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Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
Ald Melissa Carlton	Glenorchy City Council
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## WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST

### Minutes

#### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST HELD AT 9:30 AM ON WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN MEETING ROOM 206 OF THE HOBART COUNCIL CENTRE

##### NOTE

MINUTES OF TRUST MEETINGS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE WELLINGTON PARK WEBSITE FOLLOWING THEIR APPROVAL BY THE TRUST

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#### 1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

**PRESENT:**

- Dr C Mucha (Chairperson)
- Ms R Warrener (Tourism Tasmania)
- Alderman M Carlton (GCC)
- Alderman D Thomas (HCC)
- Mr A Rushton (PWS)
- Alderman J Briscoe (HCC)

**APOLOGIES:**

- Ms L Wilson (DPIPWE)
- Mr L Stapleton (TasWater)
- Mr H Woolley (TasWater deputy)

## 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS

Alderman M Carlton declared an interest in Item 11.

Alderman D Thomas and Alderman J Briscoe declared an interest in any agenda items that included discussion of the proposed cable car.

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2019

The Trust accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2019 as true and correct. The minutes were signed.

## 4. ACTION TABLE – 4 September 2019

The action table was noted and discussed including removal of the following completed actions:

- Installation of fire safety signs in huts with designated fireplaces.
- Agreement with the Tasmania Police to provide the Trust with information on incidents they attend in the Park.
- Clarification of the need for landowner consent to issue a permit for a development in Wellington Park.

## 5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager advised that no Park management agency staff or contractor incidents had been reported since the last WHS report on 20 June 2019. Three visitor incidents and damage to the Education and Regulations Coordinator's (ERC) mobile phone were reported. The mobile phone was repaired.

Two incidents involving visitors occurred in July. The first involved a lone walker becoming lost in the Mount Montagu area and ending up at a farmhouse in Mountain River after dark. The second involved separate groups who walked to the pinnacle observation shelter in severe weather but were unsure if it was safe to descend when conditions worsened. The first group were able to descend safely along Pinnacle Road; the second group were assisted by the police.

There was also an incident in August involving a lone walker who became lost along the Ice House Track and called the police. The police attended and guided the walker to the Springs.

Members discussed whether a walker registration system could be introduced (similar to that required by PWS). However, it was noted that this would be difficult due to the large number of Park entry points and that most visitors are only undertaking short walks.

It was noted that plenty of signage exists in the Recreation Zone of the Park but there may be opportunities to improve wayfinding in other parts of the Park to assist users.

Members discussed the need for a lengthy WHS item in the agenda. It was decided that WHS incidents need to be noted and discussed where appropriate but reporting could be simplified.

*Actions:*

- *Trust ERC and PWS Ranger will visit the Mount Montagu area to check the condition of the tracks and determine what signage is present and if any is required to provide clear directions.*
- *Manager to simplify WHS reporting.*

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

## 6. PRESENTATION ON MOUNTAIN BIKE NETWORK PLANNING IN THE HOBART CITY COUNCIL (HCC) SECTION OF WELLINGTON PARK

The Manager introduced the project manager for the mountain bike network planning project. The project manager provided the Trust with the details of the project and progress to date with the assistance of Council's Program Leader, Bushland Recreation. The presentation included the following information:

