

# Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2023 – 2024



**Hon Nick Duigan MP**  
**Minister for Parks and Environment**

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Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 75 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, I am pleased to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Wellington Park Management Trust for the year ending 30 June 2024.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Christine Mucha**  
Chairperson

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## Vision

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*For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.*

## Our Mission

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*To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.*

*This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.*

## Our Values

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- ▶ *Working collaboratively with Park Management Agencies*
- ▶ *Integrity, professionalism and quality*
- ▶ *Commitment, flexibility and innovation*
- ▶ *Cooperation and teamwork*
- ▶ *Effective communication*
- ▶ *Environmentally sustainable practices*
- ▶ *Valuing community participation*





Pete Mellows

## Acknowledgement of Country

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*In recognition of the deep history and culture of the land within Wellington Park, we acknowledge Palawa as the traditional and ongoing custodians of this land.*

*We acknowledge the determination and resilience of Palawa, who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and connection to country. Although the Muwinina people, whose land included that of Wellington Park, did not survive invasion, we honour their legacy in our efforts to look after their mother mountain, kunanyi.*

*We recognise that we have much to learn from Palawa today. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present.*

# Wellington Park



Wellington Park, at 18,011 hectares, is one of Tasmania’s largest areas of reserved land outside of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Park has unique natural and cultural qualities, and includes the icons of kunanyi / Mount Wellington, forming the backdrop to Tasmania’s capital city Hobart, and Sleeping Beauty (Collins Bonnet and Trestle Mountain), visible from the Huon Valley.

Managing Wellington Park is challenging. It is immensely popular with locals and visitors, being Tasmania’s most-visited natural attraction. The Park contains fourteen land parcels of different ownership, diverse ecosystems, Aboriginal and heritage values, drinking water catchments and proximity to rural and urban areas.

Wellington Park was proclaimed under purpose-made legislation, the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, due to internal complexities arising from fourteen land parcels of different tenure and ownership, and the desire to provide for a co-operative management approach among the various land owners and land managers.

‘Whole of Park’ management continues to be challenging, owing to the capacity of land owner agencies to fund increasing capital and maintenance costs required to provide for growing visitor numbers.

kunanyi / Mount Wellington receives the bulk of visitors to the Park and is wholly resourced by local government.

With visitor data showing that the majority of Park visitors are from outside of the local government area, the financial burden associated with managing a state-significant tourism icon appears less appropriate in 2024 than it was when the Park was established in 1993.

In 2023-24, the Trust began an internal process to reset the Wellington Park management framework, with the goal of creating a financially self-sufficient and sustainable organization delivering effective strategic management of Wellington Park.

The Trust process was superseded by a State Government announcement on 23 May 2024, launching a strategic review of Wellington Park to be undertaken by the Department of State Growth. The Trust will be included in proposed stakeholder consultation as part of the review.



# Administration of Wellington Park

## Wellington Park Management Trust

The Wellington Park Management Trust is the statutory management authority for the Park. Administration of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* (the Act) is assigned to the Minister for Parks and Environment. The Dept of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act.

Membership of the Trust is specified in the Act.

- City of Hobart (two nominees)
- Glenorchy City Council
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Parks and Wildlife Service
- TasWater
- Tourism Tasmania

The Trust is tasked with providing a co-operative and effective management and planning structure for this unique and diverse peri-urban reserve.

The Chair of the Trust is an independent Ministerial appointment. The nominees and deputy nominees of the Trust member agencies specified in the Act are also appointed by the Minister.

The functions and powers of the Trust are set down in section 11 of the Act. The Trust held six meetings and one workshop in 2023-24.

During 2023-24, the Trust was supported by the Wellington Park Office comprising four full-time staff.

## Organisational Structure

**Minister for Parks and Environment**

**NRE**

**Wellington Park Management Trust**

*Trust Members as at June 2024 (see Appendix 2):*

Chairperson	Dr Christine Mucha
NRE	Mr Stuart Fletcher
Glenorchy City Council	Cr Molly Kendall
City of Hobart	Cr John Kelly
	Cr Ben Lohberger
TasWater	Ms Frances Smith
Parks and Wildlife Service	Ms Tory Ross
Tourism Tasmania	Ms Rita Warrenner

**General Manager**  
Amy Russell

**Wellington Park Office:**

- *Education and Regulations Coordinator* – Ben Masterman
- *Natural & Heritage Values Coordinator* – Ellen Sorensen
- *Wellington Park Project Officer* – Louise Jolly

## Park Management Agencies

The City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service are responsible for on-ground works within their respective areas in the Park, as shown in Appendix 1.

TasWater has a statutory responsibility for drinking water supply and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments in the Park.

Under the Act, *"it is the duty of all owners or occupiers of land in Wellington Park to exercise their functions and powers and to use and manage the land in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside and with any management plan."*

Via permits issued under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*, the Trust ensures that all works undertaken within the Park are consistent with the purposes for which the Park is set aside.

The relationship between the Trust and Park Management Agencies is formalised in Memoranda of Understanding. In 2023-24, the Trust executed new Memoranda with the City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council, and commenced negotiations to renew Memoranda with TasWater and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

## Volunteer Contributions

The Trust recognises the enormous amount of goodwill, energy and resources that are contributed by both the community and agencies to ensure that the Park is protected and maintained as a special place for everyone.

There are many private individuals and community groups that directly contribute to the ongoing planning and management of the Park. The Wellington Park Office has benefited immensely from invaluable voluntary input from historians, scientists, and enthusiastic Park users within the broader Wellington Park community. This generous network of Park advocates amplify the limited resources of the Trust and are an ever-present reminder of the depth of community connection to Wellington Park.

## Trust Representation on other Committees

The Trust is represented on the following committees:

- Southern Fire Management Area Committee
- Hobart Fire Management Area Committee
- Greater Hobart Trails working group
- North West Bay River Action Group
- Mountain Water Supply Scheme Heritage Advisory Group

## Resourcing the Trust

The State Government provides a recurrent State Treasury allocation to the Trust via NRE.

The government approved a material increase in allocation from \$128,000 in 2021-22 to \$381,000 in 2022-23 to enable the Trust to fulfil its functions prescribed in the Act. The State Government allocated \$384,000 to the Trust in 2023-24.

The Trust also continues to benefit from funding contributions from member agencies.

Activity	2023-24 Contribution
Parks & Wildlife Service	\$10,000
City of Hobart	\$38,790*
Glenorchy City Council	\$39,524
TasWater	\$73,522
Tourism Tasmania	-

\* The City of Hobart continues to support the Wellington Park Office through the provision of free office accommodation and IT support. Although not reflected in the financial statements, this contribution represents in-kind support in the order of \$40,000.

A small amount of income is generated from permit fees and fines for infringements of the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*. Commercial filming approvals generate the largest proportion of this type of income.

Source	2023-24 Income	2022-23 Income
Permits, licences and approvals	\$9,855	\$12,976
Fines	\$1,268	\$2,741



# Strategic Framework

## *Wellington Park Act 1993*

The Act addresses the complexities of multiple land tenures, allows for the establishment and constitution of the Trust, and for the preparation of a statutory management plan for the Park.

During 2023-24, the Act was administered by the Minister for Parks – the Hon Roger Jaensch (until October 2023), and the Minister for Parks and Environment the Hon Nick Duigan thereafter.

## *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*

The Act provides for the making of regulations for the purposes of the Act and prescribes the provisions that the regulations may and may not include. The regulations are remade every 10 years. The current *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* came into force on 27 March 2019.

