



MEDIA RELEASE

Building a home for *Cooper*, Australia's largest dinosaur

A Regional Priority for South West Queensland



Outback Gondwana Foundation Dig: Uncovering Australia's largest dinosaurs in South West Queensland.

Australia's largest dinosaur, *Cooper*, is closer to finding a home in South Western Queensland with the Eromanga Natural History Museum Project a top contender in the latest round (2) of RADF funding to be announced in May by Minister for Regional Development, Simon Crean.

For seven years, the Outback Gondwana Foundation has developed the *Eromanga Natural History Museum* concept in partnership with Santos, Quilpie Shire Council, the Queensland Museum, and Beach Energy. It is considered a priority project for SW Queensland and part of Regional Development Australia's *Roadmap*, with realisation as early as 2013.

The museum will not only house *Cooper*, Australia's largest dinosaur, but also a unique and valuable natural history collection. This collection has a remarkable variety of fossil flora and fauna in addition to the huge dinosaur bones, discovered recently on properties in the district. It includes teeth and bones from numerous extinct Australian animals and plants ranging in age from 100 million years old to 20,000 years old.

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Regional Development Australia CEO Brian Hewitt (L) meets with Quilpie Shire Council and the Outback Gondwana Foundation discuss the Eromanga Natural History Museum as a priority regional project for the South West.

South West Queensland is one of Australia's most prolific & dynamic hotspots for studying Australia's natural history and has some of the best preserved, most diverse and richest fossil sites in Australia. The Outback Gondwana Foundation is a locally founded and based not-for profit organisation and has been working with local communities to realise the scientific, educational and economic benefits of this Australian fossil heritage.

This knowledge of local environments past and present, extinct and extant, flora and fauna is crucial in studies of sustainability and how to manage the land for the future.

process and conserve fossil and natural history material and will provide a facility for people from all walks of life to visit and discover a unique part of Australia. The Eromanga Natural History Museum will be a lasting legacy locally, nationally and internationally. For further information please contact:

With new species constantly being discovered and described, this regional natural history museum will

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