



## Australian Fossil Mammal Sites - Riversleigh World Heritage

### Advisory Committee Meeting Communiqué March 2017

1. The Committee welcome the opportunity to respond and offer advice to the Minister on identifying, presenting, conserving, protecting and managing the Riversleigh section of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.
2. The Committee are looking forward to their next meeting on the 4 and 5 July 2017 at the Riversleigh World Heritage Area, and the possibility of being joined by the Minister if the schedule allows, as per Dr Graeme Potter's (Chair of the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Community) letter dated 6 January 2017. The meeting coincides with the annual palaeontological field work in the World Heritage Area, conducted by the University of New South Wales.
3. The Committee were pleased to have been invited to attend Wet Tropics Management Authority's (WTMA) 'Science in the pub' event on 13 March 2017. One of the Committee's palaeontological representatives Professor Mike Archer, along with WTMA's Professor Iain Gordon, presented an engaging look at Riversleigh's fossils and the diverse environments within both the Wet Tropics and Australian Fossil Mammal sites – Riversleigh World Heritage Areas. The event was exceptionally popular, attended by over 180 people and was noted by both the Committee and WTMA as an effective forum to engage people on the topic of World Heritage.
4. The Committee's first meeting for 2017 was held on 14 March and was attended by 10 Committee members including the Waanyi Traditional Owners of Riversleigh and guest speakers from WTMA. WTMA discussed the potential of working collaboratively on educational material under the concept of a 'World Heritage Family' to enhance the story of Australia's World Heritage sites and their unique evolutionary development. The Committee was very supportive of this concept.
5. The Committee were pleased to have the Director of Southern Outback Country of Tourism and Events Queensland attend the March meeting to further discuss opportunities for Riversleigh through the 'Outback Queensland Dinosaurs-Palaeo Tourism Opportunities to 2020'. Riversleigh has the potential to play an important role into the future as a significant location for Fossil tourism.

6. The Committee were supportive that the Riversleigh brochure had been distributed to all of the outback regional centres and other appropriate tourist information centres.
7. The Committee were pleased to have their recommendations considered in the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park Management Statement.
8. The Committee have progressed plans to undertake the Site Marker Project prior to the next meeting proposed for early July at Riversleigh, to better identify the locational position of fossil sites and to adhere to international standards of practice.
9. The Committee reiterated their recommendation that the presentation of Riversleigh as a World Heritage site should be improved to better convey the Outstanding Universal Value of Riversleigh and improve the Riversleigh visitor experiences through:
  - a. Finalising the '*Vision for D-site strategy*' (already has had considerable investment)
  - b. Opening the '*Bitesantennary trail*' to commercial operators to enhance the interpretation by improving education opportunities, and better protect the fossils.
10. The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee would like to thank the Minister for the support convening an annual Ministerial World Heritage Chairs meeting and the Committee look forward to their Chair, Dr Graeme Potter attending.