

**WORLD HERITAGE AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL MAMMAL SITES
RIVERSLEIGH AND NARACOORTE**



The Riversleigh Management Strategy



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1.1 Vision for the Riversleigh World Heritage area

Riversleigh is a place where World Heritage values are protected, respected, understood and presented so that the story of these values, and also of Riversleigh's other cultural and natural heritage values, can be told to the world.

1.2 Purpose of the Riversleigh Management Strategy

This document establishes the Riversleigh Management Strategy for managing the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/ Naracoorte) World Heritage area.

The purpose of the Riversleigh Management Strategy (the Strategy) is to:

1. Provide a management framework for maintaining the integrity of the World Heritage area;
2. Present clear information concerning Australia's obligations in relation to the Riversleigh World Heritage area and identify the other values associated with Riversleigh;
3. Establish new consultative arrangements for the management of the World Heritage area; and
4. Present strategies for managing the World Heritage area and for incorporating Riversleigh's other values into the World Heritage management arrangements through actions to:
 - Identify,
 - Protect,
 - Conserve,
 - Present,
 - Transmit, and
 - Rehabilitate World Heritage values.

Australia has obligations under the *Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (the World Heritage Convention) to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property. The Strategy has been prepared in accordance with these international responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention.

The Strategy is not a statutory document although it is consistent with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld), and takes into account the Australian World Heritage Management Principles established by Regulation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

By agreeing to the Strategy, governments commit to abide by its vision and purpose and to aim for its expected outcomes when developing policies, statutory management plans and other planning instruments in relation to Riversleigh.

In particular, the Strategy will provide assistance to the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee when making decisions concerning policies for protecting and managing the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites. The Strategy will also be useful to managers, ensuring they give appropriate consideration to World Heritage obligations, when developing management directions or statutory management plans for the World Heritage area. The Strategy does not attempt to provide detailed management directions.

The Strategy was developed after a public consultation process involving discussions with stakeholders and a public exhibition draft prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants.

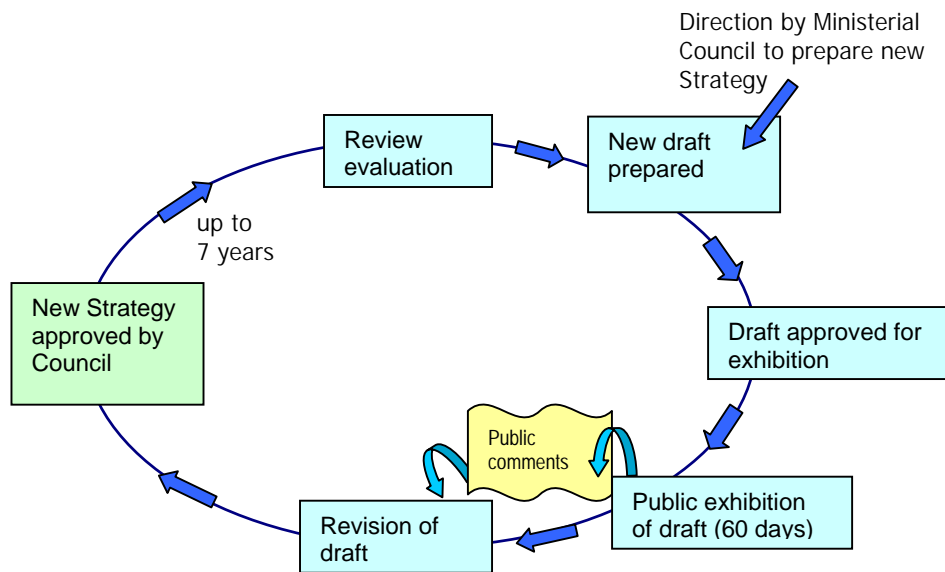
1.3 Preparation and review of the Strategy

The Riversleigh Management Strategy will be current for up to 7 years from the date of its approval by the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council. The Strategy will remain current until the Ministerial Council has approved a new strategy.

The timeframe has been adopted in keeping with the Australian World Heritage Management Principles established by Regulation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The timeframe for review provides a medium to long term planning prospect with a reasonable opportunity for implementing identified management actions and measuring the effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes.

The review of the Strategy will involve a direction by the Ministerial Council to prepare a new Strategy. The draft Strategy will be prepared by the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee in consultation with the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee. The new Strategy will be approved by the Ministerial Council on the advice of the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee. (See Figure 1; for details of the Committees see Part 5.)

Figure 1 Planning cycle for the Riversleigh Management Strategy



The review of the Strategy will:

- Assess the continuing relevance of identified issues;
- Assess the extent to which expected outcomes have been achieved;
- Assess the effectiveness of management responses;
- Identify where objectives have not been met and why;
- Identify new or emerging issues; and
- Establish a new set of objectives and management actions.

Measures of the effectiveness of the Strategy will include:

- success in maintaining the integrity of the World Heritage area as stated in the nomination document;
- improvements in identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the World Heritage values of the property
- increased participation and involvement in management by Traditional Owners and other members of the Riversleigh community;
- usefulness of the Strategy in assisting decision-making by Governments, consultative committees and managers developing management directions and statutory management plans.

Before the Strategy expires, there may need to be amendments to it where new issues emerge or information obtained from monitoring and research may change management direction or where it is clear that a stated outcome is not being

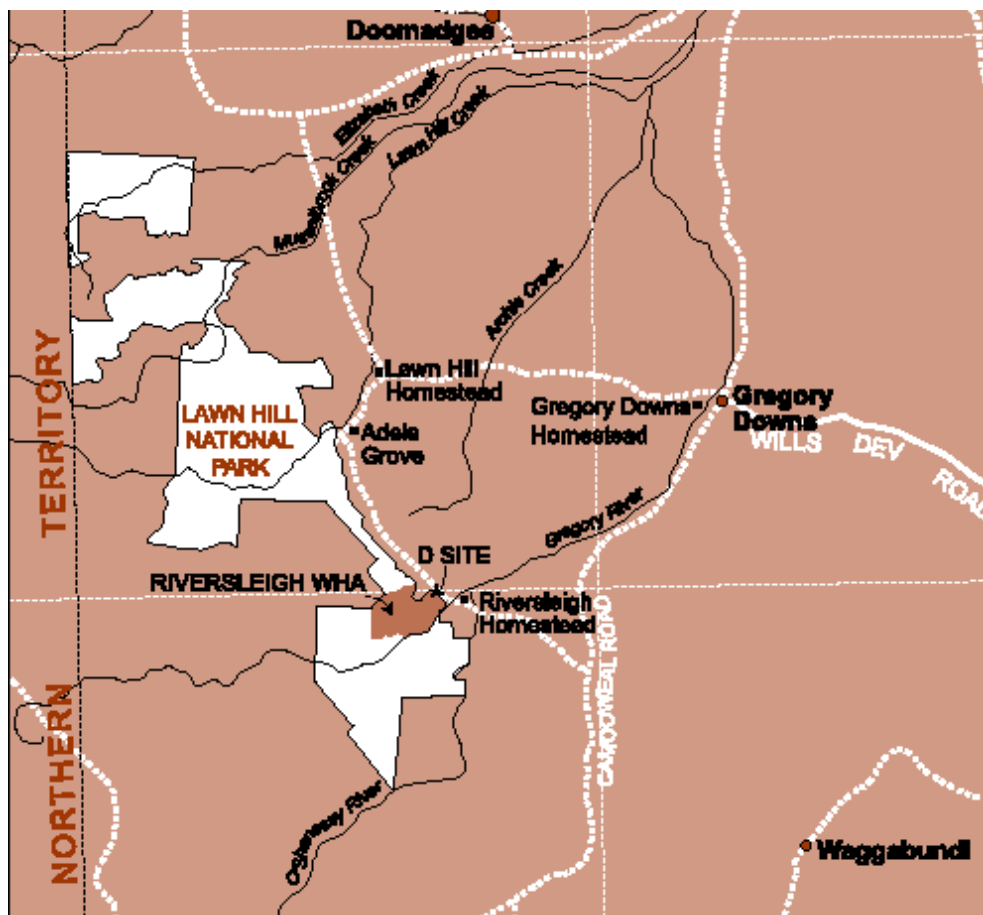
achieved. The Strategy may only be amended by the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, in consultation with the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee may place amendments on public exhibition to seek the views of the general community at its discretion.

