



Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

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Economics and Governance Committee

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All web address references are current at the time of publishing.

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Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Economics and Governance Committee's inquiry into the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.


The Bill proposes to establish the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* (Muttaborrasaurus dinosaur) as the State's official fossil emblem and contains a range of minor amendments to improve and clarify parliamentary procedures.

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles – that is, to consider whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, and to the institution of Parliament. The committee also examined the Bill for compatibility with human rights, in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

On behalf of the committee, I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the Bill and participated in the public hearing in Winton and public forum in Muttaborra. I particularly thank Mrs Pearl Langdon, whose moving story of the discovery of the Muttaborrasaurus by her husband Doug Langdon (after who the dinosaur is named), provided the committee with a deep sense of appreciation for the significance of what the fossil emblem represents.

I also acknowledge our Parliamentary Service staff and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for their assistance with the committee's examination of the Bill.

I commend this report to the House.



Linus Power MP

Chair

Recommendations

Recommendation 1	4
The committee recommends the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be passed.	4

Executive Summary

The Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 proposes to amend the *Emblems of Queensland Act 2005* to officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* (Muttaburrasaurus dinosaur) as the State's fossil emblem.

This would confirm the outcome of a public vote on 12 fossil candidates from around Queensland which saw the Muttaburrasaurus emerge as the people's choice to represent the State and its rich palaeontological history.

The Bill also proposes to address a number of minor and technical issues to improve and clarify parliamentary processes, by amending the:

- *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998, members of parliamentary committees, including the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its predecessor committees, have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means
- *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* to:
 - clarify that the parliamentary precinct includes the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting
 - provide that the Speaker is to prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Act
 - provide that in a proceeding for an offence related to a person's behaviour on the parliamentary precinct, despite section 8 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (which provides that the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in the Assembly cannot be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of the Assembly), evidence may be given in a court or other place out of the Legislative Assembly of a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during proceedings in the Legislative Assembly
- *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to:
 - refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly
 - update a number of cross references in the Act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the *Electoral Act 1992*.

As part of its examination on the Bill, the committee considered advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and feedback from stakeholders provided via 3 submissions, a public hearing held in Winton on 4 October 2023, and a public forum held in Muttaburra on 5 October 2023.

Feedback from stakeholders was focussed on the establishment of a State fossil emblem, for which there was general support.

The committee's assessment of the Bill did not identify any potential incompatibilities with the *Human Rights Act 2019*, and as such, the committee considers that the Bill is compatible with human rights.

The committee's assessment of the Bill's compliance with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* identified an issue in relation to the retrospective validation of parliamentary committee meetings. However, the committee is satisfied that any potential inconsistencies are reasonable and appropriately justified.

The committee has recommended that the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be passed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Policy objectives of the Bill

The Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill) proposes to amend the *Emblems of Queensland Act 2005* to officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* (Muttaburrasaurus dinosaur) as the State's fossil emblem.¹ This follows a public nomination process which shortlisted 12 fossil candidates from around Queensland, and a subsequent public voting process in 2022, from which the Muttaburrasaurus ultimately emerged as the people's choice.

The legislative recognition of the Muttaburrasaurus (or 'big-nosed dinosaur') would see it join the 9 other unique icons and emblems which represent the State, including the Cooktown Orchid, koala, Great Barrier Reef Anemone fish, brolga and sapphire.²

The Bill also contains certain amendments to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* and *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, to address a number of minor and technical issues to improve and clarify parliamentary processes and procedures. This includes:

- amending the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998, members of parliamentary committees, including the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its predecessor committees, have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means
- amending the *Parliamentary Service Act 1998* to:
 - clarify that the parliamentary precinct includes the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting
 - provide that the Speaker is to prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Act
 - provide that in a proceeding for an offence related to a person's behaviour on the parliamentary precinct, despite section 8 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (which provides that the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in the Assembly cannot be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of the Assembly), evidence may be given in a court or other place out of the Legislative Assembly of a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during proceedings in the Legislative Assembly
- amending the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly
- amending the *Parliament of Queensland Act* to update a number of cross references in the Act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the *Electoral Act 1992*.³

1.2 Inquiry process

The Bill was introduced into the Parliament on 14 September 2023 by the Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and

¹ Explanatory notes, pp 1, 6; Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, pp 2-3.

² As well as the official coat of arms, flag and badge. See: The Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, 'The dinosaur Queenslanders dig', media statement, 22 October 2022, <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96403>.

³ Explanatory notes, pp 1-2.

Paralympics Sport and Engagement, and was referred to the committee for detailed consideration.⁴ The committee was required to report to the Parliament on the Bill by 27 October 2023.⁵

During its examination of the Bill, the committee:

- invited written submissions on the Bill from the public, identified stakeholders and email subscribers, and received 3 submissions (a list of submitters is provided at Appendix A)
- requested and received a written briefing on the Bill from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, prior to a public briefing from departmental officials on 25 September 2023⁶ (see Appendix B for a list of officials who appeared at the briefing).
- requested and received further written advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in response to issues raised in submissions.

The committee also sought to explore the process for and ultimate selection of the Muttaborrasaurus as the proposed fossil emblem, as well as its broader significance and representation of the State's rich paleo heritage, by travelling to:

- Winton, where the 2020 campaign to establish a state fossil emblem originated
- Muttabura, where the proposed fossil emblem was first discovered.

The committee conducted a public hearing in Winton on 4 October 2023 and a public forum in Muttaburra on 5 October 2023 (a list of witnesses who appeared at the hearing and forum is provided at Appendix C). In addition, the committee visited the Muttaburra Interpretation Centre, which charts the history of the discovery of the Muttaborrasaurus.



