



Australian Fossil Mammal Sites - Riversleigh World Heritage Area



Advisory Committee Meeting Communiqué November 2018

1. The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee (the Committee) welcomes the opportunity to respond and offer advice to the Minister to support World Heritage obligations for the Riversleigh section of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (AFMS) (identification, presentation, conservation, protection and management).
2. The Committee's third meeting for 2018 was held in Brisbane on 9 November, and was attended by ten of twelve Committee members. Also in attendance were Mr Matt Bron, Director Southern and Outback Country, Tourism and Events Queensland; Mr Christian Pearce, Senior Ranger Assets QPWS; Ms Sue Sargent, Chair Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee; Ms Trish Waters, Executive Officer Gondwana Rainforests of Australia WHA; Ms Ellen Weber, Executive Officer Wet Tropics Management Authority; together with Departmental observers Ms Angela Siggery Director Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Mr Greg Smyth, Manager World Heritage, Mr Tim Moore, Project Manager, World Heritage, Mr Adam Musial Principal Project Officer, World Heritage and Ms Sarah de Vries Senior Policy Officer, World Heritage.
3. The Committee was delighted to note the success of the annual meeting of the Chairs of Queensland's terrestrial World Heritage Areas with the Minister and senior Departmental officers the previous day, as well as the commonality of this agenda and that of the recent meeting of the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee and Australian Government officials.
4. The Committee was pleased to receive an update on challenges and achievements of the Wet Tropics, Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and Fraser Island (K'gari) committees from the Executive Officers in attendance, and noted the success of the celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the listing of Fraser Island (K'gari) on the World Heritage Register. It was noted that these celebrations provided a useful template upon which to frame the upcoming 25th Anniversary celebrations of the AFMS listing, scheduled for the first week of July 2019.
5. The Committee was delighted to hear of the Minister's commitment to seek opportunities to raise the profile of Queensland World Heritage Properties and to improve engagement between the Department and Traditional Owners through the establishment of a Partnerships Branch.
6. The Committee was delighted to hear about the establishment of the Waanyi Downer 50/50 Joint Venture between the Waanyi people and New Century Resources, and the awarding of a mining services contract as well as the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan that

- recognises the importance of Waanyi cultural heritage at the Century zinc mine. The Joint Venture provides both training and extensive employment opportunities for the Waanyi people.
7. The Committee congratulated the Queensland Museum (QM) on the development of two Riversleigh fossil kits containing both actual and replica fossils that provide excellent interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of Riversleigh. The kits will be used in schools and for promotional activities, and are accompanied by interpretation material that enables them to be presented by non-QM staff. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee visited QM's Hendra collection facility where members were enthralled by the immensity and significance of the collection items housed there, and especially the extensive fossil and mammal collections.
 8. The Committee congratulated the University of New South Wales Riversleigh project team for the extended and ongoing research program interpreting the rich faunal record of Riversleigh. Currently in excess of sixty research projects are underway.
 9. The Committee received a briefing from QPWS Project Manager Christian Pearce on concept planning for a new visitor and interpretative infrastructure at D Site. The Committee strongly recommended that the proposed toilet block be located on the road reserve and be accompanied by appropriate arrival/information signage. Also, that the new interpretative infrastructure be located within sight of the road but within the World Heritage Area and adjacent to the very dated existing shade and interpretative structure. The Committee congratulated Mr Pearce and the project team for the excellent concepts and scope of work completed in such a short time.
 10. The Committee endorsed the previously approved style for replacing faded walking track signage, and identified a subcommittee to expeditiously review the proposed text. The Committee strongly recommended that new signage be in place at D Site in time for the 25th Anniversary celebration scheduled first week of July 2019.
 11. The Committee was briefed on concepts to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the listing of the AFMS on the World Heritage register, and supported that Riversleigh events should be held sequentially at D Site and the Riversleigh Fossil Centre in Mount Isa during the first week of July 2019. It noted the importance of the continuing engagement and consultation with Mount Isa City Council in the development of the program. The Committee requested that the Department provide a detailed draft schedule of events/activities for the March 2019 meeting, and noted that both the Queensland and Australian Government Ministers had been advised of the proposed dates.
 12. The Committee strongly supported the promotional opportunities for the Riversleigh World Heritage Area being developed by the World Heritage Unit (Mr Tim Moore, Ms Ellen Thyer and Mr Adam Musial), including production of a podcast/audio tour to be used by visitors to the World Heritage Area.
 13. The Committee acknowledged the Department's ongoing work in continuing the development of the Strategic Management Plan, and recognised that this is a project that will extend beyond the term of the current Committee.
 14. The Committee would like to thank the Minister for her ongoing interest and support of the work of the Committee.

Dr Graeme Potter
Chair, Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee
November 2018