2 SIGNIFICANCE

In the savanna country of the Gulf of Carpentaria, north west of Mount Isa in Queensland, lie the Tertiary and Quaternary fossil fields of Riversleigh. These fossil fields, together with those of Naracoorte, make up the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage Area. The fossil fields are of such a rare and outstanding quality that they have been listed as a serial site on the World Heritage List for their universal values (see Part 3).

Riversleigh is located in the Karumba Basin in north western Queensland, about 250 kilometres north west of Mount Isa and 200 kilometres south of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is also 75 kilometres south east of the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) Gorge. The World Heritage Area comprises 10 000 hectares of the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park. (Figure 2)

Figure 2 – Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and Riversleigh



The Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage Area is one of the most significant fossil deposits in the world, and the richest

known mammal deposit in Australia. In terms of the extent to which fossil mammal assemblages have increased knowledge about the biodiversity of a continent, few, if any, have been as illuminating as Riversleigh. Here the remains of unique Australian prehistoric animals from the last 25 million years have been superbly preserved in the limestone outcrops. Among these are marsupial lions, carnivorous kangaroos, diprotodontids, huge pythons, and early ancestors of the Tasmanian tiger, platypuses, crocodiles and bats.

The Riversleigh fossils provide examples of the record of life following the separation of the Australian continent from the ancient landmass of Gondwana. Riversleigh provides a basis for documenting the development of Australia's unique and distinctive mammal fauna. It is one of few sites contributing to the mammal fossil record documenting the effects of severe climatic drying, exclusive of the compounding effects of intercontinental faunal interchange. The fossils are recovered in an outstanding state of preservation and the varied limestone deposits that have entombed and protected them have been created by geological processes that continue in the area today.

The fossil deposits have revealed a significant diversity of animals, which substantially increased the number of Tertiary mammal species previously described for Australia. The Riversleigh fossil faunas have significant connections to faunas outside Australia, and provide historical and ecological continuity to other World Heritage properties within Australia. The deposits and their faunas hold a substantial deep time record providing information to enable increased understanding of past and present life on Earth. Research in the fossil faunas has increased, and will continue to increase, our understanding of the dynamics of rainforests, ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, evolution and extinctions.

While the unique fossil deposits at Riversleigh are recognised to be of universal significance, the property has other values which, while not necessarily exclusively within the boundaries of the World Heritage property, are considered important and must be protected. The Gregory River, for example, is a permanent, spring-fed watercourse, comprising part of the southern boundary of the World Heritage area. The river is rated as a significant refugium by the CSIRO, and is part of a nationally significant wetland, the Thornton Wetland Aggregation.

The fossil record suggests that the area may once have been a tropical rainforest. Today, sparse eucalypt woodlands dominate vegetation on the limestone outcrops. The World Heritage area is set in this remote, semi-arid landscape, fringed by riparian forests, and is home to unusual and diverse communities of wildlife.

Riversleigh is also valued for its human history. Indigenous people continue to live in the Riversleigh region as they have done for thousands of years. The Traditional Owners, the Waanyi people, know the Riversleigh region as their spiritual and sacred Rainbow Serpent Country. Significant rock art, middens, artefacts and traditional sites extend across the region. Waanyi elders have interpreted some of these places for visitors. The Riversleigh region has also been a part of the

significant and often tragic history of cultural interaction between the Traditional Owners and European settlers. Today, Indigenous people continue to be involved in successful land management of the Riversleigh region. Traditional Owners are currently documenting their traditional and contemporary connections with Riversleigh and the surrounding area as part of native title and land claim processes. The resolution of these claims will have implications for the future management of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, including the Riversleigh World Heritage area.

3.1 World Heritage Convention and listing criteria

The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the Member States of UNESCO in 1972. The Convention aims to promote co-operation among nations to protect heritage which is of such universal value that its conservation is a concern of all people. Australia was one of the first nations to ratify the Convention and remains a strong supporter of its aims.

To qualify for World Heritage listing, a nominated property that is considered to be of outstanding universal value, is tested against specific, stringent criteria for natural and/or cultural values.

The inscription of Riversleigh and Naracoorte on the World Heritage List was based on their joint outstanding natural heritage values, which met two criteria:

- Criterion 1 - outstanding examples representing major stages of the Earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.
- Criterion 2 - outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

3.2 Riversleigh's World Heritage values

The Riversleigh portion of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, together with Naracoorte Caves National Park, were jointly added to the World Heritage List as the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) in 1994. They were inscribed on the List, fulfilling the above two (of four possible) natural heritage criteria for inclusion. The Australian Fossil Mammal Sites' inscription was based on outstanding natural heritage values, representing major stages in the earth's history, and outstanding representation of significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development, particularly, of terrestrial and freshwater communities of plants and animals.

The Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage property has produced some of the world's most outstanding fossils, not only in their preservation, but also in their quantity and diversity. It is the richest fossil mammal deposit in Australia and few, if any, other fossil deposits in the world have so contributed to our knowledge of prehistoric mammal communities.

The World Heritage criteria against which the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites were listed remain the formal criteria for this property. These criteria have been included in the table at Appendix A as an illustration of the World Heritage values of the property, although they do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive list of values. Other information sources including the nomination document and references listed below the values table are available and can be consulted for a more detailed understanding of the World Heritage values of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte).

It should be noted that the World Heritage Committee periodically revises the World Heritage criteria. It is possible that the criteria against which the property was listed in 1994 may, in the future, not be necessarily identical with the current criteria.

