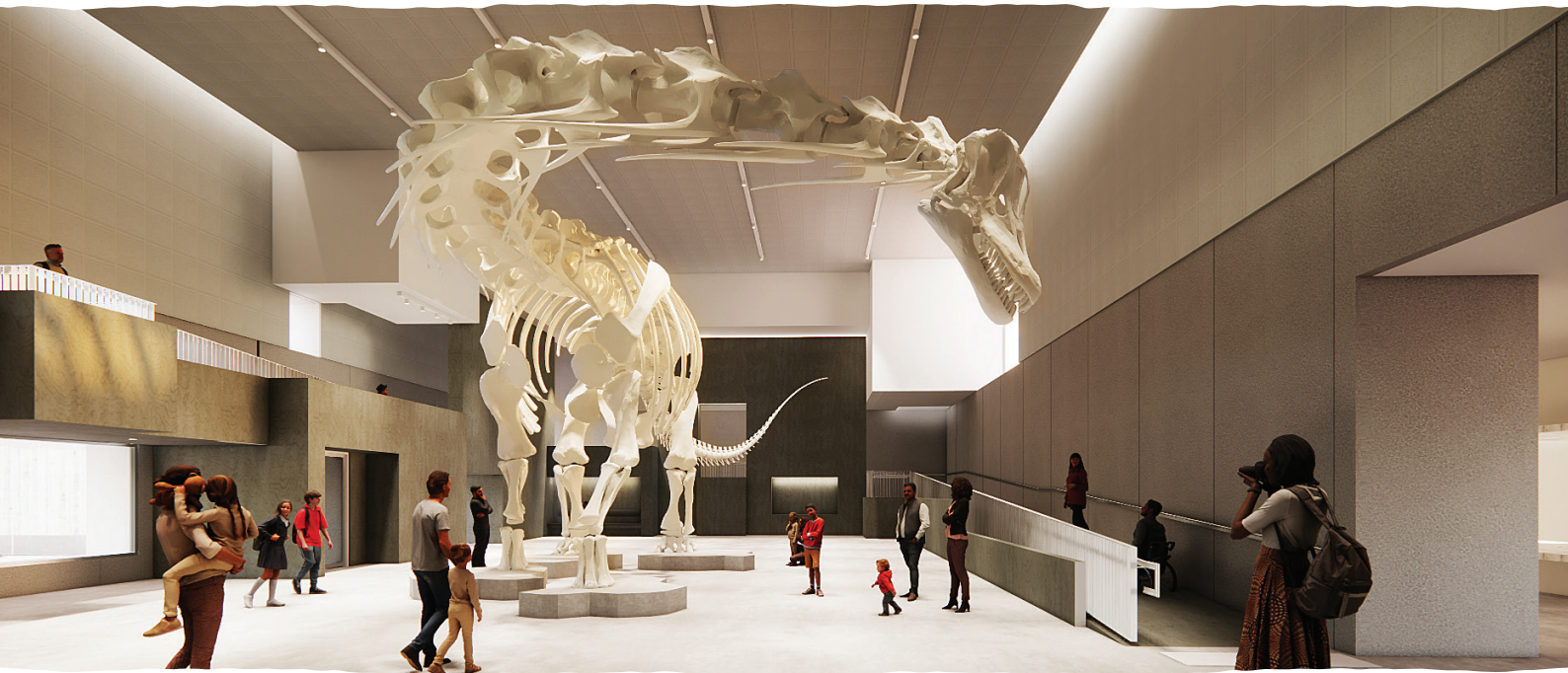


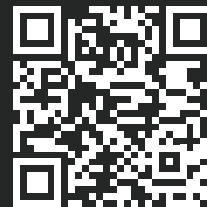
EROMANGA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The internationally significant Eromanga dinosaur fossil fields were discovered in 2004 in the Lake Eyre Basin, Queensland, near the town of Eromanga. The Eromanga Natural History Museum (ENHM) project began the same year. The museum houses Australia's largest dinosaur and megafauna collections within their region of discovery. This includes *Australotitan cooperensis* (nicknamed 'Cooper'), Australia's largest dinosaur and the second largest in the world by mass and length. The facility has been developed and now is managed by the Outback Gondwana Foundation Ltd (OGF), a not-for-profit registered Australian charity and deductible gift recipient, established in 2007. Both OGF and Quilpie Shire Council (QSC) have provided significant cash and in-kind contributions for each stage of the project.

Stage 1a of the development, which opened in 2016, included the design and construction of a working science centre and staff accommodation. Stage 1b, completed in April 2017, involved the construction of luxury 4-star accommodation for tourists, volunteers, and visiting scientists. Stage 2a, completed in 2020, encompassed a reception area, museum, shop, office space, café, theatre gallery, and the 'Stardust to Supercontinents' geological timeline. This timeline spans from Earth's fiery formation in the Hadean period, 4.6 billion years ago, through the Archean and Proterozoic, to the Phanerozoic, 541 million years ago. Stage 2b, completed in 2022, included galleries with an interpretation corridor, glazed viewing into preparation labs, the holotype room, the fossil collection room, and the plant room.



Scan the QR code to take a virtual tour of the museum.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS – STAGE 3

On 8 January 2025, the Australian Government announced a successful grant application of \$14.8 million for the Eromanga Natural History Museum Dinosaur Galleries under the Growing Regions Program. Stage 3 will comprise six galleries, including a Grand Dinosaur Gallery and associated amenities, with a multi-purpose design. The Grand Dinosaur Gallery will feature a scientifically accurate, 3D-printed life-sized skeleton of ‘Cooper’ valued at \$1 million. The 30-meter-long and 6.5-meter-high printed skeleton will be fully showcased once Stage 3 is complete.

This project will be constructed alongside the successful Building Bush Tourism Grant received by the Outback Gondwana Foundation Ltd for the construction of a children’s dig pit, which will include 3D-printed replicas from the museum’s fossil collection for \$187,000. Quilpie Shire Council will contribute \$3 million, bringing the entire project to \$18 million. Council has a strong track record of delivering State and Federal Government funded projects on time and within budget. This success has led to the financial commitment towards Stage 3 of the Eromanga Natural History Museum, which will be the largest built infrastructure project in the Shire’s history.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT REQUIREMENT

Due to the local, state, and national significance of this project, Council is seeking support from all three levels of government for Stage 3. Council was unsuccessful in applications under the Growing Future Tourism Fund program (rounds 1 and 2), which was one of the first State funding programs to separately identify paleo tourism infrastructure products/experiences as a priority area.

Concurrently, the Queensland Government Community Support and Services Committee undertook an inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur, and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland. A key recommendation made by the committee to the Queensland Government was to focus on:

- The need for greater infrastructure
- Attracting an international market
- Promoting educational and research opportunities
- Mitigating the distance between tourism attractions
- Promoting Outback Queensland’s tourism attractions as a unified tourist proposition

A financial contribution of \$2 million towards this project will support the development of interpretive designs and additional viewing/storage galleries, allowing for increased research into Australia’s largest dinosaur collective and public display of Queensland’s rich megafauna and dinosaur history.

CONCLUSION

Support for paleo tourism infrastructure products and experiences has never been more critical. The delivery of Stage 3 of the Eromanga Natural History Museum will be the largest financial investment in paleo tourism in Australia’s history. The State Government’s financial support for this project will ensure that Queensland is seen as the Paleo Tourism Capital of Australia, attracting interstate and international visitors. The project provides an opportunity to capitalise on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be the closest major dinosaur museum to Brisbane, ready to offer a world-class paleo tourism experience to a broad range of visitors interested in recreation, education, and science.