## *Wellington Park Management Plan*

A key role of the Trust is the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan for the Park. The current Plan was released in 2013 and amended in 2015. The Plan is a statutory document that also functions as the planning scheme for land within Wellington Park.

The Trust commenced a statutory review of the Management Plan in November 2022.

The Trust has resolved to produce a revised Management Plan modelled on Local Provisions Schedules under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The revised Management Plan will articulate Park Values, identify Specific Areas and Zones, and assign standards for use and development in each Area/Zone. Treatment of Specific Areas will take the form of Specific Area Plans.

Palawa engagement and involvement is critical for the new Plan. The Trust is working with a cultural consultant who has brought together a number of Knowledge Keepers within the community to define Aboriginal Values and provide input into the Management Plan.

Following the May 2024 announcement of the review of Wellington Park to be undertaken by State Growth, the Trust has deferred further public consultation on the Management Plan review until proposed consultation for the government review is completed. This is to avoid the two public processes from running concurrently and creating confusion in the community.



Persphone Petrus | Pete Mellows

## *Strategic Plan 2023–2025*

The Strategic Plan outlines how the Trust will implement the Management Plan. The Plan was amended in 2023-24 to an abbreviated document to cover the period during which the Management Plan is being reviewed.

The current Strategic Plan 2023-2025 is framed around six pillars:

1. Visitation and Recreation
2. Natural Values and Conservation
3. Culture and Heritage
4. Regulation and Compliance
5. Engagement and Promotion
6. An Effective Organisation

Each pillar is supported by key actions and specific projects. Trust activity is necessarily constrained by the availability of resources, with very limited discretionary project funding.

# The Year in Review

## Palawa Engagement

The Trust embarked on a cultural consultancy in June 2023 to lay the foundations for appropriate and meaningful engagement of Palawa in the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.

As part of the consultancy, desktop research identified limited published documentation acknowledging the known cultural values and community aspirations of the Palawa community with regards to Wellington Park.

A Knowledge Circle of thirty Palawa and Tasmanian Aboriginal people agreed to participate in a process to determine shared community Aboriginal Values for inclusion in the revised Wellington Park Management Plan.

Throughout 2023-24, Aboriginal walking tour operators and guides have led groups of 7-14 Knowledge Circle participants on walks through key areas of the Park. Discussions have been led by facilitators who have shared their knowledge, and encouraged participants to do the same. This has elicited individual, family and community stories about the land within Wellington Park, as well as bringing people on to country to build connection.

The series of walks are to be followed by two community workshops, the first of which was held in June 2024. The workshops are seeking to create a written record for the community, and reach community agreement on stories and values to be made available to the Trust.

## Joint International Congress – Sustainable Places, Spaces, People and Habitats

The Trust General Manager attended the SPSPH Joint International Congress held in Adelaide in October 2023. One of the key program themes focused on First Nations' leadership and input in the development of bi-cultural park management frameworks, drawing on examples from New Zealand, Canada, South Australia and Victoria. Key insights included:

- The need for equal representation, equal contribution and equal authority between First Nations and non-First Nations park managers.



- Recognition that First Nations approaches are often long-term, intergenerational approaches, and First Nations people need to be given the space and opportunity to lead, and to build capacity to lead.

The Congress also addressed the emergence of 'urban national parks' and reserves as 'lived-in landscapes', highlighting examples from the USA and Canada that had interesting correlations with Wellington Park as a peri-urban reserve.

Participation by the General Manager in the Congress was supported by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.

## Wellington Park Heritage Database Audit

As part of the preparation of a Wellington Park Historic Heritage Management Plan, the Trust completed an audit of the Wellington Park Heritage Database, which found that only 131 of 582 entries were supported by sufficient evidence to warrant inclusion. Entries were audited against the provision of sufficient historic information, a Statement of Significance and an accurate GPS location.

Audit findings included:

- 131 entries satisfied all criteria.
- 348 sites require further work to satisfy the three key audit criteria.
- 103 sites were either natural features afforded alternative protection under the *Wellington Park Act 1993* or were located outside of the Park and therefore beyond the remit of the Trust.

Given the potential application of the Heritage Database in constraining use and development in Wellington Park, rigour is paramount. Further work will be undertaken as part of the Historic Heritage Management Plan due for completion in the second half of 2024.

## Historic Tracks and Huts

In late 2022, the Trust received approval to complete a deferred grant project originally awarded under the 2012 Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund. This work has now been completed, with the publication of two reports – *Historic Heritage Significance of the kunanyi / Mount Wellington Huts* and *Historic Heritage Significance of the kunanyi / Mount Wellington Track Network*. A series of interpretive signs have also been installed around the Park as the first action arising from the completion of the cultural heritage interpretation plan, which is now being used as a template for a broader Wellington Park interpretation plan.

This work has also enabled the completion of the Bush Huts Management Policy, to be considered by the Trust at its meeting in July 2024.

## Indigenous Ranger Program Extension

The Trust has partnered with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) to seek establishment of a crew of four Indigenous Rangers for Wellington Park. The TAC, with supporting documentation from the Trust, submitted an Indigenous Rangers Program Expansion application to the Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency in February 2024.

The peri-urban location of Wellington Park offers a unique opportunity to support Indigenous Ranger positions within an urban centre, increasing prospects for Aboriginal employment and improving economic and career circumstances for urban-living Aboriginal people.

With most Indigenous Rangers operating in remote locations, the location of Wellington Park adjacent to Greater Hobart will overcome barriers for women entering the Ranger workforce by enabling Rangers to remain within their family and community networks.

Notification of the grant application outcome is expected in August 2024. Regardless, the Trust remains committed to facilitating the reinstatement of Palawa culture and values in land management practices in Wellington Park.

## Dark Sky Park Application

In recognition of the community's value of dark skies and the visibility of the night sky over Wellington Park,

the Trust is preparing a Dark Sky Park application for Wellington Park in partnership with DarkSky International and with the support of DarkSky Tasmania.

International Dark Sky Places are certified by DarkSky International. A Dark Sky Park is land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural or educational value, its cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.

In June 2024, DarkSky International accepted the Trust's pre-application and qualified Wellington Park for consideration as a Dark Sky Park pending development of a full submission.

Certification of Wellington Park as a Dark Sky Park is consistent with the emerging Palawa value of sky connection afforded by kunanyi / Mount Wellington. Dark sky values were also a common theme in recent Park Value Statement consultation undertaken for the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.

The Trust will prepare a full submission in the second half of 2024. Once submitted, DarkSky International will undertake public consultation on the proposal prior to making a decision.

If successful, Wellington Park will be Tasmania's first Dark Sky Park, and the second in Australia alongside Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park, NSW.

## Tasmanian Heritage Register Nominations

In May 2023, the Trust submitted nominations for the Exhibition Gardens, the Wellington Falls Track and the Fingerpost Track to be entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Following consideration, the Tasmanian Heritage Council deemed that the Exhibition Gardens did not meet the criteria for state significance.

However, the Wellington Falls Track and Fingerpost Track may meet the criteria, and these have been set aside for further assessment when possible within the Tasmanian Heritage Council's work plan.

Regardless of their listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, these features will continue to be protected via heritage management provisions in the Wellington Park Management Plan.

## Pinnacle Road Traffic Data

The City of Hobart has been collecting road traffic data from lower Pinnacle Road since 2014, however there has not been any concerted compilation or analysis of this data over time. In early 2024, the Trust commenced using a specialist analytical platform designed for use with traffic counter data files.