The public hearing in Winton on 4 October 2023.

⁴ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023, p 2711.

⁵ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023, p 2741.

⁶ This briefing was conducted as a joint briefing on the Bill and on the committee's related inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland, which commenced on 18 September 2023. More information about the inquiry can be found on the inquiry webpage: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=167&id=4285>



The public forum in Muttaborra on 5 October 2023.

The committee was honoured to be joined for its Muttaborra proceedings and visit by Mrs Pearl Langdon, who shared the special story of her late husband Doug Langdon’s discovery of the dinosaur near the Thomson River in 1963 (though first located by Doug in 1962).⁷ To hear firsthand of the origins of the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* in the place and from the family who first discovered it (and after whom it is named) added special significance to the committee’s consideration of the Bill’s proposal.



Travelling members of the committee with Mrs Pearl Langdon at the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre on 5 October 2023.

⁷ Public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 7.

The regional proceedings also provided an opportunity for the committee to invite early input into its related inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland, including commencing site visits and conversations with key stakeholders to inform that inquiry process (which will continue into 2024).

Further information and key documents relating to the committee's examination of the Bill, including the submissions, written advice from the department, and transcripts of the proceedings, are available on the committee's webpage.⁸

1.3 Legislative compliance

As part of its deliberations, the committee was also required to assess whether or not the Bill complies with the Parliament's requirements for legislation as contained in the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* and *Human Rights Act 2019*.⁹

1.3.1 *Legislative Standards Act 1992*

The committee's assessment of the Bill's compliance with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* identified a potential issue of fundamental legislative principle associated with the Bill's retrospective validation of decisions made in parliamentary committee meetings in which members used remote participation methods (see report section 3.3 for a discussion of this issue).

However, the committee is satisfied that the provisions are justified and appropriate in the circumstances, and that the Bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Explanatory notes were tabled on the introduction of the Bill, as required by Part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. The notes contain the information required by Part 4 and a sufficient level of background information and commentary to facilitate understanding of the Bill's aims and origins.

1.3.2 *Human Rights Act 2019*

The committee's assessment of the Bill did not identify any limitations on the human rights recognised under the *Human Rights Act 2019*. We find that the Bill is compatible with human rights.¹⁰

A statement of compatibility was tabled on the introduction of the Bill, as required by section 38 of the Act. The statement contained a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the Bill in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

1.4 Should the Bill be passed?

The committee is required to determine whether or not to recommend that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be passed.

The committee's examination of the Bill's provisions is set out in chapters 2 to 5 of this report.

⁸ Economics and Governance Committee, Emblems of Queensland Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=167&id=4283>

⁹ Under s 93 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

¹⁰ A law is compatible with human rights if it does not limit a human right or limits a human right only to the extent that is reasonable and demonstrably justifiable. See *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 8.

2 Official recognition of a State fossil emblem

The Bill proposes to amend the *Emblems of Queensland Act 2005* to officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* (The Muttaburrasaurus dinosaur) as the State's fossil emblem.¹¹

The Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia all have official fossil emblems – respectively, an ancient marine trilobite (from the same group as spiders, scorpions and crabs), two ancient fish, and an ancient sea worm.¹²

The amendments proposed by the Bill would see Queensland join the ranks of these other jurisdictions by officially confirming the Muttaburrasaurus dinosaur as Queensland's chosen State fossil.¹³ However, Queensland will be the only of these jurisdictions with a dinosaur as its fossil emblem.



The *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*, as supplied by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

In his introductory speech, the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement (Minister) referred to the importance of the fossil emblem for regional tourism and economies, stating:

Our new fossil emblem will provide a unique representation that showcases Queensland's rich palaeontological discoveries and history. The state fossil emblem will support economic development and paleo tourism in outback Queensland.

¹¹ Bill, cl 6 (inserting proposed new s 6 into sch 4 of the *Emblems of Queensland Act 2005*).

¹² Public briefing transcript, Brisbane, 25 September 2023, p 4; Stuart Layt, 'Qld icon takes on heavyweight in title fight, but only one emerges as State Fossil', *Brisbanetimes.com.au*, 22 October 2022, <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/qld-icon-takes-on-heavyweight-in-title-fight-but-only-one-emerges-as-state-fossil-20221021-p5brty.html>; Andrew Barr MLA, ACT Chief Minister, 'ACT formally adopts a fossil emblem', media release, 24 November 2022, https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2022/act-formally-adopts-a-fossil-emblem

¹³ Bill, cl 6 (amending schedule 4 of the *Emblems of Queensland Act 2005*).

...

The state fossil emblem will support existing Queensland government investment, including funding allocated to deliver a road map to grow dinosaur tourism across outback Queensland.¹⁴

2.1 Background to the amendments

In the lead up to the October 2020 state election (during the caretaker period), the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton submitted a petition calling for the establishment of a State fossil with nearly 800 signatures amassed.¹⁵ The petition suggested the fossil of *Diamantinasaurus matildae*, a heavily built titanosaur found in Winton, be made the official State fossil.¹⁶

In February 2021, the Premier responded to the petition (following an earlier interim response) to confirm that:

- the Department of the Premier and Cabinet had been asked to proceed with a process of identifying a shortlist of potential fossils that could become the State fossil emblem
- the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement would lead the public consultation process throughout the State, 'given the important link to outback tourism'.¹⁷

Following this, the Queensland Government commenced a process to identify a shortlist of potential fossils that could become the State fossil emblem. Nominations of potential fossils were sought from museums and regional centres and communities across Queensland (including tourism organisations, councils, cultural heritage groups and Traditional Owners), and an Intergovernmental Working Group was established. Engagement with First Nations Queenslanders occurred through the International Working Group, and in August 2021, Cultural Heritage Groups and Traditional Owners were consulted regarding the introduction of a State fossil emblem.¹⁸ From this consultation process, the working group shortlisted 12 candidates reflecting Queensland's rich fossil record (see Appendix D).

