



Wellington Park
Management Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

9.30am Thursday 1 May 2025 | 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
	Ms R Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
	Cr J Kelly	City of Hobart
	Cr B Lohberger	City of Hobart
	Mr S Fletcher	Dept of NRE
	Ms F Smith	TasWater
	Ms T Ross	PWS
	Ms A Russell	WPMT

APOLOGIES: Nil

The meeting opened at 9.35am.

The Chair noted that this would be a short meeting as it would be followed by a Trust workshop with the consultants appointed to deliver the Wellington Park Business Case project.

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 Wellington Park Dark Sky Park application is progressing, with a single reading required to be taken. The key issue to be tackled is the light on the Pinnacle toilet building. Formal correspondence to the City of Hobart has been prepared.

The Trust's Visitor Risk Management Policy and Strategy (2018) is being updated, using reference documents including the PWS Recreational Standards Framework and visitor management strategy examples from interstate.

Whilst compliance issues related to dogs and illegal motorbike activity continue to be addressed in the ERC's regular radio spot, there has been no additional media coverage. The Trust requested that the General Manager generate additional media content regarding compliance issues and the appointment of a new Ranger.

The General Manager advised that in response to the action item regarding audit fees, the Auditor-General provided an overview of the Tasmanian Audit Office's position regarding audit fees, in particular noting that \$12,000 is the minimum fee payable due to the type of audit that the TAO is required to deliver. The TAO is canvassing changes that would see small entities such as the Trust subject to a different audit treatment, noting that in the case of the Trust, this would also require legislative amendment.

An acceptable solution for a second Trust vehicle has not yet been identified, with enquiries made to state and local government agencies revealing that all government vehicles are disposed via Pickles Auctions at market rates. Enquiries made to two city-based hire car companies have also not yielded results. At this stage, acquisition of a second vehicle will need to be deferred until there is sufficient budget available.

The ERC and new Trust Ranger are updating the Trust's Lone Worker Protocols at the same time as these are being used for Ranger induction purposes. These will be presented to the Trust at its July meeting.

Resolution: The Trust endorsed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2025 as a true record of that meeting.

4. IN CAMERA SESSION

N/A

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A Work Health and Safety report was tabled, with a single visitor incident, an unprepared walker stranded at The Pinnacle after dark, reported by Police Search and Rescue since the last Trust meeting.

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trust was presented with the financial reports to 23 April 2025.

The General Manager advised that following forward budget discussions held during the February Trust meeting, impending budget constraints were flagged during the General Manager's regular meeting with the Minister's Adviser – Parks. The adviser recommended the preparation of a Budget Risk submission. This was drafted and is provided to the Trust for review.

Resolution:

1. The Trust noted the report prepared by the General Manager.
2. The Trust directed the General Manager to submit the Budget Risk submission to NRE.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has advised that the schedule for the Indigenous Ranger Program Extension grant has been finalised, including a component for the Kunanyi program. The General Manager will meet with TAC Healthy Country staff on 23 May to progress the initiative.
- The Palawa Themes and Values of Kunanyi Report 2024-25 has been received, and a summary produced for inclusion in the Value Statements of the revised Management Plan. Negotiations with Palawa representatives are ongoing to formalise arrangements for communication and sharing of the Report.
- It was noted that the Mountain Review interim report was originally due to be released by 30 April, and available for discussion by the Trust at this meeting. However, the review team advised that the release date has been deferred to no later than 20 May. On further enquiry, the review team has also indicated that this will likely lead to a delay in the release of the review's final report.
- The General Manager has met with Mountain Review team members to discuss the Trust submission in more detail and identify recommendations. It was noted that there will be no additional budget allocation for Wellington Park as a result of the review.
- Public consultation on the draft Recreational Trails Strategy has been delayed as the City of Hobart has not yet provided feedback following a review meeting held on 25 March, which followed the agency consultation period of 7 Feb – 14 March during which no feedback was received.
- The Wellington Park Project Officer attended the Dark Sky Symposium in Melbourne. A conference report was unable to be included in meeting papers owing to staff illness, but will be circulated for information with minutes.
- The TasWater deputy Trust member has been renominated for appointment from July 2025, and a deputy appointment from NRE is pending. The General Manager noted that the appointments of six of eight members and two of 7 deputy members expires in December 2025 and nominations would be appreciated by October.
- At the request of the Chair, the General Manager advised the meeting that the two internal private blocks of land that had been put up for auction by Derwent Valley Council owing to non-payment of rates were both passed in and are now on the market through a local real estate agent.

Resolution:

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

2. The Trust directed the General Manager to request a Mountain Review presentation from State Growth for the next Trust meeting on 10 July.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

8.1 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

The General Manager proposed no changes to delegations to the Chair, General Manager, Education and Regulations Coordinator or Glenorchy City Council. A new delegation was drafted to authorise the new position of Wellington Park Ranger to perform the same statutory functions as the Education and Regulations Coordinator, with the exception of the authority to issue or cancel permits.

Resolution:

1. The Trust resolves to maintain the existing delegations to the Chair, General Manager and Education and Regulations Coordinator.
2. The Trust resolves to extend the delegations held by the Education and Regulations Coordinator, with the exception of the authority to issue, suspend and cancel permits, to the Wellington Park Ranger.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1 BIENNIAL STRATEGIC RISK REVIEW

The General Manager provided the Trust with the revised Strategic Risk Register and Strategic Risk Management Framework. It was requested that the revised Lone Worker Protocols be included as a Control under the WHS Risk Category.

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

9.2 CORRESPONDENCE

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

9.3 WPO WORK PROGRAM

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

9.4 WPO SUMMARY

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

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

The City of Hobart member sought an update on the fire management in the Park, particularly the conduct of fuel reduction burns. The General Manager advised that there were several active permits for fuel reduction burns in Fire Management Units in the Park, held by the two Councils, but ignition was dependent on the weather. Fire permits issued by the Trust are often carried over between seasons whilst the management agency awaits favourable conditions.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Trust meeting will be on Thursday 10 July at the Hobart Council Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30am.