

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Walkers Lake Advisory Group Minutes

The scheduled meeting 2 June 2026, 6.00 pm online

Chair: Cr Karen Probst

Attendees: Cr Karen Probst, Austin Freeman, Carol Campbell, Anne Hughes, Dougal McAllister, Tony Hand, Jane Bowker (Landcare Facilitator - BNG Landcare), Tony Dark (NGSC)

Apologies: Steve Jesse, Rob Loats, Mark Costello, Cr Murray Emerson, Chad Frost

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

Minutes from previous meeting 2 March 2026. Moved that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting moved by Carole Campbell and seconded by Austin Freeman

Action items from last meeting: Refer general business

1. General Business:

Item	Topic	Discussion	Action/ Outcome
1.1	Walkers Lake Report	A report dated 16 June 2026 was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed: • Monthly Inspections Monthly inspections continued since March were in April, May and June.	Action:

	In April we had some photos of Easter showing campers around the lake. We also had some photos of wood cut from fallen trees so more warning signs placed on fences. In May we noticed a bit of activity in some burrows with rabbits. In June it was noticed that one of the buoys has gone missing from the southern area (old boat ramp) • Water Levels Current water levels are recorded at 2.55m and lake looking great with no blue green algae visible. Next water top up is around August for the annual 200megs and then before Easter 100megs (all subject to approval / allocation) • Pest and Weed management Recent update from Project Platypus who have spent 2 days on site did complete some fumigation with more planned for October. They also sprayed Espartillo, boxthorn and bridal creeper. • Portable Toilet/s We provided portable toilets for public holidays except June Kings birthday and the next one is AFL Grand Final weekend in September. • Fire Prevention As per report this slashing is completed late in the year. • Projects Discussed the tree maintenance and exclusion zone (aligned with Arborist report) Tony has been in contact with our Parks and Gardens team to organise some action. Rock Barriers • Eastern campsite and lunette fencing were discussed at length. Tony advised that we only had enough funds to complete one or the other. With the fencing coming in at \$10,500 and the rocks \$12,500 we were limited with funds. We discussed the possible process of laying the rocks and a diversion of a track however this may have significant impacts on the fine-hairy spear grass present on the lunette. It was decide to have an on site meeting next month to work through this. Also discussed options for grant through CMA possibly in	1. Tony send invitation for next meeting 2. Tony to follow up exclusion zones and protection area with Parks and Gardens team 3. Tony to follow up Djaara with CHMP and rocks / fence requirements 4. Tony follow up with Djandak for signage 5. Tony to follow up any re-quotes required
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		partnership with Landcare. Tony to contact Djaara to clarify CHMP requirements and get any adjusted quotes from contractors. • Entrance (spiny lignum) protection was also discussed and whilst the existing posts are working they are unsightly and need a more permanent solution. Tony to work on solution through rocks or other. • Native fish (golden perch, silver perch and catfish plus redfin) created and to be installed • Signage – Recreation, Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage sign with Djaara input (design, supply and installation) has \$5k allocated. Location of the signage is yet to be confirmed. Tony was on site with Djandak earlier in the year and he will get an update on next steps.	
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2. Other items discussed:

Rob Loats advised Tony prior to the meeting that Walkers Lake is approved for 10,000 golden perch and 10,000 Silver perch to be stocked in the summer.

Landcare Report as tabled and most items covered in previous discussions. Anne and other representatives spoke to the report and the proposed legless lizard project will take place by laying down old house tiles for habitat. This will take a while to undertake and then record results over time.

Cultural Burn proposed for the northern section by Landcare has been delayed however there have been discussions with the CFA to provide some assistance. Anne highlighted that there are some significant flora in that patch that will need to be allowed for.

3. Close: 7.00pm

4. Next Meeting: On site Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 3.30pm (changed to 21 July)

Walkers Lake update report – 17 June 2026

Monthly Inspections

Monthly inspections continued since March were in April, May and June.

In April we had some photos of Easter showing campers around the lake. We also had some photos of wood cut from fallen trees so more warning signs placed on fences.

In May we noticed a bit of activity in some burrows with rabbits.

In June it was noticed that one of the buoys has gone missing from the southern area (old boat ramp)

Water Levels

- Current water levels are recorded at 2.55m
- 2.4m average levels since 2015
- No visible Blue Green Algae
- Next water top up is around August for the annual 200megs and then before Easter 100megs (all subject to approval / allocation)
- Elnino - BOM predicts likely below average rainfall and temperatures to be above average

Pest and Weed management

Further fumigation was to be implemented late April 2026 if warranted but didn't take place as numbers appear under control at this stage so October is now the target. Looking at and we are still looking to consider at calicivirus management at some stage in the future (Jan/Feb 2027 – subject to budget).

Costs:

- Fumigation \$3500 (Oct)
- Calicivirus \$5000 (Feb 2027) - **Not included in budget**

Under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994 the weeds to be reviewed for treatment on an annual basis (with allocation of funds from operating budget) as follows:

- Horehound (regionally controlled weed – NGSC must manage)
- Boxtorn (regionally controlled weed – NGSC must manage)
- Espartillo (undeclared weed, invasive and may still be on site to be removed)
- Spear / scotch thistle (restricted – NGSC must manage)
- Wheat Grass (undeclared, invasive, not on site but an asset risk)

Treatment program to be implemented with site inspection April / May 2026 and allocated funds \$5k

Portable Toilet/s

Allocation of portable toilets for the 2026 Public Holidays:

- New Year - 1 January (one portable toilet)
- Australia Day – January (**two portable toilets**)
- Labour Day – March (one portable toilet)
- Easter – 3 April (**two portable toilets**)
- Anzac Day - 25 April (one portable toilet)
- June Kings Birthday – No portable toilet
- AFL Grand Final – 26 September (one portable toilet)
- Melbourne Cup – November (one portable toilet)

Fire Prevention

Annual slashing will be undertaken by the end of 2026 as scheduled.

Projects

Proposed / completed projects and status as at 16 June 2026:

- Tree maintenance and exclusion zone (aligned with Arborist report)
- Rock Barrier - Eastern campsite and entrance (spiny lignum) to be confirmed by advisory group, further rock quote obtained from Reeves Quarry St Arnaud \$7,500 (supply and installation) plus Djaara monitor estimated \$5k total budget \$12,500.
- Lunette Fence as discussed in March would cost \$10,600.
 - To complete both fence and rock projects we would need to look at grants or options to fund this.
- Native fish (golden perch, silver perch and catfish plus redfin) created and to be installed
- Signage – Recreation, Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage sign with Djaara input (design, supply and installation) has \$5k allocated.

Operational budget increase for 2026/27 up to \$33,500 (from \$23,500) is yet to be approved by Council to cover water supply \$8k, portable toilets \$8k, toilet pump out \$2k, pests and weeds management \$12k and some project work \$3.5k.