The public voting period for the 12 shortlisted candidates ran from 11 April 2022 to 10 July 2022. The public consultation was promoted through social media, online communication, media releases and stakeholder engagement.¹⁹ Almost 9,000 public votes were cast in total and the *Muttaborrasaurus* dinosaur emerged as the overwhelming winner, with 2,409 votes (approximately 27.55 per cent) out of almost 9,000 votes cast.²⁰ The *Australotitan cooperensis* came in second place with 1,179 votes (13 per cent) and the *Diamantinasaurus matildae* third with 977 votes.²¹

¹⁴ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023, p 2712.

¹⁵ Petition 3413-20 – *Diamantinasaurus Matildae* as the Queensland State Fossil, tabled on 8 September 2020, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=3413>. [Principal petitioner Naomi Miles, Business Development Manager, Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton].

¹⁶ Cloe Read, 'Prehistoric predators, plants among picks to be Queensland emblem', *Brisbanetimes.com.au*, 10 April 2022, <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/prehistoric-predators-plants-among-picks-to-be-queensland-emblem-20220408-p5ac4o.html>

¹⁷ Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, Response to petition 3413-20, 15 February 2021, <https://apps.parliament.qld.gov.au/E-Petitions/Home/DownloadResponse/17db4e71-5031-4cc2-9e81-e4ff20f94de2>

¹⁸ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 2.

¹⁹ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 3.

²⁰ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023, p 2712.

²¹ Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, 'The dinosaurs Queenslanders dig', media statement, 22 October 2022, <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96403>; Stuart Layt, 'Qld icon takes on heavyweight in title fight, but only one emerges as State Fossil', *Brisbanetimes.com.au*, 22 October 2022, <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/qld-icon-takes-on-heavyweight-in-title-fight-but-only-one-emerges-as-state-fossil-20221021-p5brty.html>

2.2 Stakeholder views

2.2.1 Support for the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*

The Maranoa Regional Council, Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton Shire Council, Barcaldine Shire Council, Red Dirt Tours, Flinders Shire Council, and residents of Muttaborra all expressed support for the Muttaborrasaurus dinosaur as the state's fossil emblem.²²

Some stakeholders acknowledged that there may have been preferences for other candidates (particularly within the regions those respective fossils were discovered), and reference was made to the fact that the parts of the Muttaborrasaurus have also been found in New South Wales.²³ However, there was also general acknowledgement from these stakeholders that the Muttaborrasaurus is a significant and well known dinosaur, as well as being one of the most complete fossils found in Queensland.²⁴

For example, while Winton was hoping to see its *Diamanatinasaurus matildae* chosen to represent the state, the Executive Chairman of Winton's Australia Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Mr David Elliott, stated:

I think Muttaborrasaurus is probably familiar with New South Wales, but, having said that, I think Muttaborrasaurus is probably the most famous dinosaur in Australia. It has been around since 1963. It is very well known and had a lot of publicity when it was first discovered and we as an organisation are very supportive of the fact that it is unique to Queensland. It represents our state on behalf of Australia probably better than any other dinosaur, even though I do know we have some very significant dinosaurs in our own collection. We put Diamanatinasaurus up mainly because out of all the dinosaurs in Queensland we probably have more fossils from that dinosaur than any other dinosaur in Australia, not just Queensland. It was a strong contender, but I do think Muttaborrasaurus is the right choice.²⁵

Ms Vicki Jones, Owner/Operator of local tour company of Winton-based Red Dirt Tours also confirmed: 'I think the Muttaborrasaurus is a good choice for the fossil emblem. Anecdotally, we get a lot of people who know about Muttaborrasaurus on tours and things like that'.²⁶

Further, for the residents of Muttaborra and its Barcaldine Regional Council area, and for the Flinders Shire Council alike (where other Muttaborrasaurus remains have been found), the public's decision was warmly and enthusiastically received.²⁷

During the committee's public forum in Muttaborra, Mrs Pearl Langdon shared the story of how her husband Doug first came upon the now popular dinosaur while mustering cattle on Roseberry Downs Station near the Thompson River.

Muttaborrasaurus langdoni



The Muttaborrasaurus lived in the Cretaceous period (about 100 million years ago) and was about 7 to 8 metres long – the length of 2 average cars.

It was an ornithopod dinosaur which means 'bird-footed', but it differed from other ornithopods as it had an inflated, bulbous snout and a powerful bite with specialised shearing teeth.

These teeth were used for eating plants such as seed ferns, ferns and conifers.

²² Submission 1, p 1; public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, pp 1, 12, 14, 17.

²³ Submission 2, p 2; public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, pp 1-2; public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 8.

²⁴ Australian Age of Dinosaurs, public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, pp 1, 2; Winton Shire Council, public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 7.

²⁵ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 2.

²⁶ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 14.

²⁷ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, pp 12, 16; public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, pp 2, 7, 8.

Pearl Langdon's account – Doug Langdon's discovery of the *Muttaborrasaurus*

When he first saw the formation on the ground he was just riding off so he went on a bit further and it got the better of him and he said, 'No, I'm going back to have a look.' He got off his pony this time, had a look and brought home this piece. He said it definitely was not a stone to him. He said it was definitely a bone. He came home and he said, 'I've found a dinosaur,' and he showed me this piece of what looked like a rock to me or stone but he said, 'Don't drop it.' That is when he said, 'We'll send it down to the museum in Brisbane.'