3.3 Obligations for management of World Heritage values

The World Heritage Convention requires countries that are signatory to the Convention (States Parties) to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. To ensure that effective and active measures are taken to implement these obligations, the Convention identifies the need for States Parties to:

- adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of the heritage into comprehensive planning programs;
- establish services for the protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage with appropriate staff possessing the means to discharge its functions;
- develop operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural and natural heritage;
- take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and
- foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and protection of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.

Additionally, there is a general obligation to endeavour to strengthen appreciation and respect of the property's World Heritage values, particularly through educational and information programs and to keep the community broadly informed about the condition of the World Heritage values of the property (World Heritage Convention – Article 27).

3.4 Statutory protection and management of World Heritage

As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, Australia has an obligation to protect and manage its World Heritage properties. Australia recognises it has a duty to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of World Heritage properties situated on its territory.

The Australian Government has ultimate responsibility for implementing the World Heritage Convention in Australia and ensuring that Australia's World Heritage listed properties are properly protected and managed. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) is the statutory mechanism for Australia to protect and manage World Heritage properties.

To meet the obligations of the World Heritage Convention, the Act prohibits actions which have, will have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a declared World Heritage property without the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. In addition, the Act provides measures for effective environmental assessment processes and provides for management arrangements for World Heritage to be undertaken in accordance with Australian World Heritage Management Principles.

The State of Queensland provides the operational support, administrative structures and protocols for day-to-day management of the Riversleigh World Heritage area. Riversleigh is contained within a broader protected area identified under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (see Part 4). The Act establishes Management Principles for World Heritage management areas in Queensland.

4.1 Management of other values

Riversleigh and its surrounding area comprise the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park which was gazetted by the State of Queensland in 1984. This protected area contains numerous heritage values which, while not all being of World Heritage significance, are nevertheless of national importance and are protected by State and Commonwealth laws. These values include, for example, Indigenous cultural heritage values, natural and landscape values, and historical values. A list of examples of non-World Heritage values is set out at Appendix B.

The Australian World Heritage Management Principles, established by Regulation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), recognise that management planning must often take into consideration a range of values that are not World Heritage values. The following is a requirement in relation to management planning for a World Heritage property:

'that management actions for values that are not World Heritage values are consistent with the management of the World heritage values of the property'.

Regulation 10.01

The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) also contains an obligation to manage the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park in accordance with statutory management principles specified in s.17 of that Act.

1. A national park is to be managed to:

(a) provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values; and

(b) present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values; and

(c) ensure, that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

2. The management principle mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is the cardinal principle for the management of national parks.

Together, these legal provisions frame the management requirements for Riversleigh, recognised for its values, both as a World Heritage area and a protected area.

5.1 Coordinating management of Riversleigh and Naracoorte

Riversleigh, which forms part of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, is managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Queensland Government. The Australian Government, through Environment Australia, is responsible for ensuring that the World Heritage Convention is implemented in relation to the Riversleigh World Heritage area. The responsibilities of respective governments in the protection and management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites are set out in Appendix F.

Prior to this Strategy, the administrative and management arrangements for Riversleigh and Naracoorte were created after the inscription of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites on the World Heritage List in 1994. A Scientific Management Advisory Committee was the principal consultative mechanism for management of the World Heritage area. The Ministerial Council, chaired by the Federal Minister responsible for the Environment, was the principal decision-making body for the World Heritage area.

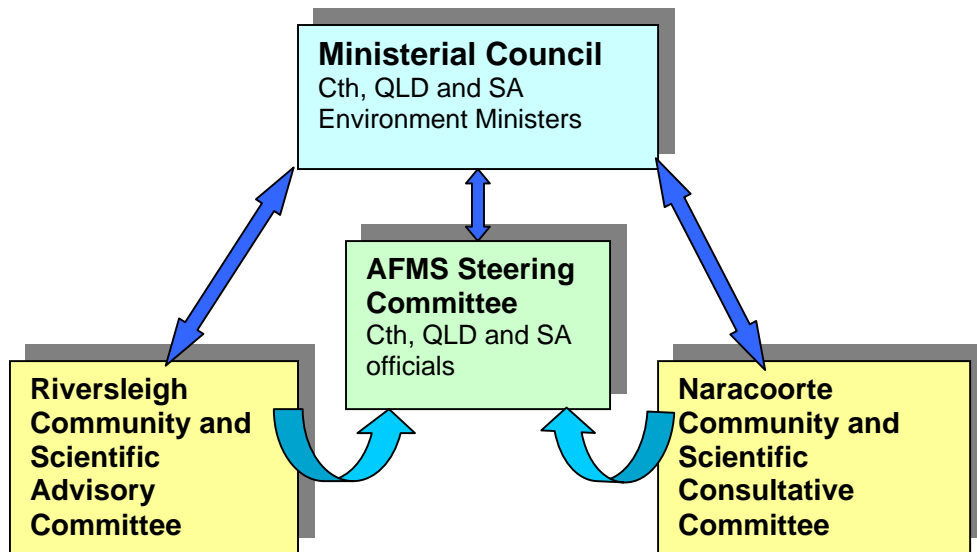
Communities interested in the Riversleigh World Heritage area recommended new consultative, administrative and management arrangements during the consultation process for the Strategy. These arrangements must reflect the need for representation from the range of communities interested in the property including Indigenous people, the adjoining leaseholder, scientists, tourism operators, non-government organisations, and government representatives. The details of these proposed arrangements are shown in Figure 3.

These arrangements will complement management initiatives for Naracoorte, and will ensure coordinated management, when and as necessary, of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage property. The Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Council, the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee are set out in Appendix E.

The consultative arrangements established in this Strategy reflect the rights and interests of the Waanyi people in relation to Riversleigh. The Strategy recognises the need for Waanyi to participate fully, along with representatives of the wider community, in advising governments about the Riversleigh World Heritage area.

The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee arrangements will link with the Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee, established to advise the State Minister on a range of issues concerning Waanyi interests (see 5.1.3 below).

Figure 3 – Proposed Administrative and Consultative Arrangements for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites



5.1.1 Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council and Steering Committee

In order to provide the necessary mechanisms for Commonwealth and State Government involvement in the management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites, the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council will coordinate policy, provide advice and make recommendations on a range of matters specified in its Terms of Reference (see Appendix E). The operation of the Ministerial Council will be supported by the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee (the Steering Committee).

The Steering Committee will be made up of representatives from Government agencies and, in ex officio capacity, the Chairs of the committees, namely:

- the Chairperson of the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee (see 5.1.2 below); and
- the Chairperson of the Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee.

The Ministerial Council and Steering Committee will be able to coordinate management of Riversleigh and Naracoorte in recognition of their joint listing as the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area.

5.1.2 Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee

The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee has been established to address issues relating to the Riversleigh World Heritage area. Membership includes representatives of:

- Indigenous people affiliated with the World Heritage area;
- Scientific researchers or institutions undertaking studies relevant to management and protection of the World Heritage values;
- The Queensland Museum;
- The adjoining leaseholder; and
- In ex officio capacity, the Commonwealth and State governments.

