

EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

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The announcement of a state fossil emblem recently, the Muttaborrasaurus has highlighted the need for continued funding from the state government to support the growth of Queensland's dinosaur tourism industry. It is crucial that we invest in this niche sector to ensure its success and create a memorable experience for tourists. The dinosaur tourism trail, spanning across Eromanga, Winton, Muttaborra, Hughenden, Richmond and more, has already become a significant contributor to Queensland's leisure tourism, accounting for a quarter of all tourism in the state. With a unique blend of natural wonders, historical significance, and captivating tales of discovery, this region has established itself as a premier destination for paleo-enthusiasts worldwide. One of the key attractions in the Barcaldine Region is the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre, which serves as a commemorative space for the late Doug Langdon's remarkable dinosaur discoveries. It took over 12 years of work from many in the community and government funding to see it built. However, to continue building on this success, we require ongoing funding to create a comprehensive roadmap that will enable the growth of the Dinosaur Trail. The existing proposed state funding it is understand will primarily be allocated towards the development of website content, signage, and brochures, which will play a vital role in attracting both domestic and international tourists. By establishing a cohesive brand for outback dinosaur attractions, we can effectively market these unique experiences to a global audience. Additionally, continued funding will lead to the creation of visitor-friendly infrastructure, such as improved accessibility and further tourism opportunities, ensuring that tourists can explore this remarkable region comfortably and safely. It is important to note that the Queensland government estimates that dinosaur attractions already account for 11% of all tourism in the state and a substantial 26% of leisure tourism. As Queensland looks forward to hosting the next Olympic Games, there is anticipation of a significant increase in international visitors, many of whom will be intrigued by the natural wonders and historical significance of our dinosaur discoveries. By investing in this niche industry now, we can prepare ourselves to offer an unparalleled experience to these international guests, further enhancing our reputation as a premier tourist destination. In conclusion, I sincerely thank the State Government for the announcement that the Muttaborrasaurus will be the state fossil emblem and I urge the state government to provide continued funding for the growth of Queensland's dinosaur tourism industry. By doing so, we can ensure that our region is ready to welcome the influx of international visitors during the next Olympic Games and provide them with an unforgettable experience. This investment will not only benefit the tourism sector but also contribute to the economic growth of our region as a whole.