All historical data has been added to the platform, and the City of Hobart has consented to provide the Trust with monthly traffic counter updates that have enabled greater understanding of Park visitation over time.

The Trust is now able to generate consistent and regular reports on the number of vehicles entering the Park via Pinnacle Road, which gives a strong indication of overall visitation patterns and trends. Identified trends include:

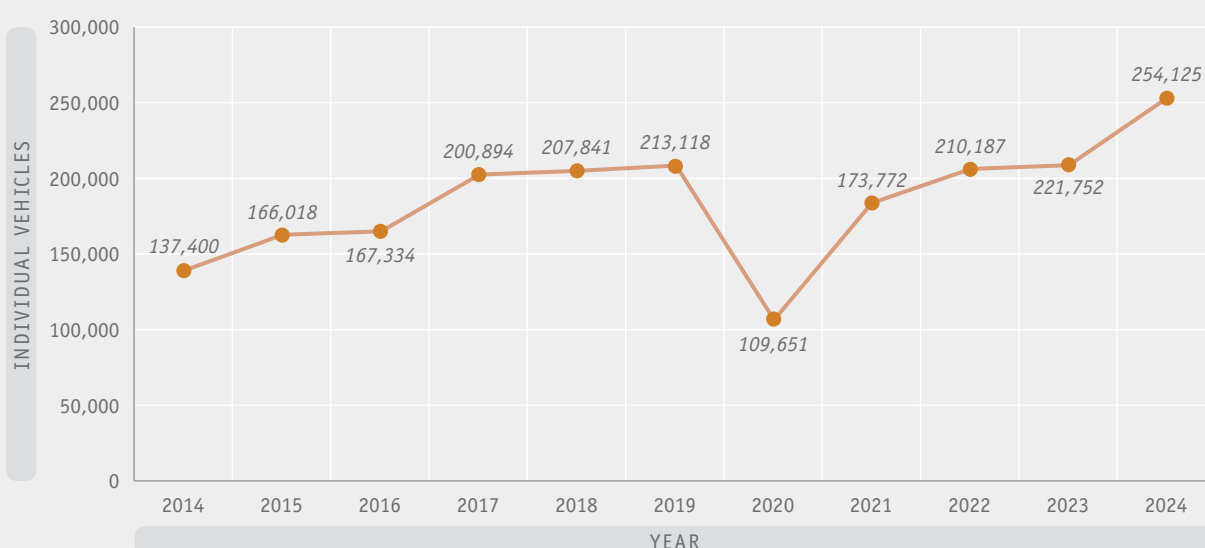
- With the exception of 2020 (COVID), there has been year on year growth of 1 - 21% in vehicle numbers entering the Park since 2014.
- Weekends and public holidays consistently experience up to double the traffic generally seen on weekdays.

- The highest daily traffic counts often correspond to significant natural events (heavy snowfall, aurora activity) or significant holidays (New Year's Eve, Easter, Boxing Day, Christmas Day)
- The majority of vehicles on Pinnacle Road are exceeding the 50km/h posted speed limit in both directions, but even more so in the southbound lane (downhill). The largest violations of the posted speed limit occurring between 11pm - 4am (65-70km/h), and are less extreme during daylight hours (generally 55-60km/h).

Seven of the 20 busiest days on record since 2014 occurred in the 2023-24 financial year. The extraordinary Aurora Australis event on the evening of the 11-12 May 2024 saw an unprecedented peak in overnight traffic on Pinnacle Road and made 11 May the 8th busiest day on Pinnacle Rd since records began.

The busiest day recorded on Pinnacle Road was 26 September 2021 when 1,871 vehicles entered the Park following heavy snowfall. The busiest day recorded in 2023-24 was 5 January when 1,512 vehicles entered the Park.

### Individual Vehicles Per Year



*\*Actual data to May 2024 is used. Data for June 2024 has been extrapolated to obtain an annual figure.*



## Recreational Trails Strategy

A key action identified by the Wellington Park Visitor and Recreation Strategy 2023 is the revision of the existing walking track and bike strategies into a contemporary Recreational Trails Strategy. Work is ongoing, and significant progress has been made in 2023-24.

A desktop audit of Australian trail grading systems and corresponding maintenance standards was completed to ensure Wellington Park systems are aligned with national best practice. Descriptions and maintenance standards for trail grades applied in Wellington Park were then updated and used to inform both an audit of the current trail maintenance status for all trails in Wellington Park, and a corresponding list of maintenance priorities and strategic recommendations.

An in-field audit of major and minor trailheads and access points was also completed including the condition/adequacy of user facilities, wayfinding, and interpretive information. A list of recommendations for future access requirements was generated, including priorities for the provision of secondary infrastructure that supports trail-based recreation.

## AllTrails Partnership

Development of the Trust's Recreational Trails Strategy is informed by 'big' data harvested from key online recreation and fitness platforms, combined with 'little' data from track counters placed around Wellington Park. In the course of this work, an opportunity was identified to participate in the AllTrails Public Lands Program (PLP).

AllTrails is a popular international online platform providing curated trail maps with crowd-sourced reviews and photographs from a user community of 50 million outdoor enthusiasts. As a PLP partner, the Trust has access to AllTrails visitor insights and metrics, revealing trail usage patterns, route planning activities undertaken by trail users and trip reports submitted by users. As a partner, the Trust has also been able to request customised data and functionality to assist ongoing development of strategic and day-to-day management of the extensive Wellington Park track and trail network.

The PLP partnership enables the Trust to edit and curate trail content. The Trust has been able to improve the visitor experience and visitor safety by editing the 85 trails on the platform that are located within Wellington Park. The Trust has been regularly adding new routes to encourage safe exploration of less trafficked areas to alleviate congestion on popular trails and deter unauthorised visitors such as motorcycle riders.

Analysis of trail user data via online platforms has confirmed anecdotal evidence of increasing user activity and penetration into more remote sections of Wellington Park. This will enable the Trust to work with Park Management Agencies to calibrate trail maintenance, signage and infrastructure needs accordingly.

Not all Park visitors use online applications like AllTrails, however the user base is growing steadily. The Trust is also in the process of revising the popular hard-copy Wellington Park bushwalking map for those that prefer this type of information.

## Fire Management Strategy Review

In late 2023, the Trust received a grant of \$66,200 from the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program, administered in Tasmania by the State Emergency Service, to review the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy. The Tasmanian Fire Service is assisting with the production of new bushfire risk modelling for Wellington Park to inform strategic management.

The initial legislative and policy review has also highlighted how the unique Park Management Agency arrangement within Wellington Park has created a gap in translation between regional Bushfire Risk Management Plans and on-ground local management plans.

To address this gap, it is proposed to frame the next iteration of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy as the Greater Wellington Range Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, a document that was recommended for development by the Tasmanian Fire Service in the 2021 Hobart Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

## Fire Management

There were no bushfires in Wellington Park in 2023-24.

General fire management activities are carried out by Park Management Agencies and the Tasmanian Fire Service under permit from the Trust.

Fuel reduction burns were undertaken at Golden Gully, at the corner of Inglewood Fire Trail and Strickland Ave, and Brushy Hill in the City of Hobart section of Wellington Park. A permit has also been issued for a planned burn near Collinsvale in the Glenorchy City Council section of Wellington Park, although this is yet to occur.

The *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* allows the Trust to close an area of the Park in the event of a fire, flood, natural disaster or other emergency to ensure the safety of Park visitors by a notice on the Wellington Park website.

The Trust policy on bushfire risk is for the Park to be closed on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger in either the South East or Upper Derwent Valley forecast districts. This occurred once in 2023-24, when the Trust closed Wellington Park on 22 February due to Extreme fire danger.