At the time we had been having some good rain. Alan Bartholomai was the director of the museum then. He passed away a year after Doug. He said, 'Can you get photos of it?', and Doug said, 'I don't know because of the floods.' Anyhow, Doug got out there. He has had to swim the pony a couple of small channels, got the photos and then by the time we got home, sent them to Longreach to develop them and back, just communication between our mail service, and by the time Alan got the photos he said, 'You've got something.' This is back in late October, early November, December [1962]. Alan said, 'We're coming up.' Doug said, 'You can't come up', because the wet season had started. They came up in April [1963] and that is when they found the bones. Doug did not find the head. It was when Alan and the others were moving some of the sandstone around that they found this big head. It looked like a big piece of stone to them at the start, but it turned out to be the head. Doug was so proud they found the head. Then they had to use a dentist drill—many dentist's drills—to try to clean it up. It took a long time then to find out a name for it.

I forget, I think someone said about 1983 they named it *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*. **Doug put his hand in the air, 'Muttaborra, you're on the map!'**²⁸

2.2.2 Process to identify a fossil emblem

Ms Naomi Miles, Head of Development at the Australia Age of Dinosaurs, provided the following information about the development of the idea, and subsequent petition, for a fossil emblem:

In 2017 a large carnivorous hadrosaur was named California's official state dinosaur. Two years later while visiting the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History with the Paleo Study Mission for Outback Queensland, which was organised by Tourism and Events Queensland, I was inspired to bring that idea back to Queensland and see if we could start our own fossil emblem. In 2019, during engagements with schools in Outback Queensland, this started a pursuit with other Australian Age of Dinosaurs staff to find a potential state fossil emblem. We used the criteria that each fossil had to be well represented, only from Queensland and be scientifically described. From there the children of various schools came up with two sauropods and two prehistoric plants. We then started a petition and collected 775 signatures from Queenslanders to petition the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to designate an official state fossil emblem of Queensland.²⁹

The Eromanga Natural History Museum (ENHM) noted the fossil emblem nomination was initially tabled in 2006 by Redbank State School in Ipswich.³⁰

The ENHM also advised that, in relation to the process for choosing a fossil emblem for Queensland, the *Australotitan cooperensis* (which came in second place with 1,179 votes (13 per cent)) was only formally announced 12 months prior to the campaign being conducted (in contrast to the *Muttaborrasaurus* and others, which are long-established). It also referred to a letter sent by the Outback Gondwana Foundation to the Premier in February 2021, urging a reconsideration of the approach taken for deciding on a fossil emblem. The Foundation raised concerns a popularity vote 'risks being unfairly weighted towards higher populated areas, attractions with high profiles, the best

²⁸ Public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 7.

²⁹ Ms Naomi Miles, Head of Development, Australian Age of Dinosaurs, public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 1.

³⁰ Submission 2, p 2.

lobbyists, or larger marketing budgets'.³¹ The letter also stressed the importance of appropriate consultation on a fossil emblem in the regions that hold the significant fossil collections.³²

2.3 Departmental response

In response to the issues raised by the ENHM about the consultation process for the nomination of the State fossil emblem, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet advised:

The Premier responded to that letter [from Councillor Stuart Mackenzie, Chairman, Outback Gondwana Foundation] on 13 April 2021, inviting Councillor Mackenzie to be part of an advisory panel of key stakeholders, interest groups and local government. The advisory panel was to provide nominations for the State fossil emblem for consideration by an Interdepartmental Working Group. Councillor Mackenzie accepted that invitation and nominated *Australotitan cooperensis*.

On 28 March 2022, the Premier wrote to advisory panel members sharing the final shortlist of 12 fossils prior to the launch of the public consultation process, from 11 April 2022 to 10 July 2022. The shortlist of 12 fossils, which included *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*, *Australotitan cooperensis*, *Diamantinasaurus matildae* and *Obdurodon dicksoni*, reflected Queensland's rich fossil record and the diverse palaeontological history of the State.

The public consultation was underpinned by a communication strategy that incorporated social media, online communication, media releases and stakeholder engagement, including with the advisory panel, Queensland Government, Queensland schools and early childhood education centres.

As the submission notes, the result of the public consultation on the fossil emblem was that Queenslanders indicated, by popular vote, their preferred fossil was the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*.³³

2.3.1 Significance, opportunities and official design of the fossil emblem

Some stakeholders emphasised the importance of the emblem for Outback Queensland regions and local communities.³⁴ For example, Muttaborra resident Mr Tyrel Spence described the choice of the *Muttaborrasaurus* emblem as 'a big honour for this community and unique', stating:

It is one of two state emblems that is local to a very specific spot in Queensland. As a younger person in the community, I think this has great potential to help put us on the map for tourism and develop more tourism.³⁵

The Barcaldine Regional Council also referred to the value the emblem would add to outback Queensland tourism offerings, noting 'Each of our communities, whether it is the existing dinosaur triangle or the very smallest of central-western communities in Muttaborra ... has a unique and distinctly impressive attraction piece'.³⁶

There was a call from stakeholders for greater investment in prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism to build on the establishment of the fossil emblem,³⁷ with some also citing opportunities to fund infrastructure and product development in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic Games, 'to ensure we have key experiences available for both the domestic and international visitor'.³⁸

³¹ Submission 2, p 5.

³² Submission 2, attachment, p 6.

³³ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 10 October 2023, pp 1-2.

³⁴ Maranoa Regional Council, submission 1, p 1; Mr Tyrel Spence, public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 2.

³⁵ Public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 2.

³⁶ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 13.

