



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 19 September 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
	Cr M Kendall	Glenorchy City Council
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Ms J Crisp	Dept of NRE
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Mr S Fletcher (Dept of NRE)

The meeting opened at 9.42am.

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

The Trust questioned the General Manager about the revised Bush Walking Brochure noted in the completed actions and as printed copies have not yet been received, the Trust viewed the PDF version of the brochure and sheet map available on the Trust website.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2024 as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

Resolution: The Trust resolved to:

- a) Approve the CPI adjustment to the General Manager's remuneration, to be back dated to the anniversary of appointment, effective until the end of the current contract extension to 27 September.
- b) Offer the General Manager a new employment contract to take effect from 30 September 2024.

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled. The Trust noted that routine reporting of incidents was now being provided by Tasmania Police Search and Rescue. The Trust discussed the number of incidents during late winter and early Spring. The General Manager reported that it was critical that '000' remained the first point of contact for people in distress, and was promoted as such, with some people having first attempted to contact the Trust for assistance.

Discussion on what more the Trust could do to promote visitor safety, and what liability resided with the Trust and individual members ensued. Park signage, pre-emptive warnings and printed collateral with safety information are already in use.

The Trust noted the recent announcement of estimated cruise ship visitor numbers for the 24-25 season. The City of Hobart has flagged the significant pressure that shore excursions place on the limited toilet facilities within the Park, with numerous large tour groups visiting the Park in a very short period of time.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to ensure that all voice messages attached to Trust phone number included a direction to contact 000 if emergency assistance was needed in Wellington Park.
3. The Trust directed the General Manager to prepare a brief for the Trust on the current status of visitor risk management measures.
4. The Trust directed the General Manager to investigate any levers available to the Trust to moderate pressure on Wellington Park facilities posed by cruise-ship-related visitor spikes.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 31 August 2024.

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:

- Attendance at the State Growth Review Working Group meeting.
- An update on the Indigenous Ranger Program Extension application, now not due to notify applicants until late September, in light of there being no funding provided through the State Budget to appoint a trainee Ranger.
- Updates on the Fire Management Strategy Review and the Dark Sky Park nomination.
- New communication products in the revised Bushwalking brochure and interactive online maps for dog walking and camping in Wellington Park.
- Changes to the Trust's end-of-year function that will be timed to coincide with an evening Lutruwita Arts Orchestra performance at the Springs Hotel site.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report by the General Manager.
2. The Trust noted the General Manager's role as the Trust representative on the State Growth review Working Group.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 WHS POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW

The General Manager presented the updated WHS Policy and Procedures, including the incorporation of the new WHS Regulations 2022.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the 2024 revision of the WPMT WHS Policy and Procedures v 1.3.

8.2 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

The General Manager presented the formatted draft 2023-24 Annual Report, to be completed once the audited financial statements are completed, noting that the audit is still being conducted.

Resolution:

1. The Trust will receive the financial report for review when provided by the Tasmanian Audit Office.
2. The Trust endorses the Chair to sign the audited Financial Statement on behalf of the Trust.
3. The Trust endorses the Chair to approve the 2023-24 Annual Report on behalf of the Trust.

8.3 STATE BUDGET OUTCOMES

The General Manager advised that no additional funding had been provided for the Trust in this year's State Budget.

The Trust's application for funding under the Structured Infrastructure Investment Review Process through the Department of Treasury and Finance had been successful and was listed in the 2024-25 State Budget.

It was noted that the Trust commenced work on the business case proposal in December 2023 and submitted the application in February, prior to the announcement of the State Growth Review (SGR) in May 2024.

The Trust discussed possible issues arising with the business case development occurring concurrent to the SGR and the Wellington Park Management Plan review.

The business case is complementary to the SGR in that the SGR is consolidating the community vision for Wellington Park, whereas the business case will identify the optimum type of management Trust model that could then be used to deliver the vision.

The narrow planning scheme focus of the Management Plan review does not overlap with matters of Park administration and that process has a longer timeframe than the proposed business case development.

The Chair polled Trust members and agreement to proceed with the business case in accordance with the successful application was unanimous provided that the business case was aligned with the SGR.

The General Manager advised that contact had been made with NRE to seek clarity on the process to access the approved SIIRP funding.

Resolution:

1. The Trust resolved to proceed with the development of the preparation of a business case for an alternative, self-sustaining model of management for Wellington Park as funded through the Structured Infrastructure and Investment Review Process, and to seek to align business case preparation with the State Growth review.
2. The Trust endorsed the Chair to liaise with the Secretary of the NRE to discuss opportunity to align with the State Growth review.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

The Trust has previously resolved to continue the in-house review of the WellingtonPark Management Plan, but to defer further community consultation until the State Growth review is complete.

The Trust discussed the option of an interim Management Plan, however it was noted that this would still require the statutory consultation and proclamation.

There was some concern that the revised Management Plan could potentially pre-empt the outcomes of the State Growth review. The General Manager revisited the narrow scope of the the Management Plan, modelled on a Local Provisions Schedule and the limited content beyond standard planning conditions, which is different to the type of output expected from the State Growth review. The State Growth review is expected to be completed well in advance of the Management Plan review.

Ms T Ross left the meeting at 12.07pm

Resolution:

1. The Trust directed the General Manager to seek legal advice on whether or not the Trust can be directed to stop the Management Plan review.

2. The Trust reconfirmed its decision to continue the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan internally, and to defer further public consultation until the completion of the State Growth review.

Ms F Smith left the meeting at 12.09pm

9.2 VRS VISITOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The General Manager presented the Visitor Data Collection and Analysis Tool (VDCAT) developed as an outcome of the Visitor and Recreation Strategy. The VDCAT consolidates data from all track counters, track cameras in Wellington Park as well as Pinnacle Road traffic counter data in a single. A concise summary page depicting year-on-year change in average daily use and seasonal average daily use provides an effective snapshot of overall Park use trends.

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

9.3 PALAWA COMMUNAL VALUES SURVEY

The Trust received a report on the survey being circulated to Palawa members seeking feedback on the outcomes of group discussions and on-country walks conducted as part of the cultural consultancy to identify Aboriginal Values for inclusion in the revised Wellington Park Management Plan. The survey closes on 26 September, after which a final report is expected to be submitted to the Trust.

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

9.4 CORRESPONDENCE

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

9.5 WPMT WORK PROGRAM

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

9.6 WPO SUMMARY

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

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 28 November at the Hobart Council Centre.

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