## Events

A number of organised events were held in the Park during the year including:

- Grass Identification Workshop run by Biosphere Pty Ltd in collaboration with UTAS and the Tasmanian Herbarium
- AusCycling Round 1 National Downhill Series, Glenorchy MTB Park
- Point to Pinnacle foot race on Pinnacle Rd
- City of Hobart Bushcare's kunanyi Clean Up Day
- kunanyi Mountain Run and Mountain Culture Festival
- three kunanyi Trail Series trail running races – the kunanyi Sunrise, Tolosa Half and Cascade Slide
- Hobart Wheelers Dirt Devils kunanyi Challenge 2024 cycling time trial
- Wellington Park Management Trust Annual End-of-Year Breakfast at The Springs

## Research activity 2023-24

Institution	Focus
UTAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UTAS ARC Forest Ecology research using non-invasive leaf sensors to measure tree stress</li> <li>• Vulnerability of viviparous squamates to climate change</li> <li>• Sex chromosome differentiation in spotted snow skink</li> <li>• The effect of trails on exotic plant and native plant diversity in Wellington Park</li> <li>• Bushfire risk at the rural-urban interface</li> </ul>
TasTAFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small student herbarium collation</li> </ul>
University of New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small student herbarium collation</li> </ul>
University of Rostock (Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phylogeography, systematics and behaviour of Tasmanian mountain shrimps and their allies (<i>Anaspidacea</i> spp)</li> </ul>
Tasmanian Herbarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant specimen collection</li> </ul>

# Permits, Approvals And Licences

## Permits

A permit is required for all use and development that is in contravention of the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*, excluding routine maintenance or emergency works. This applies even if a use or development is exempt from requiring a LUPAA permit.

Permit applications may require the submission of a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for review by the Trust.

Commonly issued permits include for track construction and maintenance, construction activities, erection of signage, scientific research, public events and recreational access provided for in the Management Plan.

The Trust approved the following PAAs within the Park during 2023-24:

- Knocklofty Connector Trailhead permit to connect a new trail outside of Wellington Park with the Wellington Park trail network

- Upgrade to handrail and seating at the Springs Lookout
- Installation of a gate on the Big Bend Fire Trail between the East West Fire Trail and Knights Creek Track
- Installation of new signage at the Glenorchy MTB Park
- The removal of hazardous dead pine trees in the Glenorchy MTB Park and revegetation of the site
- Drainage reconstruction and surface correction on the Zig Zag Fire Trail (Glenorchy)

Five-year standing permits were issued to Park Management Agencies in May 2022 to allow routine, general maintenance to proceed without individual permits being sought. As individual permits are no longer required for covered works, the number of permit applications processed by the Trust has fallen.

Activity	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22
Maintenance and construction works including permanent signs	8	7	27
Planned burns	5	1	1
Scientific research/take flora or fauna	10	8	8
Recreational vehicle access	22 <i>(for 35 vehicles)</i>	9 <i>(for 22 vehicles)</i>	31 <i>(for 62 vehicles)</i>
Non-recreational vehicle access	1	5	3
Horse riding <sup>1</sup>	0	7	11
Camping	1	1	1
Placement of temporary signs	0	1	4
Restricted area access including restricted use tracks and trails	0	0	0
Events <sup>2</sup>	5	5	5
Launch/land aircraft	0	0	0
Removal of object/feature of historical interest	0	1	0

<sup>1</sup> These are annual permits.

<sup>2</sup> Includes cultural, sporting and entertainment events. Events organised by commercial licence holders do not require a separate permit under the *Wellington Park Regulations*.

## Approvals

The Trust issues approvals for commercial filming and photography in the Park, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft (drones).

During 2023-24, commercial filming permits have been issued for:

- Product and service advertisements
- Filming of events
- Tourism Tasmania, Tourism Australia and Brand Tasmania promotional content

Activity	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Commercial filming	14	30	28
Use of a remote piloted aircraft (drone)	9	10	14

## Licences

Nature-based tourism and other commercial operators within or visiting Wellington Park require a Commercial Operator Licence under s 31 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

Operators that conduct business in Wellington Park only obtain a Commercial Operators Licence from the Trust. At the end of 2023-24, there were four operators licensed directly by the Trust, each contributing an annual licence fee of \$300.

For operators that also conduct business in other reserves, Wellington Park can be included on a broader, multi-reserve licence issued by the PWS under a 'one-stop-shop' arrangement. This arrangement covers land managed by PWS, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Trust.

As at May 2024, there are 117 operators licensed to access Wellington Park through the 'one-stop-shop' arrangement, each contributing an annual licence fee of \$300 to the PWS. There is no disbursement of one-stop-shop licence fees to the Trust.

	As at May 2024	As at May 2023	As at May 2022	As at May 2021
No. of business licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park	121	127	91	125



# Regulations Awareness Program

The *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* complement the Management Plan by clearly setting out what is and is not permitted in Wellington Park, and penalties that may be issued for breaches of the Regulations.

The Education and Regulations Coordinator (ERC) leads the Regulations Awareness Program, which aims to protect and preserve Park values. The ERC works with Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils, the Parks and Wildlife Service, and Tasmania Police, to create a network of Authorised Officers (AOs). AOs are trained to educate users about the Park's values and are empowered to enforce the Regulations.

Authorised Officers	
▶ <i>No. of Authorised Officers as at 30 June 2024</i>	35
▶ <i>from the City of Hobart</i>	24
▶ <i>from Glenorchy City Council</i>	5
▶ <i>from the PWS</i>	5
▶ <i>from TasWater</i>	1

Three officers resigned or ceased employment for member agencies in 2023-24, with five new AOs scheduled to be trained in July 2024.

## Education and Awareness

For visitors to comply with the Regulations they need to be aware of them. The ERC is continuously seeking new ways to connect users with information they need to safely and sustainably visit the Park.

The ERC carries out a range of activities to help the community understand and care for Park values.

- developing temporary, occasional and seasonal regulatory signage to support the delivery of key messages to visitors
- delivering field presentations about the Park's values to school and university groups
- posting information and alerts about trail status to pedestrian and cycling websites, apps and social media user groups
- preparing and disseminating regulatory and educational information to Park users including field staff, advocacy groups, user groups and clubs, tour operators and local businesses
- posting educative content on the Trust Facebook and Instagram pages
- regular interviews on local ABC radio
- attendance at community events
- responding to stakeholder requests for data and information about Park usage.

## Community Feedback

The ERC responded to various reports, complaints, concerns and suggestions from local users and visitors. Information and intelligence from the community helps the ERC to respond quickly and effectively to issues and offences and fosters trust and custodianship.

The Trust's dedicated 'Report an Issue' webform on the WPMT website home page was launched in 2022-23 and enables the public to easily log issues, provide location information and attach photos or other evidence. During 2023-24, 30 issues have been logged, twice the number reported in 2022-23, including track surface damage, fallen trees on tracks, illegal dumping, observation of

illegal motorbike activity, feral cat and weed sightings, vehicle break-ins and other matters. The temporary reflectivity of new Pinnacle Road safety barriers on the summit length of Pinnacle Road has also attracted significant public enquiry.

The ERC responds to all valid reports. Responses include:

- on ground awareness raising campaigns
- compliance monitoring on foot, electric mountain bike, and 4WD vehicle
- multi-agency compliance operations
- temporary or permanent signage
- website articles and social media posts
- radio interviews
- media releases
- data gathering via surveys, visitor counters and motion sensing trail cameras both overt and covert
- partnering with key online and mobile platforms to vet and improve trail information and provide authoritative content.