³⁷ For example, see Maranoa Regional Council, submission 1, p 2; Eromanga Natural History Museum, submission 2, p 4; Mylinda Rogers, submission 3, p 1; Barcaldine Shire Council, public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023; p 10; Flinders Shire Council, public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 10; Ms Pearl Langdon, public forum transcript, Muttaborra, 5 October 2023, p 9.

³⁸ Maranoa Regional Council, submission 1, pp 1-2.

In the more immediate term, the Barcaldine Regional Council referred to the symbolic role the fossil emblem will play, with Mayor Sean Dillon telling the committee:

Obviously, it is an emblem so a lot of what is required in this case is symbolic. What my council can do is incorporate in part of our product and our corporate branding the recognition that a prehistoric animal or a fossil that was discovered within our council area is identified as one of the state emblems. I think that is a very important step. We are all aware that corporate rebranding costs money, but it is a soft piece of infrastructure change.

We recognise that paleo tourism is more than just one fossil, more than just one location, more than just one individual animal. That particular dinosaur is representing all of the other dinosaurs and evidence of dinosaurs in the tourist attractions here ... It will simply become iconic.³⁹

Similarly, Red Dirt Tours told the committee: 'There are opportunities for promotion as the state emblem, and it can occur with websites and all of that sort of marketing.'⁴⁰

Mttaburra residents also expressed interest in the design of the emblem, with Mrs Pearl Langdon noting that stakeholders 'do not want to see an animated or cartoon dinosaur'.⁴¹ Clarity and consultation around the final form of the image and the sharing rights for the emblem were highlighted as important, to help support stakeholders to seize the opportunity to amplify the State's rich fossil history, and entice visitors to enjoy Queensland's paleo offerings.⁴²

Committee comment

The committee welcomes the establishment of a fossil emblem for Queensland and acknowledges the results of the popular vote for the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*.

The establishment of the emblem recognises the rich fossil offerings already discovered in Queensland and the contribution that dinosaur and paleo tourism makes to our outback economies.

We support this symbolic effort to promote tourism that supports local economies and showcases one of the points of difference that make Queensland a superior tourist destination.

Noting stakeholder comments, the committee encourages the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to liaise closely with stakeholders in determining and communicating the emblem design, and in relation to the use and sharing of the emblem image, to best position stakeholders to take advantage of associated promotional and marketing opportunities, and ensure they are appropriately supported in these endeavours.

The committee also notes the calls for further investment in paleo tourism to build on the establishment of the emblem, and will continue to explore key challenges and opportunities in this regard as part of its ongoing inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland.

In the meantime, we encourage Queenslanders to plan a visit to our outback dinosaur destinations to walk in the footsteps of dinosaurs and learn more about our fossil emblem and all of the other fossil finds that were highlighted by this process.

³⁹ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 12.

⁴⁰ Public hearing transcript, Winton, 4 October 2023, p 14.

⁴¹ Public forum transcript, Mttaburra, 5 October 2023, p 8.

⁴² Public forum transcript, Mttaburra, 5 October 2023, p 8.

3 Amendments to recognise participation in committee meetings by telephone, video or other electronic means

3.1 Background to the amendments

Standing Orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 23 April 1998 provide for members of parliamentary committees to participate in committee meetings in person or by remote means (e.g. telephone, video or other electronic means).⁴³

In March 2020, a potential inconsistency was identified between the Standing Orders and the provisions of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* governing how members are present and vote at committee meetings. This prompted changes to be made to the Act (in April 2020) to insert definitions of ‘present’ and ‘voting’, which clarify that that members taking part in parliamentary committee meetings may do so either in person, or by telephone, video or other electronic means (as provided for under the Standing Orders).⁴⁴

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advised that as a result of an ‘inadvertent oversight’, there were no similar amendments made to the equivalent provisions of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, which govern the meetings of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.⁴⁵

3.2 The proposed amendments

The Bill seeks to amend the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to insert definitions for ‘present’ and ‘voting’ which mirror those in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, to ensure consistency with the Standing Orders of *all* provisions governing the meetings of parliamentary committees.⁴⁶

In addition, ‘[g]iven Standing Orders have been relied upon since 23 April 1998 to enable members of parliamentary committees to meet by remote means, and acting on more recent advice of the Clerk of the Parliament’,⁴⁷ the Bill inserts provisions which explicitly confirm the retrospective application (to 23 April 1998) of both the amendments to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*⁴⁸ and the earlier, 2020 amendments to the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁴⁹

The explanatory notes advise that this will confirm without doubt that all committee meetings prior to the respective amendments ‘were not inquorate when decisions their members took at the meetings were made’.⁵⁰

⁴³ Explanatory notes, p 2.

⁴⁴ Explanatory notes, p 2; Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, pp 1-2.

⁴⁵ Public briefing transcript, Brisbane, 25 September 2023, p 7.

⁴⁶ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 2. See also Bill, cl 3.

⁴⁷ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 7. See also p 2.

⁴⁸ Bill, cl 4 (inserting proposed new ch 8, pt 19 (s 458) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*), which provides that a question determined by vote in a meeting which reached quorum only by counting one or members not present in person is ‘declared to be and, and always to have been, as validly decided as it would have been if the 1 or more members were present in person’. The ‘validation period’ applies from 23 April 1998 to the commencement of the provisions (see Bill, cl 3, proposed s 485(5)).

⁴⁹ Bill, cl 13 (inserting proposed new ch 10, pt 9 (s 180) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*), which also validates as quorate any decisions made by vote at committee meetings constituted under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* at which one or voting members were not present in person. Proposed s 180(5) clarifies that this includes meetings held from 23 April 1998 to the commencement of the relevant amendments on 20 April 2020 (the ‘validation period’).