The composition and role of the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee reflects the need for greater community involvement in future management decisions concerning the Riversleigh World Heritage area. The composition, role and responsibilities of this committee are set out in the Terms of Reference (see Appendix E).

5.1.3 Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee (WMAC) was established in 1995 under Section 132 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld). This Committee provides advice to the Queensland Government through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Under the new administrative and consultative arrangements for Riversleigh, representatives from WMAC will be involved in the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee.

5.2 Tenure and management

Claims have been lodged for determination of native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and a claim has been made for title to land under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld). As these applications include the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites, continued Indigenous and other stakeholder involvement in consultative arrangements will ensure that consensus and understanding underpin the future management of Riversleigh.

There may be a range of outcomes from these processes including the development and implementation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement pursuant to Part 3 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). A return to Indigenous ownership, following Aboriginal Land Act or native title claims, may result in joint management arrangements for Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park between Traditional Owners and the Queensland Government. This process will not alter World Heritage listing nor will it alter the Commonwealth's obligations with respect to the World Heritage Convention.

5.3 Riversleigh Executive Officer

The Executive Officer provides executive and administrative support for the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee (see 5.1.2). The Officer is responsible for liaising with diverse stakeholder groups, maintaining regular communication, managing specified financial matters and undertaking monitoring and reporting. The appointment is an integral part of the management of Riversleigh. Information on management and other issues relating to Riversleigh may be distributed through the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer facilitates the management process which is administered in accordance with Queensland protocols, standards and legislative requirements. The Executive Officer:

- Possesses knowledge and awareness of the World Heritage values of the Riversleigh World Heritage property;
- Liaises with stakeholders and the wider community; providing administrative and secretariat support to Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee;
- Provides management support for the World Heritage property and has an awareness of GIS systems and their application;
- Ensures that all stakeholders are kept informed of any relevant matters relating to the property; and
- Possesses knowledge of the relevant statutory protection and management provisions, and monitoring and reporting requirements.

6.1 Management Aims

World Heritage is the highest level of recognition of heritage significance that can be associated with an area. Australia is responsible for ensuring that the highest possible standards of management practice are in place to protect the outstanding universal values for which an area is World Heritage significant.

The management aims of Riversleigh take into account management principles from the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) and Regulations to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

The Management Aims of Riversleigh are to:

1. Meet World Heritage Convention obligations to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property;
2. Give the property a function in the life of the Australian community;
3. Ensure there is appropriate involvement in management of the property from people who have rights and interests in the property or who may be affected by the way it is managed;
4. Ensure there is community and technical input in managing the property, including public consultation on decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on the property; and
5. Provide a framework that ensures that World Heritage values and other values of the property continue to be managed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, the Australian World Heritage Management Principles and other statutory requirements.

The desired management outcomes to meet the Management Aims are set out below with a brief background discussion, expected achievements against the outcome and a table which sets out outputs, actions and responsibility for actions.

The management outcomes are ongoing requirements to meet obligations under the World Heritage Convention. The Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, in consultation with the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee, will determine priorities for suitable action items at the commencement of this Strategy.

6.2 Management Outcome 1 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations to Identify, Protect, Conserve, Present, Transmit and Rehabilitate

Background

The major obligations under the World Heritage Convention are to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit and, where required, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of a World Heritage area.

Expected Achievements

Identification

Identification refers to Australia's obligation to identify areas of outstanding universal value and comprehensively document these values. This obligation for the Riversleigh World Heritage area will be achieved by:

- Developing and implementing a 5-year Research Plan;
- Identifying, and creating an inventory of fossil sites, collected fossil-bearing substrate and recovered fossils representing the World Heritage values of Riversleigh;
- Developing a comprehensive strategy for future identification, protection, and conservation of Riversleigh's World Heritage values; and
- Publishing and disseminating knowledge of Riversleigh's World Heritage values to the general and academic community.

Protection

Protection refers to the requirement to ensure that Australia protects the values for which a place is listed on the World Heritage List. There are Commonwealth and State laws which protect the Riversleigh World Heritage area. Protection of values will be also be achieved by:

- Planning and reviewing management by administrative agencies with stakeholder and community involvement and according to Australian World Heritage Management Principles;
- Undertaking strategic research and technical studies to identify threats and risks to the World Heritage values of Riversleigh;
- Addressing specific site protection issues, including undertaking risk assessments and ensuring appropriate level of presence of agency staff;
- Carrying out monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of the property;
- Developing guidelines and protocols to ensure the continuing protection of the World Heritage area; and

- Applying the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity in environmental assessments and permitting.

Conservation

Conservation refers to the control of processes which threaten the long-term integrity of the property and its capacity for evolution. The Government of Australia stated the integrity of the property in the 1993 Nomination of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites for Inscription on the World Heritage List. To address threats to the integrity of the property, management of the property will need to increase knowledge of the values and their sustainability. This will be achieved by:

- Basing planning and management for Riversleigh on best available scientific knowledge and land management practices. Priority will be given to increasing that knowledge and practice;
- Establishing an accurate information base of the current conditions at Riversleigh and monitoring changes in a systematic and rigorous manner to provide direction in managing the needs of research with the need to conserve natural conditions, processes and a range of heritage values;
- Determining a quota, based on conservation needs, for removal of material from the World Heritage area, with regard to the precautionary principle and principles of intergenerational equity; and
- Providing for management actions in relation to values that are not World Heritage values so that they are consistent with the management of the World heritage values of the property.

Presentation

The values of Riversleigh must be presented to local, national and international visitors and communities while engendering a greater understanding and respect for the outstanding universal values of the World Heritage area. This will be achieved by:

- Engaging Traditional Owners and the scientific community through the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee in developing and implementing interpretive facilities and material
- Developing a Tourism/Visitor Strategy for the World Heritage area;
- Establishing on-site presentation and interpretation of the World Heritage values to increase visitor opportunities within Riversleigh;
- Providing broader presentation through the Riversleigh Fossil Interpretive Facility and other displays, professional seminars, scientific and non-scientific literature, classroom kits and use of electronic media. The presentation of World Heritage values should be supported by scientific interpretation and involve relevant scientific organisations; and

- Presenting other values of the property where possible, in consultation and involvement with Traditional Owners and other relevant groups.

Transmission

The management and use of Riversleigh must be consistent with maintaining its internationally significant values for future generations. To achieve this:

- Regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the World Heritage values of Riversleigh, consistent with the UNESCO World Heritage Periodic Reporting requirements, will be undertaken to ensure the transmission of its World Heritage values to future generations; and
- A report on the state of conservation will be made available to management agencies, Indigenous and landholder communities, the general public and for periodic monitoring and reporting to the World Heritage Committee.