## *Enforcement and Compliance Activities*

The ERC planned and coordinated one multi-agency compliance operation in 2023-24. Scheduling of these operations is constrained by the availability of Police and PWS officers and particularly Authorised Officers, who are employed by Park Management Agencies.

Technological innovations have made compliance monitoring more efficient, reducing the reliance on agency personnel.

SMS enabled covert motion sensor cameras provide early warning of unauthorised users such as motorbike riders, allowing operation participants to prepare and manoeuvre more flexibly and effectively.

Drones have been used successfully to detect and identify unauthorised vehicle users and will continue to play an important part in compliance operations.

Solo surveillance operations throughout the Park are conducted routinely in response to monitoring data and intelligence gathered from a range of sources, including member agency field staff, authorised officers and contractors, and the very large community of regular concerned Park users and neighbours.

The Trust benefits greatly from the continued support of many areas of Tasmania Police including Radio Despatch Services, Marine Search and Rescue, Uniform and Traffic. These officers play a vital role in organised joint operations, as well as contributing random mid-week patrols when available. The Park also benefits from the conduct of training within the Park by Tasmania Police Search and Rescue, and wilderness paramedics.

## *Monitoring*

Social media and fitness apps continue to be valuable tools for gaining information about Park use, as well as communicating with Park visitors. GPS apps synced with web-based platforms are increasingly being used by visitors to plan their activity before they visit, and to orient and find their way on ground. The ERC has established working relationships with key providers in this space to enhance the Park's visitor information and signage on-ground and online.

As the userships of these platforms grow, these partnerships will increase the reach of authoritative information, improving the experience and especially safety of participating users. A case study in the 370 000 hectare Olympic National Park (USA) has shown that one such partnership has led to a two thirds reduction in Search and Rescue incidents since 2021.

The Trust now owns four SMS enabled trail cameras, which the ERC deploys around the Park in response to intelligence and information gathered from a range of sources. Council Bushland managers have also increased their fleets, and the ERC works in concert with field staff to cover target areas. As well as providing real time images of offences, the cameras are simultaneously used to gather new information about trail usage and verify data from other monitoring sources including passive trail cameras and track counters. Together, these data inform planning and decision making for compliance as well as the trail network and other assets.



Exhibition Gardens bird bath | Ben Masternan

## Infringements of the Regulations

Due to limited personnel, most infringements are detected on motion sensor cameras and offenders cannot be identified. However with the introduction of more real-time surveillance data from SMS enabled trail cameras, the ERC is able to respond immediately, mustering Authorized Officers and Police as circumstances require.

Overall numbers of offences observed in 2023-24 are again lower than some previous years. This can be partly attributed to year-on-year organic growth in community awareness of regulatory information, augmented by increasing uptake of online devices, proliferation of apps and web-based platforms and social media and ease of sharing. It is also again in part attributable to the ERC's continued focus on targeting unauthorised vehicle use in areas of the Park with much lower visitation, which does not yield the same number of incidental detections as compliance activities in areas of the Park subject to higher visitation.

### Number of offences recorded

2023-24

168

2022-23

278

2021-22

477









### Infringement issued

2023-24

Informal Caution	3
Conditional Caution	1
Formal Caution	0
Prescribed Infringement Notice (PIN)	7



## Infringement issued

		2023–24	2022–23	2021–22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Contravene no-access sign</b> (walker, runner, rider)</li> </ul>	27	181	167
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Detected by surveillance, offenders not identified</li> </ul>	22	171	167
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Infringement notices</li> </ul>	2	10	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conditional cautions</li> </ul>	3	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Dog-related offences</b></li> </ul>	8	9	49
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dog off-lead offences</b></li> </ul>	7	4	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Detected by surveillance, offenders not identified</li> </ul>	7	3	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Infringement notices</li> </ul>	-	1	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conditional cautions</li> </ul>	-	-	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Taking dogs where not permitted</b></li> </ul>	1	5	42
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Detected by surveillance, offenders not identified</li> </ul>	1	4	38
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Infringement notices</li> </ul>	-	-	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conditional cautions</li> </ul>	-	-	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informal cautions</li> </ul>	-	1	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Unauthorised vehicle use</b> (motorcycle, quad bike or 4WD)</li> </ul>	100	23	72
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Detected by surveillance, offenders not identified</li> </ul>	98	23	64
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Infringement notices</li> </ul>	-	-	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conditional cautions</li> </ul>	-	-	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informal cautions</li> </ul>	2	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Unauthorised drone use</b></li> </ul>	5	5	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informal cautions</li> </ul>	1	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Unauthorised lighting of fires</b></li> </ul>	14	5	12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Remains found but offenders not identified</li> </ul>	9	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Infringement notices</li> </ul>	5	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Disturb natural substances</b> (evidence found but offenders not identified)</li> </ul>	3	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Possess and use chainsaw</b></li> </ul>	1	-	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Camping</b></li> </ul>	1	-	-



An overnight party at the Springs Hotel site in February 2024, where the ERC was informally notified by a local business operator on the day of the event, saw the ERC attend the site and speak to all present to ascertain the nature of the event. Attendees were made aware of the range of restrictions applying in Wellington Park, and when satisfied that there was no overt illegal activity, the ERC departed the site. An inspection was undertaken early the next day and no damage was found. The ERC provided a verbal report to the City of Hobart on the event.

Further investigation on social media platforms carried out by the Trust indicated that this was an advertised, ticketed event as part of the underground 'bush doof' movement, contrary to information provided to the ERC whilst on site, and was therefore illegal commercial activity. Following leads on social media, the ERC was able to make contact with the nominated organiser of the event and delivered an informal caution. As these events are known to be a regular occurrence at locations including The Springs, ongoing monitoring is required to prevent further illegal activity in Wellington Park.

## Remotely Piloted Aircraft / Drones

The Trust's policy on Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA or drone) use in the Park allows for the use of drones under permit for the purposes of Park management, research, commercial and other filming, subject to the operator have a CASA Remote Pilot Licence and public liability and aviation insurance.

In late 2022, 'no drones' overstickers were applied to 10 existing signs around the Pinnacle to reinforce awareness.

In 2023-24 there were 5 instances of drones being used without a permit in the Pinnacle area. Two informal cautions were issued, with the operators of the remaining detections unable to be identified. These 2 operators receiving informal cautions were tourists who had just arrived in Tasmania, had not yet visited any other reserved land and were unaware of the prohibition.

The reduction in detections is partly attributable to the alignment of WPMT with PWS regulations, since many visitors learn that drones are not allowed in Reserved Areas when they visit any of the PWS estate. Compliance is also due to organic growth in awareness of the regulations as the technology has become commonplace. Further, the drone itself is now required to prompt operators to

check local regulations before flying, the drone-flying community self-regulates to a greater extent, and other visitors are quick to inform unauthorised operators and report offenders.

## Vandalism

All serious instances of vandalism are recorded in a database to guide future management decisions and regulatory activities.

Numerous trivial and 9 minor instances of vandalism were detected in 2023-24. Further, a sporting event held at the Glenorchy MTB Park during 2023-24 resulted in significant damage to the surrounding fire trail network arising from inappropriate use by event support vehicles. The subsequent repair works cost Glenorchy City Council \$19,000, in addition to the \$5-10,000 spent by Council each year to replace locks and keys and repair damaged gates due to vandalism in the Park.