⁵⁰ Explanatory notes, p 2. See also p 5.

3.3 Issue of fundamental legislative principle – retrospectivity

When assessing legislation, the committee is required to consider the application of fundamental legislative principles, which are the ‘principles relating to legislation that underlie a parliamentary democracy based on the rule of law’.⁵¹ The principles include that legislation has sufficient regard to:

- the rights and liberties of individuals
- the institution of Parliament.⁵²

In respect of the rights and liberties of individuals, section 4(3)(g) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* provides that legislation should not adversely affect rights and liberties, or impose obligations, retrospectively.⁵³

The proposed amendments to validate the use of remote participation means in parliamentary meetings are to apply with retrospective effect to those meetings in which the parliamentary committees reached a quorum only by counting one or more members who were not present in person. In these instances, the parliamentary committee is declared to be, and to always have been, validly quorate and any questions validly decided as if those members had been present in person.⁵⁴

Whilst the practice of making retrospective legislation is not generally endorsed by committees, it is recognised that there are occasions on which ‘curative, retrospective legislation, without significant effects on rights and liberties of individuals, is justified in order to clarify a situation or correct unintended legislative consequences’.⁵⁵

The explanatory notes for this Bill justify the validating provisions on the basis that they are technical in nature and are designed to align the legislation with the relevant Standing Orders that were in force from 23 April 1998, which provided for meetings to be held in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means.⁵⁶

With regard to any potential impact on the rights and liberties of individuals, the explanatory notes state:

- Generally speaking, parliamentary committees do not make binding decisions that affect the people of Queensland i.e., they do not make laws. Parliamentary committees make decisions on recommendations to the Parliament, recommendations which may or may not be acted upon by the Parliament and the Government.
- The amendments will not reverse or alter any of the decisions that were made by the members who were participating in those committee meetings either in person or by remote means and the amendments will not impose any obligations retrospectively on any person, the Parliament or the Government.⁵⁷

Committee comment

The committee considers that the retrospective amendments are appropriately justified and that, in the circumstances, retrospective legislation is required.

⁵¹ *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, s 4.

⁵² *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, s 4(2).

⁵³ *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, s 4(3)(g).

⁵⁴ Bill, cl 4 (inserting proposed new ch 8, pt 19 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*) and cl 13 (inserting proposed new ch 10, pt 9 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*).

⁵⁵ Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Council, *Fundamental legislative principles: the OQPC notebook*, 2008, p 56.

⁵⁶ Explanatory notes, p 5.

⁵⁷ Explanatory notes, p 6.

The amendments clarify that committee members have been allowed to participate and vote in committee meetings in person, by telephone, video or other electronic means since 23 April 1998, as has been the consistent understanding of members across this time.

The committee supports the amendments as providing the clarification required to remove any doubt that relevant committee meetings were quorate and relevant committee decisions validly made.

4 Amendments to the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*

4.1 Definition of parliamentary precinct

4.1.1 Proposed amendments

The Bill proposes to rectify an oversight from legislative changes in 1995 by amending the definition of ‘parliamentary precinct’ under the *Parliamentary Service Act 2008* (Parliamentary Service Act), to provide that the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries are considered to be part of the parliamentary precinct while the Legislative Assembly is in session.⁵⁸

4.1.2 Background to the amendments

In October 1988, the Parliament enacted the Parliamentary Service Act which, among other things, established the Parliamentary Services Commission to determine policy and overall management and control at Parliament House.⁵⁹

While control of behaviour within the parliamentary precinct was given to the Parliamentary Services Commission at that time, the Speaker was to retain control of these matters within the discrete area of the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Parliament was sitting.⁶⁰

To achieve this, the definition of ‘parliamentary precinct’ included in the Parliamentary Service Act provided that the precinct included all relevant land and improvements upon which Parliament sits, but that the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries were not taken to be part of the precinct when the Assembly is sitting.⁶¹ The Department of the Premier and Cabinet explained:

This enabled the Parliamentary Service Commission to make by-laws to control the behaviour of persons entering upon the parliamentary precinct, and for the Speaker to retain the Speaker’s traditional powers in respect of control of behaviour in the Legislative Assembly chamber and galleries when the Assembly was sitting.⁶²

In 1995, when the Parliamentary Service Commission was abolished and its powers were vested in the Speaker, the definition of parliamentary precinct was inadvertently not amended at the time to remove the exclusion reference to the Legislative Assembly and its galleries when the Assembly is sitting. While this has not affected the ability of the Speaker to control the behaviour of members of the Legislative Assembly while the Assembly is sitting, it has meant that ‘the by-laws made by the Speaker to control the behaviour of other persons entering upon the parliamentary precinct on a sitting day do not apply if those persons are in the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries’.⁶³

⁵⁸ Explanatory notes, p 2. See also Bill, cl 9 (amending s 4 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1998*).

⁵⁹ Explanatory notes, p 3.

⁶⁰ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 3.

⁶¹ Explanatory notes, p 3.

⁶² Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 4.

⁶³ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 4.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advised that the anomaly ‘was first identified by the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament in 2019, following advice they had received from the Queensland Police Service’.⁶⁴

According to the department, by amending the Parliamentary Service Act to remove the exclusion and rectify this issue:⁶⁵

[The Bill] will again make it possible for the Queensland Police Service, upon complaint from the Clerk of the Parliament, to commence summary proceedings by way of the *Justices Act 1886* against a person accused of disturbing the Legislative Assembly chamber or its galleries on a sitting day.