Rehabilitation

Disturbed or damaged areas will be rehabilitated where necessary to meet World Heritage obligations. This will be achieved by:

- Establishing a strategy which includes measures to guide rehabilitation of excavated sites and other damaged areas as part of a broader Research Plan;
- Undertake a feasibility study for a local Keeping Place of fossils under the management of Traditional Owners; and
- Developing visitor impact management programs.

Action Table for Management Outcome 1 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations to Identify, Protect, Conserve, Present, Transmit and Rehabilitate

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Develop and maintain an effective framework for protection, conservation, presentation, management and transmission of Riversleigh's World Heritage values.	<p>Revise where necessary management arrangements, protocols and processes to reflect the operations of the AFMS Steering Committee, Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee, and Executive Officer.</p> <p>Prepare and implement management plans for Riversleigh as part of the plan for the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and based on the management aims and desired outcomes set out in this Strategy.</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for reviewing the effectiveness of the management plan and management strategy.</p> <p>Undertake assessment of priority actions items under this Strategy.</p>	<p>Ministerial Council, QPWS, EA</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>AFMS Steering Committee, RCSAC</p>
2.	Activities at Riversleigh are undertaken in accordance with State and Commonwealth legislation.	<p>Manage all activities to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation through the development of plans of management.</p> <p>Publicise laws and regulations on site.</p> <p>Keep agency staff and relevant stakeholders informed of legislative requirements and trained in compliance and enforcement requirements.</p>	<p>AFMS Steering Committee, QPWS</p> <p>QPWS, EA</p> <p>QPWS, EA</p>
3.	There is an understanding of Australia's international obligations under the World Heritage Convention by stakeholders, managers and the local community.	Disseminate information on Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention to all members of the AFMS consultative committees and other identified stakeholders.	QPWS, EA
4.	Riversleigh's World Heritage values are identified.	<p>Develop and implement a five-year Research Plan</p> <p>Establish conditions of the property in terms of the location of fossil deposits and their state of conservation using survey methodology.</p> <p>Identify threats to values and monitor the condition of Riversleigh's World Heritage values and other heritage values that may be impacted by actions.</p> <p>Publish and disseminate knowledge of Riversleigh's World Heritage values through a variety of media.</p>	<p>Permitted researchers, QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>Permitted researchers, QPWS, Cth</p>

5.	Riversleigh's World Heritage values are protected.	<p>Continue to develop and implement legislative, regulatory, and community consultative arrangements.</p> <p>Incorporate the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity in management decisions.</p> <p>Seek sufficient funding to ensure management arrangements are implemented, ongoing and effective.</p> <p>Broaden community interest in Riversleigh through promotion of its World Heritage values.</p>	<p>Cth, Qld</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS, EA</p> <p>QPWS</p>
6.	Riversleigh's World Heritage values are conserved.	Undertake research into processes threatening the long-term integrity of the Riversleigh World Heritage area.	QPWS
7.	The Riversleigh World Heritage area is presented in such a way as to increase understanding of its outstanding universal values.	<p>Develop further on site interpretive facilities and maintain involvement in the Riversleigh Fossil Centre in Mt Isa.</p> <p>Explore new methods of presentation of Riversleigh's World Heritage values to the local, wider Australian and international communities, for example using web-based interfaces.</p> <p>Present other values of the property where possible in consultation with relevant communities.</p>	<p>QPWS, RCSAC</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>
8.	The outstanding universal values of Riversleigh are transmitted to future generations.	<p>Conduct regular reviews of the state of conservation of the World Heritage values of Riversleigh and identify management actions required to address threats to transmission of those values.</p> <p>Employ the precautionary principle and principles of intergenerational equity in management decisions.</p>	<p>EA, QPWS, RCSAC</p> <p>QPWS</p>
9.	Disturbed parts of the World Heritage Area are rehabilitated in such a way as to conserve World Heritage values.	<p>Establish strategy within broader Research Plan to address rehabilitation where required.</p> <p>Undertake feasibility study for a Keeping Place.</p> <p>Develop visitor impact management program.</p>	<p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>

6.3 Management Outcome 2– Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Effective Consultative Arrangements

Background

The consultative and administrative arrangements set out in this Strategy provide a coordinated management approach for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.

Effective consultative arrangements for Riversleigh must involve participation of the Indigenous people, scientific, nearby leaseholder, tourism and other stakeholders in the management of Riversleigh. These arrangements fulfil an element of the appropriate involvement in management of the property from people who have rights and interests in the property or who may be affected by the way it is managed. The arrangements also ensure that there is community and technical input in managing the property. These arrangement comprise:

- Establishing the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and integrating the Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee into Riversleigh's administrative and consultative structures;
- Providing in management arrangements, where appropriate, for the involvement of people who have a particular interest in the property, and may be affected by the management of the property; and
- Giving priority to involving the community, including Indigenous, scientists , leaseholders, and the tourism industry in management and planning consistent with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention.

Expected achievements

- Effective administrative and consultative arrangements for Riversleigh World Heritage area which provide for a broad representation of views concerning the World Heritage property; and
- Coordinated management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area.

Action Table for Management Outcome 2– Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Effective Consultative Arrangements

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	An effective management link between RCSAC, the AFMS Steering Committee and agencies.	Develop Administrative and Operational Guidelines for the efficient and effective operation of RCSAC and the AFMS Steering Committee.	QPWS, EA
2.	Effective and efficient administration of the Advisory Committee.	Provide ongoing funding, training and facilities to support the Executive Officer. Factor administrative and travel costs into yearly management funding to enable committees to meet and function as frequently as considered necessary.	QPWS, EA QPWS, EA
3.	Support for fostering expertise in Advisory Committee members.	Provide training for ordinary RCSAC committee members where required eg in conducting meetings, improving negotiation skills, understanding legislative and World Heritage obligations. Create a list of independent advisers with expertise relevant to the management of Riversleigh, for advice when required.	QPWS, EA, RCSAC QPWS
4.	Committees are effectively fulfilling their roles and the aims of the committees are met.	Regularly review the working of committees and assess effectiveness.	EA, QPWS
5.	Appropriate information is available to all stakeholders.	Riversleigh Executive Officer to collect and disseminate administrative and management information to RCSAC and other identified stakeholders.	QPWS
6.	Decisions and actions involve all stakeholders.	Riversleigh Executive Officer to disseminate any decisions made outside formal meetings.	QPWS

6.4 Management Outcome 3 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Planning and Funding

Background

The Commonwealth has a responsibility, under the World Heritage Convention, to ensure that, as far as possible, there is sufficient funding to protect World Heritage Areas in Australia while the States have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground activities and day-to-day management of the property. In general, the principle is that the States fund day-to-day management activities, while the Commonwealth funds those additional activities necessary to meet World Heritage obligations.

On 4 November 1996, the House of Representatives Standing Committee tabled its report 'Managing Australia's World Heritage'. The Committee recommended that the Commonwealth Government allocate high priority to finalising a financial agreement with the Queensland Government. Their report recommended that the Commonwealth make funds available without delay to adequately protect Riversleigh's World Heritage values.