Damage to structures:

- Damage to Scout hut by forced entry
- Locks cut at lower and upper Montrose Trail gates
- Gate and barrier infrastructure damaged at either end of the East West Trail
- Flanking rocks around the gate on the Big Bend Fire Trail at Pinnacle Road being shifted to allow access
- Locks cut and gate damaged at the Knights Creek Trail boundary gate

Trivial vandalism comprised applying graffiti or stickers to structures and buildings. Operators of the Lost Freight Café at The Springs have reported multiple instances of damage and vandalism of infrastructure surrounding their facility. 'Tagging' with marker pen, paint pen and spray paint and applying stickers all appear to have increased in the City of Hobart management area over the past year. The ERC has completed a blitz with the cooperation of agency field staff to remove all such vandalism by the end of the 2023-24 financial year.

Works were required at Scout Hut on one occasion to repair damage caused by forced entry. Scout Hut has been emptied and sealed by Glenorchy City Council due to structural risk and the presence of asbestos. Future access is dependent on application of the Bush Huts Management Policy being that will be presented to the Trust for endorsement in July 2024.

# WHS Incidents

There have been no WHS incidents involving Trust staff that are notifiable under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

Data on visitor incidents managed by Tasmanian Police, Search and Rescue and Ambulance Tasmania is not available to the Trust, owing to limitations in the reporting functionality of the '000' notifications system. However, the Trust is working with authorities to receive the same incident notifications as are provided to the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Where the Trust is made aware of an incident responded to by emergency services, enquiries are made to determine the nature of the incident and any management implications.

Visitor incidents included lost walkers, slips and trips. Further visitor incidents will have occurred during the year without reports being received by the Trust.

## Summary of WHS hazard and incident reports

Incident/Hazard	Number reported		
	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Lost time injury	0	0	0
Hazards identified through incident/near hit reports	0	0	0
Staff incidents reported	1	1	0
Visitor incidents reported	4	5	6
Contractor incidents reported	0	0	0

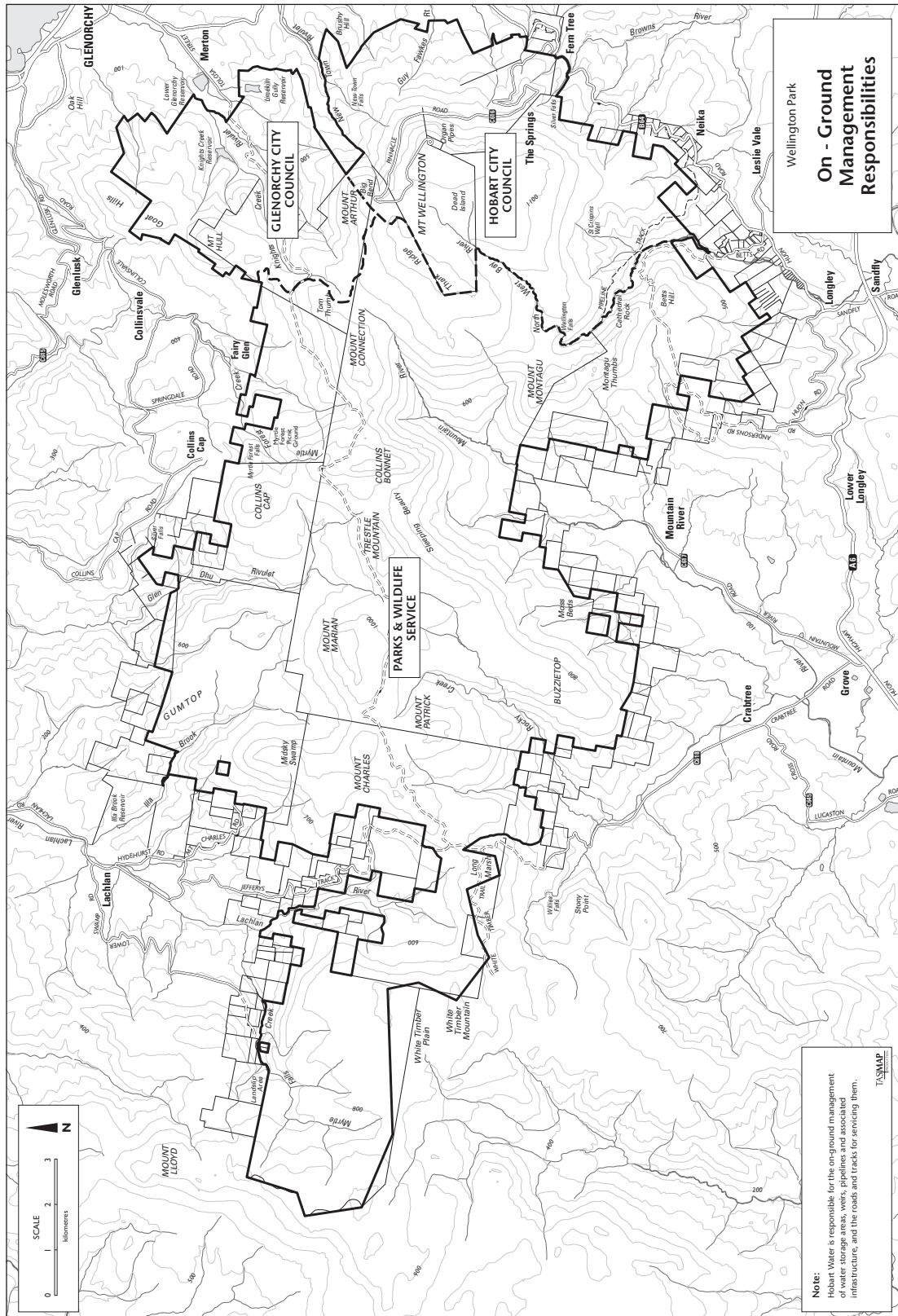


Rocky Whelans Cave | Ben Masterson



# Appendix 1

## Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas



## Appendix 2

### *Membership of the Wellington Park Management*

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

MEMBER	DEPUTY
<b>Chairperson</b> Dr Christine Mucha	(Deputy not provided for in the Act)
<b>Director-General of Lands</b> Mr Stuart Fletcher, NRE	Ms Joanna Crisp, NRE
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b> Cr Molly Kendall	Mr Emilio Reale
<b>Hobart City Council</b> Cr John Kelly	Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds
Cr Ben Lohberger	Cr Ryan Posselt
<b>TasWater</b> Ms Frances Smith	Mr Christian Attfield
<b>Director of National Parks and Wildlife</b> Ms Tory Ross	Ms Krissy Ward (until 15/09/23) Ms Jennifer Parnell (from 24/06/24)
<b>Tourism Tasmania</b> Ms Rita Warrenner	Ms Edwina Morris

**Notes:** (a) Members and deputies may be appointed by the Minister for a period not exceeding 3 years. A member's appointment may terminate if they no longer occupy the position under which they were appointed or they resign. Members and deputies may be re-appointed. The term of the Chair expired on 30 June 2024. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment conducted a call for Expressions of Interest in the position of Trust Chair in May 2024 and a new ministerial appointment is pending. Dr Christine Mucha has been asked to remain in the Chair until such time as a new appointment has been made.

### *Wellington Park Office*

General Manager (1 FTE)	Amy Russell
Educations & Regulations Coordinator (1 FTE)	Ben Masterman
Natural & Heritage Values Coordinator (1 FTE)	Ellen Sorensen
Visitor & Recreation Strategy Coordinator (0.6 FTE)	Lisa Counsell (until 26/10/23)
Wellington Park Project Officer (1 FTE)	Louise Jolly (from 7/12/23)

**FTE** – Full time equivalent



# Appendix 3

## Trust Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

The Trust held 5 scheduled meetings and 1 special meeting between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. A Trust workshop was also conducted in March 2024 to discuss a proposed business plan for an alternative management framework for Wellington Park.