- The project covers the area below the North-South Track and includes land outside the Park.
- The project is part of a larger project to create mountain bike riding opportunities funded by a grant from the State Government.
- After a proposed gravity mountain bike track from Big Bend to Junction Cabin was abandoned as there was not enough market appeal for the cost of the project, Council is looking at opportunities in the Lower foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington.
- The aim of the Plan is to establish a niche recreation engagement activity in the lower foothills and increase opportunities to engage with the natural environment.
- The plan also aims to improve accessibility, connectivity and navigation as well as increasing the diversity of tracks with different levels of difficulty to allow for rider skill progression.
- The Mountain Bike Network Plan will prioritise where Council spends remaining grant funding and also the future developments that can occur.
- The Plan is not aiming to make the foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington a mountain biking destination in its own right.
- Visitation to the HCC portion of the Park is increasing beyond the capacity of existing infrastructure.
- Currently riders are mostly using fire trails and shared use tracks and have commented on the poor connectivity of the existing track network and lack of opportunities for riders to improve skills.
- Mountain bike riders are currently building and using illegal tracks in the Park and on adjoining properties indicating frustration with the lack of purpose-built mountain bike tracks in the Park section of the study area.
- The Plan will establish what key linkages exist on private land and if/how to collaborate with private land to establish links.
- The Plan must be sustainable.
- Stakeholder engagement has been through a Project Advisory Group (comprised of 10 influential mountain bikers, represents clubs & volunteer groups), clubs (running and walking groups) and tour operators (to see how this plan will provide opportunities for them).
- Glenorchy City Council is being included as it is developing a masterplan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.
- Two public surveys have been undertaken so far to understand usage patterns and issues with the existing track network.
  - 400 responses to the first survey – established that mountain bike access is primarily at Cascade and The Springs
  - Users don't want to share tracks as it diminishes their experience.
  - 1,000 responses to second survey (300 walkers, 200 runners, 500 mountain bikers). Majority prefer additional opportunities for mountain bikers on the mountain.

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Item No. 6 continued

- Council has established a group of TrackCare volunteers to assist with track construction. These are currently being used for the Strickland Falls connector track and the Drops Track with 13-30 volunteers at each event.
- Draft report due in November.

The discussion following the presentation included the following matters:

- A breakdown of the survey results to separate the opinions of local residents and visitors would be interesting and useful. Also any responses where users had stopped using shared use tracks due to conflicts between user groups.
- Need for evacuation points to be included in the track network design, particularly if less experienced riders are encouraged to use the tracks.
- Plan should encourage visitors to explore more areas and engage with the environment, rather than focusing on thrill seeking.
- Opportunity to involve international, local university and local school students in future working bees as part of this project.
- Parking issues at entry points needs to be considered in the plan.
- Formation of a focus group to encourage communication with Glenorchy City Council and create combined information for greater Hobart.
- Plan will build on rather than supersede the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan (2011).
- Project will have positive effects and will also provide great connection, especially with all the bike path developments Council is already undertaking.
- Need to allow for an increase in the use of e-bikes, particularly by older riders.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Items for decision**

**7. PROJECT AND COMMUNICATIONS PLANS FOR THE VISITATION AND RECREATION STRATEGY (VRS)**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager advised that the project and communications plans focussed on the VRS preparation process and the broad objectives of the VRS had already been endorsed by the Trust in the project scoping document.

Members noted that the Project Plan is very thorough, but needs to be due to the complexity of the VRS. A concern on the timeliness of the project was raised, as was the need to develop a high level communication plan for the Trust.

It was also noted that the objectives as stated in the project plan were only for the project process not for the VRS as a whole. Members agreed that simple high level objectives were needed to help communicate the VRS to stakeholders.

*Action: The Project Manager to organise a workshop for Trust members, deputy members and the project steering committee to get their input into the project, particularly the overall objectives of the VRS and communication of the VRS.*

**RESOLVED**

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust endorses the project plan and communications plan for the development of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy for Wellington Park subject to further discussions at a workshop on the project.

## 8. TRUST STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND RISK REGISTER REVIEW

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager noted that only minor updates had been made to the Risk Management Policy and Framework and the risk levels of some of the items in the risk register had been adjusted to reflect current conditions.

The following issues were noted:

- The bushfire risk in the Park needs to be re-assessed as it is only rated as High whereas HCC rates it as Extreme (i.e. catastrophic consequence).
- The ISO risk assessment framework that is referred to in the Policy was updated in 2018 and the Risk Management Policy and framework needs to be updated to align with the new ISO framework.
- The risk of the Trust Chairperson not being available for a meeting needs to be assessed.