This will sit in addition to the current ability to pursue a person accused of interfering with or disturbing the Legislative Assembly for a criminal offence under sections 55, 56, 56A or 56B of the *Criminal Code Act 1899*.⁶⁶

4.2 Ability to give evidence of a direction made during proceedings in the Assembly

4.2.1 Proposed amendments

Further to the above, the Bill amends the Parliamentary Service Act to provide that in a proceeding against a person accused of an offence against the Speaker’s by-laws, evidence may be given in a court or place out of the Legislative Assembly, of a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during proceedings in the Assembly. The amendment is proposed despite section 8 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, which provides that Assembly proceedings cannot be impeached or questioned.⁶⁷

A similar excluding provision currently exists in the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Criminal Code),⁶⁸ which provides that a person cannot use section 8 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* as a reason for a court to discontinue its hearing of offences for disturbing the legislature contained in the Criminal Code.

4.3 Explanatory notes and human rights certificates for by-laws and rules to be prepared by the Speaker

4.3.1 Proposed amendments

The Bill also amends the Parliamentary Service Act to provide that it is the Speaker who must prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker for the parliamentary precinct under the Act.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 3.

⁶⁵ The Bill (cl 9) amends the definition of ‘parliamentary precinct’ in s 4 of the Parliamentary Service Act by omitting the following words: ‘but does not include the Legislative Assembly chamber, or the galleries of the House, whilst the Legislative Assembly is in session’).

⁶⁶ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 4.

⁶⁷ Explanatory notes, p 8.

⁶⁸ Criminal Code, s 53.

⁶⁹ Bill, cl 10 (inserting proposed new s 55A of the Parliamentary Service Act, which clarifies that references to the responsible Minister in provisions governing the preparation of explanatory notes and human rights certificates for by-laws or rules made by the Speaker, apply as if the reference ‘were a reference to the Speaker’).

4.3.2 Background to the amendments

The Parliamentary Service Act recognises that by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Act⁷⁰ are subordinate legislation under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*,⁷¹ for which a human rights certificate and explanatory notes are required to be made.⁷²

Under the *Human Rights Act 2019* and *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for subordinate legislation are to be made by the Minister responsible for the Act under which the subordinate legislation is being made.⁷³ As the Parliamentary Service Act currently falls within the ministerial responsibilities of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, it has most recently fallen to the Premier to prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for subordinate legislation under the Act.⁷⁴

Noting it is the Speaker who is making the by-laws and rules, the Minister advised in introducing the Bill that it had been concluded in discussions between the government, Speaker, Acting Speaker and the Clerk, that:

...to give effect to the independence of the Office of the Speaker in these matters and the independence of the parliament from the government, it would be more appropriate for the Speaker, rather than a minister, to be responsible for the preparation of these documents that accompany subordinate legislation that the Speaker makes.⁷⁵

The amendments would seek to give effect to this conclusion by shifting this responsibility to the Speaker as agreed.

5 Amendments to refine the process for notifying proxy votes and other technical amendments

5.1 Notification of a member's request to vote by way of a proxy

5.1.1 Proposed amendments

The Bill proposes to amend the Parliamentary Service Act to alter the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly, so that the notification is read to the Assembly, but not the medical certificates which are required to be provided to the Speaker under the Act.⁷⁶

5.1.2 Background to the amendments

Currently, a member is required to notify the Speaker in writing of their intention to vote by proxy and to provide the Speaker with medical certificates from at least 2 doctors. The Speaker is then required to read the medical certificates and the member's notification to the Assembly, and then declare if

⁷⁰ Section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act provides the Speaker with the power to prescribe the directions (which may take the form of by-laws) which all persons, except members of the Legislative Assembly, are to comply with as to their behaviour, demeanour and conduct when upon the parliamentary precinct. Section 55 empowers the Speaker to make rules which make provision about the parliamentary service and in particular – the entitlements, responsibilities, authorities, obligations and liabilities of parliamentary service officers and employees, and appeals about promotional appointments and disciplinary action within the parliamentary service (s 55).

⁷¹ Parliamentary Service Act, s 50(2B) and s 55(3).

⁷² Explanatory notes, p 4.

⁷³ *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 41(1)-(2); *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, s 22.

⁷⁴ See, for example (most recently), the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for the Parliamentary Service By-law 2023.

⁷⁵ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023, p 2712.

⁷⁶ Explanatory notes, p 4.

the Speaker is satisfied that the matters stated in the certificates are true and if proxy voting for the ill member may take place.⁷⁷

The Speaker, on behalf of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, approached the government to consider streamlining this process due to the 'onerous' requirements that are 'potentially invasive of a member's privacy'.⁷⁸ The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advised:

The [*Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*] gives the Speaker the sole power to decide if proxy voting for an ill member can apply and the Government supports the Speaker retaining this power.

As the Speaker has this power under the [*Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*], there is no reason for the Speaker to have to divulge the details of a member's illness to the Assembly.⁷⁹

5.2 Other technical amendments

The Bill also makes minor technical amendments to the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to update some cross referencing of definitions cited in the Act to the definitions that are explained and provided for in the *Electoral Act 1992*.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 6.

⁷⁸ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 6.

⁷⁹ Department of the Premier and Cabinet, correspondence, 21 September 2023, p 6.

⁸⁰ Bill, sch 1 (amending various section references in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*).