MEMBER	Meetings Attended During 2023–24	Meetings During Membership
<b>Chairperson</b>		
Dr Christine Mucha	6	6
<b>Director-General of Lands nominees</b>		
Mr Stuart Fletcher	5	6
Ms Joanna Crisp (deputy)	0	6
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b>		
Cr Molly Kendall	6	6
Mr Emilio Reale (deputy)	1 ( <i>observer</i> )	6
<b>Hobart City Council</b>		
Cr John Kelly	6	6
LM Cr Anna Reynolds (deputy to Cr Kelly)	1 ( <i>observer</i> )	6
Cr Ben Lohberger	4	6
Cr Ryan Posselt (deputy to Cr Lohberger)	0	6
<b>TasWater</b>		
Ms Frances Smith	4	6
Mr Christian Attfield (deputy)	1	6
<b>Director of National Parks and Wildlife nominees</b>		
Ms Tory Ross	4	6
Ms Krissy Ward (deputy)	1	1
Ms Jennifer Parnell (deputy)	0	0
<b>Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Tasmania nominees</b>		
Ms Rita Warrenner	6	6
Ms Edwina Morris (deputy)	0	6

Clause 3 of Schedule 3 of the Act entitles members who are not State Service officers or employees to remuneration and allowances as determined by the Governor. These are specified in each member's Instrument of Appointment. During 2023-24 the Chairperson was paid an annual fee and councillors who are members or deputy members were paid a sitting fee for each meeting attended.

### Disclosures of interests and related party interests

At the February 2024 meeting, Cr Ben Lohberger declared that he was standing as an Independent Candidate for the 2024 State Election. This had been discussed with the City of Hobart CEO, and Lohberger was retained as the Council nominee to the Trust.

At the July 2023 meeting, the General Manager advised that they had completed a Related Party Declaration and provided this to the Chair following the appointment of the General Manager's partner to the board of the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania.

# Appendix 4

## Financial Report 2023–2024



**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**To the Members of Parliament**  
**Wellington Park Management Trust**  
**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

### Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement of certification signed by the Chairperson.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Members of the Trust for the Financial Report**

The Members of the Trust (Members) are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Members are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trust is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or Members intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Member's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the


# Appendix 4

## Financial Report 2023–2024

date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Derek Burns  
**Director**  
**Financial Audit Services**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

27 September 2024  
Hobart



## Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Grants - State Government	5	384,000	391,000
Grants - Other	5	161,836	153,631
Interest		5,722	6,652
Fines		1,268	2,741
Contract Funding Recognised		51,099	4,196
Other		11,320	16,619
Total Revenue		615,245	574,839
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Park Administration</b>			
Advertising		2,746	9,768
Audit Fees		6,500	5,630
Chairperson Remuneration	11	13,875	13,813
Contractors and Consultants		105,692	22,486
Depreciation		11,409	7,028
Employee Costs - Management		160,942	158,125
Employee Costs - Other		250,223	169,920
Workers Compensation Insurance		4,305	6,784
Miscellaneous		29,356	36,395
Sitting Fees		2,250	450
Stationery & Printing		3,139	2,387
Vehicle Expenses		12,515	8,854
		602,952	441,640
Total Expenses		602,952	441,640
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b>12,293</b>	<b>133,199</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Comprehensive Result</b>		<b>12,293</b>	<b>133,199</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity For Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
Balance at beginning of period		149,550	16,351
Comprehensive Result		12,293	133,199
Balance at end of period		<u>161,843</u>	<u>149,550</u>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Cash	6	232,257	225,918
Stock on Hand		12,218	6,664
Receivables		10,752	10,375
		<u>255,227</u>	<u>242,957</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		61,261	57,004
Less Accumulated Depreciation		25,015	13,605
		<u>36,246</u>	<u>43,399</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>291,473</b>	<b>286,356</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Employee Benefits	7	74,971	48,560
Payables		4,728	-
Contract Liabilities	6	49,931	80,830
		<u>129,630</u>	<u>129,390</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Employee Benefits	7	-	7,416
		<u>-</u>	<u>7,416</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>129,630</b>	<b>136,806</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>161,843</b>	<b>149,550</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		161,843	149,550
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>161,843</b>	<b>149,550</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Grants - State Government		384,000	391,000
Grants - Other		182,035	149,435
Interest		5,722	6,652
Other		12,211	14,623
		<u>583,968</u>	<u>561,710</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		509,259	414,260
Other		64,114	69,873
		<u>573,373</u>	<u>484,133</u>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,595</b>	<b>77,577</b>
<b>Proceeds from</b>			
Sales of Plant and Equipment		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Payments for</b>			
Equipment purchases		4,256	14,442
		<u>4,256</u>	<u>14,442</u>
<b>NET CASH (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(4,256)</b>	<b>(14,442)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>			
Opening Cash Balance		225,918	162,783
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>		<b><u>232,257</u></b>	<b><u>225,918</u></b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

### 1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is to deliver coordinated and effective management for Wellington Park to preserve the area's unique conservation and water catchment values while promoting appropriate tourism and recreation opportunities.

### 2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Trust was established by the *Wellington Park Act 1993* as a Statutory Authority to facilitate and provide a cooperative land management structure for Wellington Park, one of the State's largest distinct areas of reserved land and a primary icon in terms of tourism.

The Park was proclaimed under specific legislation due to its complexities in land tenure and ownership. At present, Wellington Park comprises twelve separate parcels of land with classifications and ownership ranging from Crown land, freehold land (held by the two city councils of Hobart and Glenorchy) and land vested in the City of Hobart for water supply purposes. TasWater also has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the Greater Hobart area and maintains infrastructure within the Park associated with this role. Electricity and telecommunications suppliers also maintain infrastructure within the Park associated with their role.

The Trust has resolved that it does not control either the constructed or natural assets within the Park, and accordingly has not recognised a value for those assets in its financial report.

### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as the Australian Accounting Standards include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS.

The Trust has analysed its purpose, objectives, and operating philosophy and determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate, the Trust has elected to apply options and exemptions within Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

The financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting and does not take into account changing money values. At the 30th June 2024, the Trust held cash assets of \$232,257 which are insufficient to cover the operating expenses of the Trust for 2024-25. The Government has announced, through the 2024-25 State Budget, that the appropriations awarded to the Trust in 2024-25 will be \$487,000 (2023-24, \$384,000). This additional funding is designed to ensure the Trust is sustainably resourced to carry out its function as the managing authority of Wellington Park. As such, the Trust has prepared this report on a going concern basis.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

#### b) Revenue

The Trust recognises untied grant revenue and grants without performance obligations when received. In cases where funding includes specific performance obligations, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance with income recognised as obligations are fulfilled and which reflect the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration to which the Trust expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues. In 2023-24 Other Revenue consisted of sale of goods, fines, event permit application fees and commercial operator licence fees.

#### c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to either a decrease in an asset or an increase in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

#### d) Cash

Cash consists of funds held in bank accounts and cash on hand.