*Actions:*

- *Manager to address issues noted by the Trust and discuss risk ratings with the Management Advisory Committee*
- *Manager to organise a facilitated risk management workshop for members and deputy members to review the risk register and the Trust's risk appetite.*

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. A revised Strategic Risk Management Policy Framework and risk register be prepared for consideration at the next Trust meeting.

## 9. SCOPE FOR A CULTURAL HERITAGE STRATEGY FOR WELLINGTON PARK

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager noted that preparation of a Cultural Heritage Strategy for the Park was recommended in the Wellington Park Management Plan and was an initiative in the Trust's Strategic Plan. The Heritage Strategy will include both Aboriginal and European cultural heritage.

Members asked for more information on how the Cultural Heritage Strategy will be communicated.

*ACTION: The Manager to clarify how the Cultural Heritage Strategy will be communicated.*

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust approves the scope of a Heritage Management Strategy for Wellington Park attached to the report.
3. The Trust Manager writes to the General Managers of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the Deputy Secretary of the Park and Wildlife Service notifying them of the preparation of the Heritage Management Strategy for Wellington Park and requests that their heritage officers be made available to sit on the Steering Committee for the Project.

## **10. SCOPE FOR THE HISTORIC BUSH HUTS MANAGEMENT POLICY AND FRAMEWORK**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager explained that the historic bush huts that still exist in the Park are being increasingly used, and sometimes abused, including structural damage and unauthorised additions. These huts have both heritage and social values. All the huts to be covered in the management policy predate the formation of the Park and in the past were looked after by informal groups of carers (often descendants of the original hut builders). The carer networks are becoming much less active now (often due to age) while usage of the huts by persons who are not part of the carer's networks is increasing.

The Trust and Park management agencies are now having to play an increasing role in the management of the bush huts. The management policy and framework for the bush huts will set the overarching management principles and the processes for managing the huts. Using the framework the agencies that own the huts will develop conservation management plans for each hut.

### **RESOLVED**

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust approves the scope of a Management Policy Framework for the extant historic bush huts in Wellington Park attached to the report.
3. The Trust Manager writes to the General Managers of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the Deputy Secretary of the Park and Wildlife Service notifying them of the agreed scope of a Management Policy Framework for the extant historic bush huts in Wellington Park and requests that their heritage officers be made available to sit on the Steering Committee for the Project.

## **11. REQUEST FOR TRUST 'IN PRINCIPLE' SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTERPLAN FOR THE GLENORCHY MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK**

Alderman M Carlton declared an interest in Item 11 and did not participate in the discussions concerning this Item.

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager explained that the General Manager of Glenorchy City Council had written to the Trust requesting its endorsement of the preparation of a masterplan that includes the portion of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park (GMBP) within Wellington Park and had asked the Trust to detail the process required for the Wellington Park section of the GMBP masterplan to be endorsed by the Trust once completed.

The Manager noted that the masterplan was funded by a State Government grant and would include Council land outside Wellington Park.

### **RESOLVED**

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust provides 'in principle' support for the preparation of a masterplan that includes the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Overlay in the Wellington Park Management Plan.
3. The Trust Manager notifies the General Manager of Glenorchy City Council of the Trust's 'in principle' support for the preparation of the masterplan and the issues the Trust wishes to see addressed in the masterplan as set out in the draft letter attached to this report.

## **12. AGENDA PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TRUST MEETING**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager noted that after the meeting agenda had been sent out the proprietors of the Lost Freight Café at The Springs had discussed with him and Hobart City Council staff the possibility of expanding the café. The proprietors had been advised that they would need to submit a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for the proposed expansion in time for the November Trust meeting as the following scheduled meeting was unlikely to be till February 2020. The Manager also noted that the current licence to operate the café expires in early February 2020.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust agrees on the priority items for the next Trust meeting listed in the report with the inclusion of a PAA for the expansion of the Lost Freight Café, if received.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **13. TRUST PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2019**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager noted that the review of the Trust's HR policies has been postponed till the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

### **14. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK REPORT ON "IMPROVING THE MODEL FOR RETURNING LAND TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES"**

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager advised that the Trust had received a copy of a report from the Department of Communities Tasmania titled "Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback Report: Improving the model for returning land to Aboriginal Communities". The Manager noted that the Trust had provided a comment on the original discussion paper which had explored the following topics:

- objectives of land return
- land acquisition
- land management
- governance.

The Manager explained that the feedback report will inform a draft report with recommendations for improving the model for returning land to Aboriginal communities and there will be a second round of consultation when the draft report is released.

### **15. PROPOSED PLACE NAMES BILL AND DRAFT TASMANIAN PLACE NAMING GUIDELINES**

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager noted that the Trust had received a copy of the Draft Place Names Bill and draft Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines from the Surveyor General with a request for comments by 3 September. The proposed Act and guidelines would replace the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944* and the Nomenclature Board.

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Item No. 15 continued

The Manager advised that comments had already been provided to the Surveyor General as the closure of comments was the day prior to the Trust meeting. The comments were included in the "correspondence sent" part of the agenda. The Manager also noted that he had met with the Surveyor General to discuss the Trust's comments and issues.

The Trust asked the Manager to check if there are any commonly used names in the Park that have not been formalised.

*ACTION: The Manager to check if there are commonly used unofficial names in the Park that should be formalised.*

**16. INTEGRITY COMMISSION REPORT INTO ALLEGED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE BOARD OF TOURISM TASMANIA**

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager noted the findings of the recently released Integrity Commission report into alleged conflicts of interest within the board of Tourism Tasmania that are relevant to the Trust.

**17. REPORTS ON OFFICE ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Item for information only, no discussion.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Tourism Tasmania's role on the Wellington Park Management Trust**

The Tourism Tasmania member made the following statement on Tourism Tasmania's role on the Wellington Park Management Trust:

"I'd like to take this opportunity to place on the record, for the purposes of the Minutes, a statement about Tourism Tasmania's internal governance in light of recent media commentary.

Tourism Tasmania's role is to promote travel to Tasmania through marketing activity and supporting improved access to the state via its role in access advocacy.

The Agency's role on this Trust is determined as part of a 1993 Act of Parliament and my contribution is to bring knowledge of the tourism brand, target visitor segments and destination marketing to relevant discussions.

As Tourism Tasmania's representative on the Trust, my conduct aligns with the expectations required from Trust members, including acting in good faith and in the best interests of the Trust as a whole.

The role of the Tourism Tasmania Board is to guide the Agency's strategy and to oversight governance, while the Agency's role is to undertake its operational activities.

The two roles are distinctly different and, as such, I am at significant arm's length from the Tourism Tasmania Board and not influenced by it in any way.

I note the Integrity Commission's recent findings that two Directors of the Tourism Tasmania Board were found not to have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest stemming from their declared interests in the Mount Wellington Cableway Company project.

It also confirmed that the strategic and oversight nature of the Tourism Tasmania Board means that it does not make decisions about, or influence decision-making about particular developments. END"

**b) Upgrade of Jefferys Track**

The PWS member noted a meeting that afternoon at Huon Valley Council to discuss the Jefferys Track upgrade feasibility study. The Manager noted that the Trust had already given its 'in principle' support for the feasibility study.

Members noted that an upgrade of Jefferys Track could have positive outcomes for the Park, including improved fire brigade access and potential reduction/displacement of illegal dumping and other unauthorised activities.

The Trust Manager confirmed that he would be representing the Trust at the meeting and would provide a report on the outcome at the next Trust meeting.

**c) Chairperson's talk to delegates at the International Public Works Conference**

The Chairperson advised members that she gave a talk to delegates at the International Public Works Conference at Waterworks during their field trip to Waterworks Reserve. Although she was not representing the Trust, her role with the Trust was mentioned and the matter of the cable car was raised (not by the Chairperson herself). It was noted to the conference delegates that the cable car's development application was currently with Hobart City Council.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence received and sent was noted.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 13 November 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:32 am.