



## Riversleigh World Heritage Advisory Committee #5 – Communique

### 4 December 2023

*The Riversleigh World Heritage Advisory Committee acknowledges and respects the strong connections that Waanyi people have with Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal land), which includes the Riversleigh World Heritage Area, dating back at least 37,000 years.*

The fifth meeting of the Riversleigh World Heritage Advisory Committee (RWHAC) was a virtual meeting hosted by the Queensland Museum Hendra Collection and Research Centre. The meeting concluded with a virtual tour of the Museum’s palaeontological collection stores that include Riversleigh fossils.

#### Waanyi Partnerships

- RWHAC strongly supported the proposed initiative of the Australian Government to explore opportunities for inclusion of Indigenous values/cultural acknowledgement in the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for World Heritage properties. The advisory committees of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites are keen to be early participants in this exploration.
- RWHAC was briefed on the development of the Boodjamulla website with its focus on tourism opportunities.
- RWHAC was provided a verbal briefing on the Waanyi’s proposed Red Feather cultural festival. It was noted that the festival is planned to coincide with the reopening of further sections of Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal land) for public use (14-15 September 2024) following the March 2023 flood event.
- RWHAC noted the Waanyi PBC proposal to seek the renaming of Riversleigh to a traditional Waanyi name for the area and the request for a Waanyi RWHAC Co-Chair
- RWHAC strongly supported the submission of a First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant application by the Waanyi PBC to investigate cultural values within the World Heritage area.

#### Protection and Conservation of World Heritage Values

- Queensland Museum Collections staff provided a virtual tour of the palaeontology collection stores. Riversleigh type specimens were highlighted and the storage, environmental and security measures discussed. RWHAC was impressed with the standard of collection care.



< Dr Caitlin Syme showing a selection of replica and original Riversleigh fossil material held in the Hendra Type Room collection.

> Kristen Spring explaining how holotype fossils are stored in custom made, acid-free archival cardboard boxes lined with foam in the Hendra Type Room collection.



## Identification, Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Values

- As part of the World Heritage Family initiative, RWHAC invited researchers from the World Heritage listed Dinosaur Provincial Park (DPP) in Alberta, Canada to present. At DPP, there is a preservation bias towards larger animals, with around 50 species of dinosaur and 150 species of non-dinosaur vertebrates identified from complete or near-complete skeletons. Many similarities to Riversleigh were noted including 'bone beds' where tiny bones from various species have been found. Further interactions will be organised with DPP to explore common issues and opportunities, such as climate change impacts and international tourism key messages.
- Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) staff led a short workshop on the suite of Queensland World Heritage area promotional toolkits with a view to developing a toolkit for Riversleigh. RWHAC members suggested a Riversleigh toolkit should focus on tourism messaging and emotional drivers aligning with World Heritage and Waanyi cultural values, and their translation into visitor experiences.
- QPWS briefed RWHAC on the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's Values-Based Management Framework. The values detailed in the SOUV will support improved monitoring, with baseline health checks to be undertaken using a new monitoring in-field app which is currently under development by QPWS.
- RWHAC thanked the Boodjamulla Cooperative Management Council (CMC) for the very constructive feedback on the suite of strategic documents developed this year. RWHAC is pleased to provide the attached *RWHAC Three-Year Plan 2022-2025* and *Climate Change and Riversleigh Snapshot* for the Minister's information. The Committee has been working on these documents which will inform future proposals for funding.

The next RWHAC meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for mid-March 2024.

### **Attachments**

*RWHAC Three-Year Plan 2022-2025*

*Climate Change and Riversleigh Snapshot*