#### e) Stock

Stock on hand at the reporting date comprise a number of publications which are held with an expectation of generating future sales. Stock is valued at cost and adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

#### f) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are valued at cost and consist of a vehicle as well as office equipment. The vehicle has been estimated to have a useful life of seven and a half years in line with the Australian Taxation Office Commissioner's cap for vehicles of this type and the office equipment a useful life of three years. The estimated residual value of plant and equipment at the end of its useful life is reviewed annually. Useful lives are reviewed annually and depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.



**g) Employee Benefits**

The provision for employee benefits represents the amount which the Trust has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided up to the reporting date in respect of salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which fall due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees rendered the related service, are measured at their nominal values using remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement. Other provisions are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Discount rates used are those attaching to national government guaranteed securities at balance date which most closely match the terms to maturity of the related liabilities. In determining pre-conditional long service leave entitlements, the amount of cash outflows required to be made by the Trust in the future have been estimated based on experience of similar not for profit entity trends.

Under current employment contracts there is no entitlement to payment of unused personal leave upon termination and so no provision has been made in this regard.

**h) Comparative Figures**

Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

**i) Taxation**

The Trust is subject to both Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). No FBT events were experienced by the Trust in the year. The Trust's current payroll is below the annual threshold for Payroll Tax liability and is exempt from all other taxes.

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

**j) Change in Accounting Policies**

There are no new and revised Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board which are relevant to the Trust's operations and effective for the current reporting period.

**k) New accounting standards for application in future periods**

In the current year, Management has reviewed and assessed all the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and determined that none would have a material effect on the Trust's operations or financial reporting.

**4. RECONCILIATION OF 'NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES' TO SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR**

	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>12,293</b>	<b>133,199</b>
Add back Depreciation	11,409	7,028
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	(5,931)	(8,932)
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	18,995	(27,176)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	4,728	(22,346)
Increase / (Decrease) in Contract Liabilities	(30,899)	(4,196)
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>10,595</b>	<b>77,577</b>

In 2023/24 the Trust has recorded a surplus primarily due to an increase in the amount of grant funding received. In accordance with AASB 15, recognition of revenue associated with \$29,731 of grant funds received and unexpended in 2023/24 has been deferred. The funds will be progressively recorded as revenue as grant conditions are met.

**5. GRANT REVENUE**

	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
<b>Grants - State Government</b>		
Park Administration	384,000	391,000
<b>Grants - Other</b>		
Grants - Other	161,836	153,631

The Grants – Other figure of \$161,836 includes the following contributions: \$38,790 from the Hobart City Council, \$39,524 from the Glenorchy City Council, and \$73,522 from TasWater. These figures and those in the above table are exclusive of applicable GST.

**6. CASH**

The Trust has received a number of grants. At 30 June 2024, the Trust is expected to expend \$48,903 of its cash balance relating to these grants. These amounts being made up of:

<b>Restricted Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Contract Liabilities (Unspent Funding)</b>	
Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund	20,705
State Emergency Service	20,200
Jefferys Track	9,026
	<u>49,931</u>
<b>Unconditional Grants</b>	
Website Development	19,172
	<u>19,172</u>
Unrestricted Cash	<u>183,354</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<u><b>232,257</b></u>

\$49,931 of Conditional Grants have been deferred and transferred to the Statement of Financial Position as Contract Liabilities, as per AASB 15.

Recognition of \$20,705 grant income received in prior years for the Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund, \$9,026 received from Huon Valley Council in 2020/21 for maintenance of Jefferys Track, and \$20,200 received from State Emergency Service has been deferred until grant conditions are met, as per AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

**7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROVISIONS**

	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
PAYG Withholdings	30,592	24,542
Annual Leave	18,512	12,580
Long Service Leave	12,341	7,416
Superannuation	13,527	11,438
	<u>74,971</u>	<u>55,976</u>
Current	74,971	48,560
Non-Current	-	7,416
	<u>74,971</u>	<u>55,976</u>

## 8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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### **Financial Risk Management**

The Trust's financial instruments consist of receivables and payables. Financial risk is managed by ensuring that investments are carried out in accordance with the Trust's Investment Policy Statement.

### **Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Trust if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of recognised financial assets as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position. The Trust does not have any material credit risk exposure.

### **Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Trust is exposed to is interest rate risk. The Trust's cash held is subject to variable interest rates. Remaining financial assets and all financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. The Trust's exposure to interest rate risk in relation to cash held at bank is considered to be minimal.

### **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Trust manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows. Exposure to liquidity risk is considered to be minimal.

### **Net Fair Value**

The Trust considers that the carrying amount of its financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair value.

## 9. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

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No events have occurred subsequent to balance date that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial report.

## 10. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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There were no material contingent assets or contingent liabilities at year-end.

## 11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

### a) Responsible Persons

Names of persons holding positions of responsibility at any time during the year are:

Trust Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Dr Christine Mucha		Independent Chair	01-Jun-05	30-Jun-24 <i>(Extended to 30-Jun-25)</i>
Mr Stuart Fletcher	NRE	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Cr Molly Kendall	GCC	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Cr Ben Lohberger	CoH	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Cr John Kelly	CoH	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Ms Frances Smith	TasWater	Member	30-Apr-20	31-Dec-25
Ms Tory Ross	PWS	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tas	Member	07-Sep-17	30-Jun-26

Trust Deputy Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Ms Joanna Crisp	NRE	Deputy	21-Aug-22	30-Jun-25
Mr Emilio Reale	GCC	Deputy	01-Sep-21	30-Jun-27 <i>(Re-appointed 19-Jun-24)</i>
Mr Christian Attfield	TasWater	Deputy	21-Aug-22	30-Jun-25
Ms Krissy Ward	PWS	Deputy	27-Nov-21	15-Sept-23
Ms Jennifer Parnell	PWS	Deputy	24-Jun-24	31-Dec-26
Ms Edwina Morris	Tourism Tas	Deputy	24-May-23	30-Jun-26
Cr Ryan Posselt	CoH	Deputy (BL)	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds	CoH	Deputy (JK)	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25

Trust General Manager: Amy Russell	(09 May 2022 – Current)
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### b) Key Management Personnel Compensation

	2023/24 \$	2022/23 \$
Short-term employee benefits	141,869	179,801
Post-employment benefits	15,066	17,044
Chairperson Remuneration	13,875	13,813
Sitting fees	2,250	450
	<b>173,060</b>	<b>211,108</b>

Short-term employee benefits represent wage-related benefits paid, payable or provided by the Trust to the General Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Post-employment benefits include superannuation paid or payable by the Trust for the General Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Amounts are calculated on an accruals basis.



## 12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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### ***a) Transactions with other related parties***

There have been no transactions with related parties during the 2023-24 financial year.

### ***b) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties***

The Trust has not entered into any loans or guarantees with related parties.

### ***c) Commitments to/from related parties***

The Trust has not entered into any commitments with related parties.

### ***d) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed***

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of the Trust live within greater Hobart. Therefore, on a regular basis, ordinary citizen transactions occur between the Trust and its related parties. Some examples are:-

- Permit Application Fees
- Licence fees
- Fines for breaches of Wellington Park Regulations

The Trust has not included these types of transactions in its disclosure where they occur on the same terms and conditions as those available to the general public.

The Trust has made full disclosure in the financial report of information concerning related party transactions in accordance with the Applicable Australian Accounting Standards and/or legislative requirements.

## Certification

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The accompanying financial statements of the Wellington Park Management Trust are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

I believe that, in all material respects, the financial statements present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Dr Christine Mucha**

*Chairperson*

*Date: 27 September, 2024*





## Vision

*For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.*

## Mission

*To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.*

*This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.*

*Cover photography by Luke Tscharke*