The Committee report also recommended that funding arrangements be established with reference to agreed management plans. Riversleigh is included in negotiations between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments about funding of Queensland World Heritage properties.

Expected Achievement

- Funding for management actions is provided for, fulfilling Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Action Table for Management Outcome 3 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Planning and Funding

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Funding for management actions is provided for in the long term.	Develop long-term funding agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. Commonwealth and Queensland Governments agree on an appropriate level of funding and ensure this is provided on a predictable basis.	Cth, Qld
2.	Financial planning for budgetary decisions.	Identify 3-year operational budget including operational funding for a 3-year budget, including costs for committee meetings, monitoring of values, and general management and capital works requirements. Include advice from RCSAC on funding requirements and priorities.	AFMS Steering Committee, QPWS AFMS Steering Committee, QPWS
3.	Management Plan implemented.	Identify opportunities for capital works funding which are aligned with management plan objectives and are in accordance with RCSAC advice.	QPWS and RCSAC

6.5 Management Outcome 4 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations by Identifying Boundaries

Background

The nomination of a property containing natural or cultural heritage for inclusion in the World Heritage List requires identification and precise delineation of the geographical location of the property. At Riversleigh, potential World Heritage values have been identified outside of the existing World Heritage property boundary. Accordingly, it is possible that in the future there may be additions to the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area. To achieve this, there would need to be a formal evaluation of the proposed additional area(s) containing World Heritage values, implementation arrangements to secure the values and renomination of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites with the additional area(s).

Expected Achievements

- Precise maps of the property are produced with accurate Geographical Positioning System (GPS) information. Boundary locations are integrated into a GIS database together with site inventories and other on-ground information for property management.
- On ground boundary markings are in place around the property.
- Boundaries are reviewed and possible additions to the World Heritage property are identified.

Action Table for Management Outcome 4 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations by Identifying Boundaries

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Review of World Heritage property boundary.	<p>Assess the Pleistocene terrace deposits and nearby tufa deposits for inclusion in the World Heritage property or a protected area. Provide detailed heritage values of the Pleistocene terraces and a justification for inclusion within the World Heritage property or a protected area.</p> <p>Assess nearby tufa deposits as examples of continuing geological processes currently listed as a World Heritage value.</p> <p>Consider procedures to refine the World Heritage boundary of the property.</p> <p>Secure additional protected areas through: acquisition, conservation agreements or complementary management.</p>	<p>QPWS, EA</p> <p>QPWS, EA</p> <p>EA</p> <p>QPWS, EA, RCSAC</p>
2.	Precise World Heritage boundaries determined.	Finalise negotiations with the property's neighbours regarding common boundaries. Determine exact placement of boundaries based on landscape features.	QPWS, EA
3.	Boundaries accurately mapped.	<p>Accurately survey the World Heritage boundary.</p> <p>Boundary to be recorded using GPS and integrated with topographical maps. Integrate boundary data into a GIS system that can produce accurate maps.</p> <p>Provide appropriate on-ground boundary marking such as stakes at regular intervals, fences or combinations of marking methods.</p>	<p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>

6.6 Management Outcome 5 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations by Securing Road Access

Background

Tourism is an important part of the Riversleigh experience and the World Heritage area is a popular destination for International and domestic visitors. To ensure that the Riversleigh World Heritage area continues to have a function in the life of the community, the Queensland government will need to secure public road access to the Riversleigh site for public visitation. Currently, access to the Riversleigh World Heritage area from the main road is via leasehold land held by the Lawn Hill Riversleigh Pastoral Holding Company. Because of this arrangement, access to the fossil deposits for managers, researchers and the public is not guaranteed.

Property managers have identified a need to explore the possibility of vehicular access to some sites within the World Heritage area. This would facilitate the monitoring and protection requirements to meet World Heritage obligations.

Expected Achievements

- Establishment of permanent road access to the public access area of Riversleigh known as the D-site.

Action Table for Management Outcome 5 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations by Securing Road Access

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Secure public access to the World Heritage area at the area known as D-site.	<p>Create legal access to the World Heritage property by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiating an access covenant with the leaseholder; • Entering into a conservation agreement with the leaseholder under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>; • Vesting land in appropriate tenure. <p>Liaise with appropriate stakeholders.</p>	QPWS
2.	Secure scientific and management access to specified sites within the World Heritage area	<p>Develop impact assessment of vehicular access to specified sites within the World Heritage area. Liaise with RCSAC on the proposal. Ensure Commonwealth and State approvals are met.</p> <p>Negotiate access requirements with the leaseholder.</p>	QPWS, RCSAC

6.7 Management Outcome 6 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Research to Manage Threats

Background

Article 5 (c) of the World Heritage Convention requires each State Party to develop scientific and technical studies and research to determine such operating methods as will make the State Party capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its natural or cultural heritage. This obligation is part of the obligations contained in the Convention to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory.

Expected Achievements

- Ability to identify, assess and manage threats to World Heritage values

Action Table for Management Outcome 6 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Research to Manage Threats

	Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
1.	Undertake strategic research to identify, assess and manage threats to World Heritage values.	<p>Develop research guidelines in plan of management for managing threats to WH values.</p> <p>Establish basal conditions at Riversleigh using GIS database.</p> <p>Facilitate research as required to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and assessment of threats to World Heritage values; • Design and implementation of threat abatement and restoration actions; • Monitoring of effectiveness of threat abatement and restoration actions; and • Monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage values. 	<p>QPWS, EA, RCSAC</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>
2.	Monitor uses on property and impacts on values.	<p>Budget for resources to monitor uses on the property and impacts on values.</p> <p>Adjust management practices accordingly, incorporating findings of research and monitoring.</p>	<p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>

6.8 Management Outcome 7 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Tourism and Research Planning

Background

Transmission and presentation of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area are about providing information to people about Riversleigh and allowing them to experience and learn about the World Heritage area. These aims can be primarily achieved by people being able to visit the property, having interpretation available during their visit, and by learning about the site from research findings through museums, information centres, publications, the Internet and the media.

Tourism

Visitors to Riversleigh play a significant part in ensuring that the World Heritage area has a continuing function in the life of the community. Tourism provides important social and economic benefits to the region. The challenge for managers and committees is to achieve a sustainable tourism industry which is in accordance with agreed tourism/visitor strategies for the World Heritage area.

The primary aim of a tourism/visitor strategy will be to help people to appreciate, experience and enjoy Riversleigh in ways that are compatible with the protection of its World Heritage values.

Research

The transmission and presentation of the Riversleigh World Heritage area also involve the important information researchers obtain through excavation and analysis of fossil material.

To achieve this, a destructive process of excavation and removal from site of fossil material for analysis and exhibition occurs. Such a process is necessary if the World Heritage values of Riversleigh are to be fully realised.

However, the wider context of the World Heritage property in a protected area, the claims of Indigenous people with rights and interests in Riversleigh and the need to preserve fossil fields for future research and visitation add complexity to World Heritage protection and management of this property.

