NRE inviting feedback on Phase 2 of the Reserve Activity Assessment Reforms process. The Trust considered a response prepared by the General Manager, recognising that the RAA reforms have no direct bearing on the *Wellington Park Act 1993* or the Trust's Park Activity Assessment process.

**Resolution:** The Trust endorsed the submission of the RAA Reform feedback prepared by the General Manager, subject to minor amendments as identified by the Trust.

### **9.6. ENHANCED COMMERCIAL FILMING APPROVALS**

Following contact from a social media content creator seeking approval for repeat filming activities in the Park, the Trust considered a revised definition of Commercial Filming and a new approval type and fee structure to accommodate this type of use.

The General Manager advised that contact had been made with PWS Leases and Licences to discuss their approach and had been provided with a new type of Commercial Operator Licence that was being considered, for the same annual licence fee of \$300. It was noted that differences between the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* mean that commercial filming is subject to approval, not a licence, in Wellington Park.

**Resolution:** The Trust directed the General Manager to proceed with the enhancements to commercial filming approvals but to align with the evolving PWS approach where possible.

## **10. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **10.1 RECREATIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT**

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

### **10.2 PINNACLE ROAD TRAFFIC SUMMARY**

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

### **10.3 INDIGENOUS RANGER PROGRAM EXPANSION APPLICATION**

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

### **10.4 PWS MANAGEMENT AREA CONTENTION**

The Trust acknowledged that the official agency position is consistent with the Management Plan, and that internal discussions were ongoing to resolve remaining issues and identify if changes would be requested as part of the Management Plan review process.

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

### **10.5 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

### **10.6 WORK PROGRAM**

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

### **10.7 WPO SUMMARY**

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

## **11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **11.1 MEMBER PAPER – B LOHBERGER**

The Trust reiterated its existing resolution to support any application by the City of Hobart for external funding for the studies and planning required to progress the *kunanyi / Mount Wellington: Park, Bus, Walk, Run, Ride* proposal.

**Resolution:** The Trust directed the General Manager to discuss with the City of Hobart to identify avenues where the Trust can provide support for scoping of a visitor and transport hub for Halls

Saddle, recognising that this would need to accommodate broader strategic transport solutions for kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

#### **11.2 AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 14**

The General Manager will circulate a proposed agenda for the special meeting, to be confirmed at the start of the meeting on March 14.

#### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The Trust will convene for a strategic Special Meeting on 14 March at the Hobart Council Centre.

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 2 May at Glenorchy City Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm.