

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Walkers Lake Advisory Group Minutes

The scheduled meeting 24 March 2026, 6.00 pm on site at Walkers Lake

Chair: Cr Karen Probst

Attendees: Cr Karen Probst, Cr Murray Emerson, Austin Freeman, Carol Campbell, Anne Hughes, Dougal McAllister, Steve Jesse, Tony Dark (NGSC),

Apologies: Chad Frost, Rob Loats, Mark Costello, Tony Hand, Landcare Facilitator (BNG Landcare),

We acknowledged the Djaara land on which we met on. We paid our respects to their elders, past and present.

Minutes from previous meeting 24 November 2025. Moved that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting moved by Carole Campbell and seconded by Anne Hughes

Action items from last meeting: Refer general business

1. General Business:

Item	Topic	Discussion	Action/ Outcome
1.1	Walkers Lake Report	<p>A report dated 18 March 2026 was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly Inspections - Monthly inspections continue to be undertaken to monitor the site and facilities, clean up any rubbish found and drive the tracks to inspect for any vandalism or maintenance requirements.	Action:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Levels - Current water levels are recorded at 2.1m, No visible Blue Green Algae at the moment and the water top-up of 100 ML for Easter is underway at the moment. • Pest and Weed management - Fumigation completed earlier this year and rabbit numbers have been impacted at this stage. To keep on top of this issue we will undertake further fumigation hopefully late April if warranted and we will also consider at calicivirus management at some stage in the future (Jan/Feb 2027 – subject to budget). We will discuss this further at future meetings before we lock this in. Discussed costs and fumigation \$7000 (April and Oct combined) and this is in budget. The cost for Calicivirus \$5000 (Feb 2027) is not currently included in budget. Weeds will be reviewed in coming months for a treatment program to be implemented with site inspection April / May 2026 and allocated funds \$5k • Portable Toilet/s - We provided portable toilets for public holidays in January and March with the Easter holiday next where we will supply two portable toilets. • Fire Prevention – Slashing was completed in December as normal. • Projects – We discussed the projects undertaken since our last meeting and the Tree maintenance and exclusion zone (aligned with Arborist report) is to be considered with Landcare’s input for the two trees near the boat ramp. The rock barrier and revegetation for the Eastern campsite and entrance has been quoted for rock at \$23k (supply and installation) plus Djaara monitor estimated \$5k. This cost is not included in budget so funding would need to be sought if we decide to proceed. We discussed options of bollards and fencing however Tony stated that Djaara prefer rocks as a natural treatment rather than bollards. The group inspected 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tony schedule next meeting and send meeting minutes and agenda. 2. Tony to complete more work on the lunette protection project (quotes, photos and design)
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		<p>the site to understand the impacts and how we could manage the 4WD access to mitigate damage to the lunette. We also discussed the track on the high side of the lunette and how the track is now duplicated / widened by cars to avoid deep ruts in the track. Discussed a combination of rocks and fencing to manage both the lunette and track. Tony to obtain more quotes and provide more detail of design for consideration by the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage – EPBC and FFG Act flora and fauna to be installed by Landcare was explained by Carole and Anne with a couple of sample signs circulated for inspecting. The signs are a part of the long-term education and information strategy for visitors to understand the flora, fauna and biodiversity of Walkers Lake. The signs will be located around key areas for ease of viewing. Tony is also organising a sign for fish that can be caught in the lake golden perch, silver perch and catfish plus redfin. • Tony advised he had a meeting with Djaara recently to discuss signage for Recreation, Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage to help inform visitors of the overall values at the lake. An example of what has been used at other lakes such as Green Lake (near Sea Lake). A budget of \$5k is allocated. 	
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2. Other items discussed:

- Woodcutting signs are to be organised for installing around the reserve.
- Tony advised that Council was approached about having a music event at Walkers Lake. The group was called Moniker and they approached Council as their event at another location was cancelled. Tony circulated a map of the event’s requirements for a crowd of 1000 and as shown it required a large portion of the reserve to operate and it would take in areas that are subject to endangered flora. The event was proposed to be over 4 days at Easter and they believed Walkers Lake would be a perfect location. Council staff reviewed their initial proposal and advised the organiser that it would not be supported and would need to be resented to the advisory group at this meeting. The event has found an alternative location in the Otway

area and has been sold out. Tony advised that it was important for the group to be aware that this type of request / application will come up again in the future and they need to be included in the discussion for comment. Everyone agreed that the Walkers Lake environment is sensitive and given the experience from the cancelled Donald event last year the impact could be substantial to all recreation, biodiversity and cultural heritage at the lake.

- Tony asked the group to provide any photos of peak times at the lake to help understand where people camp and recreate for future reference.

3. Close: 7.15 pm

4. Next Meeting: Online Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 6pm TBC