Appendix A – Submitters

Sub #	Submitter
1	Maranoa Regional Council
2	Eromanga Natural History Museum
3	Milynda Rogers

Appendix B – Officials at the public departmental briefing

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- Ms Jessica Collins, Assistant Director General and Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Office
- Ms Kate Molomby, Acting Executive Director, Governance and Engagement
- Ms Linda Keeshan, Director, Cabinet Office
- Ms Yasmahne Hanel, Director, Governance and Engagement
- Mr Andrew Timperley, Principal Policy Officer, Cabinet Office

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

- Mr Darcy Slattery, General Manager, Tourism

Appendix C – Witnesses at public hearings

Winton Public hearing

Australian Age of Dinosaurs—Museum of Natural History

- Mr David Elliott OAM, Executive Chairman
- Ms Naomi Miles, Head of Development

Winton Shire Council

- Cr Gavin Baskett, Mayor

Barcaldine Regional Council

- Cr Sean Dillon, Mayor

Red Dirt Tours

- Ms Vicki Jones, Owner-Operator


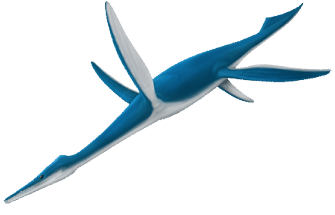
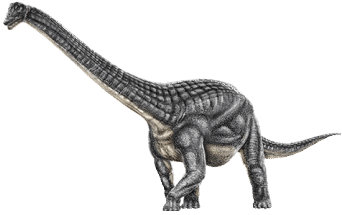

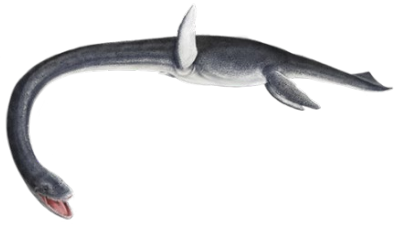
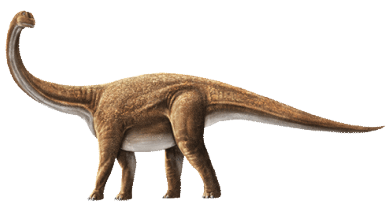



Flinders Shire Council

- Cr Jane McNamara, Mayor

Muttaburra Public Forum

- Cr Sean Dillon, Mayor, Barcaldine Regional Council
- Mrs Pearl Langdon, private capacity
- Mr Bill Spence, private capacity
- Mr Tyrel Spence, private capacity
- Ms Kerry Robinson, Secretary and Treasurer, Muttaburra Community Development Association
- Mr Michael Williams, Principal Cultural Heritage Officer, GBA Consulting Engineers

Appendix D – Shortlisted candidates for the fossil emblem

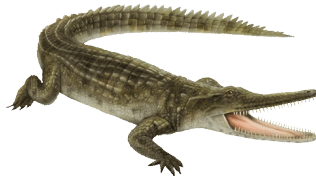
 <p>Ridersia watsonae</p> <p>Early sea-lily like animal (echinoderm) which lived about 500 million years ago (Cambrian period). Only a few centimetres long.</p> <p>Found at Duchess (in Cloncurry Shire), 100km south East of Mount Isa.</p>	 <p>Richmond polycotylid</p> <p>Long-snouted ocean-dwelling plesiosaur which lived about 100 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Over 4 metres long.</p> <p>Found between Richmond and Hughenden.</p>	 <p>Diamantinasaurus matildae</p> <p>Heavily built titanosaur (a type of sauropod or long necked, herbivorous quadruped dinosaur), which lived between 92 and 96 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Estimated to be 15 to 16 metres long and weigh 15 to 20 tonnes.</p> <p>Found in Winton district.</p>
 <p>Australotitan cooperensis</p> <p>Australia's largest dinosaur, also a titanosaur, which lived between 92 and 96 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Approximately 30 metres long with a ground to hip length of 6.5 metres.</p> <p>Skeleton parts found near Eromanga.</p>	 <p>Eromangasaurus australis</p> <p>Long-necked ocean-dwelling plesiosaur which lived about 100 million years ago (Cretaceous period). About 9.5metres long.</p> <p>Found at Maxwellton (just west of Richmond) and named in reference to the Eromanga Basin.</p>	 <p>Rhoetosaurus brownei</p> <p>Medium-sized sauropod dinosaur which lived about 160 million years ago (Jurassic period). Estimated to be 12 metres long.</p> <p>Found at Taloona Station, north of Roma.</p>
 <p>Siderops kehli</p> <p>Giant amphibian with a jaw bristling with teeth that lived approximately 176 million years ago (Jurassic period). More than 3 metres long.</p> <p>Found near Wandoan in south east Queensland.</p>	 <p>Kronosaurus queenslandicus</p> <p>Enormous ocean-dwelling pliosaur which fed on turtles, fish, sharks and other marine reptiles and lived between 98 and 112 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Estimated to be 11 metres in length with a skull 2 metres long.</p> <p>Initially found near Hughenden, with others later found near Richmond and Boulia.</p>	 <p>Obduron dicksoni</p> <p>Ancient platypus with teeth which lived between 13.5 and 18.2 million years ago (early Miocene Epoch period). Estimated to be about 60 centimetres long – about one third bigger than a modern platypus.</p> <p>Found in Riversleigh World Heritage Area.</p>



Muttaburrasaurus langdoni

Ornithopod dinosaur (which means 'bird footed') with an inflated, bulbous snout and powerful bite which lived about 100 million years ago (Cretaceous period). About 7 to 8 metres long.

Found in Muttaburra.



Isisfordia duncani

Early outback crocodile which lived about 100 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Smaller than a modern crocodile, at about 1.1 metres long.

Found in Isisford, central West Queensland.



Lovellea wintonensis

The oldest known permineralised fossilised flower, which lived between 92 and 96 million years ago (Cretaceous period). Its fruits and flowers were about 1 centimetre in diameter.

Found in Winton.

Source: Department of the Premier and Cabinet, *Queensland's State fossil emblem*, webpage, last updated December 2022, <https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/fossilemblem/>