The challenge for managers is to permit research only if it does not have a significant impact on World Heritage values, has minimal impact on other values protected by law, and takes into account the rights and interests of Indigenous people in relation to their country. There is also a need to balance scientific research involving the removal of fossil material and the expectations of visitors to experience fossils in their geological context.

Expected Achievements

- Visitors to Riversleigh appreciate and enjoy the World Heritage area in ways that are compatible with the protection of its World Heritage values;
- Tourism at Riversleigh is conducted in accordance with the objectives for management of the World Heritage area, satisfying statutory management principles and statutory requirements for activities in World Heritage areas and protected areas;
- Tourism is conducted in accordance with a Tourism/Visitor Strategy for Riversleigh;
- The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee will provide advice on tourism ventures and proposals;
- Research is conducted in accordance with the objectives for management of the World Heritage area, satisfying statutory management principles, statutory requirements for research activities and accepted international protocols/codes;
- Research is conducted in accordance with a 5-year Research Plan which must address specified World Heritage objectives;
- Research programs will not have a significant impact on the World Heritage values or the environment of Riversleigh; and
- Research techniques, objectives and overall strategies are to take account of any concerns the Traditional Owners, local communities and other organisations and individuals may have.

Action Table for Management Outcome 7 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Tourism and Research Planning

Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
Tourism/Visitor Use		
1.	<p>Tourism is conducted in accordance with management objectives of the World Heritage property.</p> <p>Develop tourism /visitor strategies and objectives to take into account the overall goals of management of the World Heritage property and other relevant obligations.</p> <p>Work with other relevant agencies to develop and implement a coordinated regional tourism/visitor strategy without compromising World Heritage management objectives.</p> <p>Develop and implement a Tourism/Visitor Strategy which will, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ongoing programs to record and monitor levels of visitor use, satisfaction, compliance and impact on the area; • Provide for medium and long-term planning for visitor activities and infrastructure; • Provide for medium and long-term planning for commercial tourism operations; and • Set up links with local communities, tourism operators and government agencies to foster community involvement and support. 	<p>QPWS, AFMS Steering Committee</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS, RCSAC, AFMS Steering Committee</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p> <p>QPWS</p>

Action Table for Management Outcome 7 – Meeting World Heritage Obligations through Tourism and Research Planning (Continued)

Outputs	Actions	Responsibility
Research		
2. Research is conducted in accordance with the overall goals of the World Heritage property and satisfies all statutory management principles and requirements.	<p>Research proposals and research applications are to be assessed taking into account the World Heritage Management Principles and management planning objectives.</p> <p>Develop research objectives to take into account the overall goals of management of the World Heritage property and other relevant obligations.</p> <p>Consultation is undertaken to ensure research techniques, objectives and overall strategies are in accordance with world's best practice and assessment processes will take account of any concerns the local communities and other organisations and individuals may have.</p>	<p>AFMS Steering Committee, RCSAC, EA and QPWS.</p> <p>QPWS, permitted researchers, RCSAC</p>
3. Manage research objectives and directions to ensure specific aims to identify, transmit and present World Heritage values are reached.	<p>Develop and implement a 5- year Research Plan, identifying current and long-term objectives, aligned with World Heritage Convention requirements. The Research Plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an extraction sampling system based on articulated research objectives to ensure intergenerational equity; • Identify impacts on World Heritage values, realised and potential, and identify ways to mitigate the impacts; • Identify all other relevant impacts on the Riversleigh environment and identify ways to mitigate the impacts; • Include a rehabilitation strategy for damaged or destroyed areas; • Identify possible on-site and off-site facilities required to facilitate research and prioritise the establishment of these; and • Measure its effectiveness in ensuring World Heritage values are identified, transmitted and presented to the community. 	Permitted researchers, RCSAC, QPWS, EA
4. Research activities are permitted only when they meets all relevant government statutory requirements and are consistent with the 5-year Research Plan	<p>Queensland will assess permit applications with regard to the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> and the 5-year Research Plan.</p> <p>QPWS will obtain and consider the advice of RCSAC for all permit applications to research.</p> <p>Commonwealth will conduct approvals and assessment processes under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>	<p>QPWS</p> <p>EA</p>

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Appendix A: Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage Values

Natural criteria against which the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994	Examples of World Heritage values of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994
<p>Criterion (i) outstanding examples representing major stages of the earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.</p>	<p>Riversleigh (and Naracoorte) are outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, particularly the middle to late Tertiary evolution of the mammals in Australia (Riversleigh), and an outstanding record of terrestrial vertebrate life spanning the last 170,000 years (Naracoorte), and significant on-going geological processes.</p> <p>The World Heritage values of Riversleigh include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fossil deposits which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contain an exceptional abundance and diversity of species and individual specimens; - include important and unique examples of middle to late Tertiary mammal assemblages; - demonstrate a rich Oligo-Miocene mammal record, including representation of rainforest species; - represent unusually wide temporal periods within the fossil record, including timeframes when Australia has been the most isolated continent on earth; - have a high quality of preservation of specimens; and - include evidence of links between the Australian mammal fauna with faunas outside Australia; • diverse Tertiary sediments which contain the fossil assemblages, particularly the Oligo-Miocene cave, fissure and alluvial tufa deposits which are geological antecedents to similar carbonate deposits that still form in the region today.

Criterion (ii) outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

Riversleigh and Naracoorte are outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of Australia's mammal fauna, including the richest Australian, and one of the world's richest, Oligo-Miocene mammal records, linking that period (15-25 million years) to the predominantly modern assemblages of the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Riversleigh), and a record of faunal change spanning two ice ages, highlighting the impacts of both climatic change and man on Australia's mammals (Naracoorte).

The World Heritage values of Riversleigh include:

- the fossil mammal record, which shows continuity and the effects of evolutionary and environmental change over at least the last 20 million years;
- the quality and quantity of the fossil deposits, which has provided increased understanding of the past, present and possible future evolutionary path of many mammal species;
- the Oligo-Miocene mammal record, the richest for the continent and one of the richest in the world, which includes fossil assemblages and sequences that:
 - provide evidence of temporal sequence of Oligo-Miocene rainforest mammals in Australia;
 - link the Oligo-Miocene assemblages of central Australia and the dominantly modern assemblages of the Pliocene and Pleistocene of eastern Australia;
 - provide evidence for the evolution of Australia's modern dry country mammal assemblages from ancestors within Australia's Oligo-Miocene rainforests;
 - preserve an important sequence of mammal species from Tertiary rainforest biotas;
 - provide a connection to other faunas within Australia
 - show evolutionary and ecological continuity to other World Heritage properties within Australia;
 - allow examination of community structure as well as the more conventional morphological and taxonomic study of particular individuals;
 - preserve examples of unique Australian prehistoric animals over the last 25 million years, including marsupial lions, carnivorous kangaroos, diprotodontids, huge pythons, early ancestors of the Tasmanian tiger, platypuses, crocodiles and bats;
 - provide an important collection of bat fossils in terms of the quantity and preservation of specimens;
 - include the oldest known specimens of many of Australia's mammal families (eg feather tailed possums, marsupial moles, wombats, gliding possums) which are amongst the best known in the world due to their quantity and degree of preservation; and
 - other fossil vertebrates and invertebrates, including some of which are Australia's oldest samples (eg millipedes, slaters and other arthropods).

Further information relevant to the World Heritage values of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) may be found in the following documents:

Nomination of Australian Fossil Sites (a serial nomination of sites at Murgon, Riversleigh and Naracoorte) by the Government of Australia for inscription on the World Heritage List. Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, 1993

On the Outstanding Universal Value of the Australian Fossil Mammal Site (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage Area. Luly, J and Valentine P.S. A Report to the World Heritage Unit, Department of Environment, Sport and Territories. School of Tropical Environmental Studies & Geography, James Cook University, Townsville, 1997.

Appendix B: Non-World Heritage values of the Riversleigh World Heritage property and surrounding area

While Riversleigh's unique fossil deposits endow the property with its universal significance, the World Heritage and surrounding area (the Riversleigh region) has other values that are considered important and must be protected. Of national importance are the protected area values for which the broader Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park was gazetted and the National Estate values for the Riversleigh region which have been listed in the Commonwealth's Register of the National Estate.

The non-world heritage values include:

Indigenous cultural heritage values

- The Riversleigh region continues to be significant to Indigenous people, including those who have lived and worked in Riversleigh Holdings and adjacent pastoral leases, as well as the wider group of Indigenous people on whose traditional land the World Heritage property is located.
- The Riversleigh region is a place of spiritual identity and pride to Indigenous people.
- Local Indigenous people of the region have maintained their links with the land and may wish to provide opportunities for giving the wider community new insights into their culture and its antiquity.
- The region contains a number of Indigenous heritage places such as rock art and burial sites, archaeological sites, spiritual sites, story places, camping places and dreaming tracks.
- The region has a history of cross-cultural conflict as well as cooperation. Recording and recognition of this history will play an important role in resolving social justice issues.

Scientific research values

- Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, including the Riversleigh World Heritage area, is a long-term research resource with much unrealised potential, providing opportunities for research in many scientific and management disciplines. Some of these include: regional geology, tufa palaeogeology and deposition processes studies, and studies in semi-arid and permanent waters animal and plant communities.

Educational values

- The Riversleigh region has the potential to provide an environment for fostering a variety of training disciplines, education and interpretive opportunities. These could include opportunities for science and science educators, remote guiding in natural and cultural interpretation on an historical and contemporary time frame, and land and tourism management, conservation and sustainability.
- The Riversleigh regional landscape offers excellent visual and recreational opportunities that assist education and interpretation of its natural and cultural heritage within a regional,

national and international context, promoting a wider appreciation of the country and its past.

- The Riversleigh region allows scientists and the general community direct access to an important record of natural and human history.
- The region holds valuable opportunities for understanding traditional Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships to the land and the past, as well as an appreciation and understanding of contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous aspirations and culture.
- The Riversleigh region provides an opportunity to promote greater understanding between Indigenous communities, landholders, scientists, government agencies and the wider community, thereby promoting co-operation in research, culture, management and economic ventures.
- The Riversleigh region provides an opportunity to promote a greater understanding of the history of early European settlement.

Natural and landscape values

- Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park was declared as a protected area on the basis of its natural values. These are clearly documented in a number of publications, including the draft Plan of Management for Riversleigh (1994) and the Conservation Status of Queensland's Regional Ecosystems (1999).
- The Riversleigh region has a range of unique and diverse regional landscapes and natural qualities. These include:
 - expansive karst (weathered limestone) landscapes and perennial spring-fed waterways,
 - plains of grassland and sparse Eucalypt savanna woodland,
 - remnant rainforest along permanent spring-fed watercourses,
 - sandstone and limestone ranges forming the eastern edge of the Barkly Tablelands,
 - contrasting habitats of riparian forest and dry grassy open woodland flats and hills,
 - fauna and flora affected by long annual drought, punctuated by wet seasons, and containing species characteristic of both the tropical and arid zones; and
 - significant geological values, including some of the most impressive and extensive active and fossil tufa deposits in Australia;
- The region holds a strong aesthetic appeal, with striking contrasts of wet and dry seasons, beauty and harshness combined with an imposing sense of history and antiquity. It engenders physical and spiritual well-being, self-sufficiency, and a strong personal connection to the land.

Social and economic values

- Industries in the Riversleigh region, such as cattle farming and mining, currently provide social and economic benefits to local communities, including Indigenous people, in the form of employment, education and training.
- There is potential to develop other sustainable industries, such as heritage tourism, which will help to support the regional economy and employment. The Riversleigh region has increasing importance as a tourist destination with visitors being attracted to the remote location, unusual aesthetics and biodiversity, and proximity to Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) Gorge. The Riversleigh region is part of an increased regional tourism based on heritage values (eg dinosaur highway, mining displays).
- The region is a centre for research and education. The research activities add to the regional economy and offer opportunities for regional tourism ventures based on research and education.
- The Riversleigh region provides opportunities for sustainable economies in traditional resources and alternative enterprises (eg bush tucker, medicine).

Historical values

The historical values of the Riversleigh region are related to the general European settlement of northern Australia. Sites such as the Lilydale Homestead and the changing depot for the stagecoach at Lilydale springs represent the history of the pastoral industry in the Gulf region. The region also contains evidence of past industries, such as mining, and abounds with physical evidence of interactions between Indigenous people and European settlers.

Appendix C: Glossary and abbreviations

AFMS Steering Committee	The Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte) Steering Committee
Biodiversity	As defined in the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (Qld) to include the variety of life forms and the ecosystems they form
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Cth	Commonwealth
EA	Environment Australia
Fauna	All animals
Flora	All plants
Fossil	The remains or impression of a plant or animal hardened in rock
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Geographical Positioning System
Intergenerational equity	The principle that the freedom of action of each generation in regard to the environment is qualified by the needs of future generations, Article 5 Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development, IUCN, 1995.
karst	A limestone region with underground drainage.
Palaeontology	The study of life in the geological past.
Precautionary principle	Lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, from the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
Protocol	Rules and formalities
Qld	Queensland
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
RCSAC	Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee
Riversleigh/ Riversleigh World Heritage area/	The north west Queensland portion of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area (Riversleigh/Naracoorte).

Riversleigh World Heritage property	Mammal Sites World Heritage area (Riversleigh/Naracoorte).
Riversleigh region	The wider region around the World Heritage Area
The Strategy	The Riversleigh Management Strategy.
Tufa formation deposits	Porous rocks composed of calcium carbonate and formed around mineral springs.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WMAC	Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee.
World Heritage	A title ascribed to an area having natural and / or cultural heritage values of outstanding universal significance and recognised through its inscription on the World Heritage List
World Heritage Convention	The Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Appendix D: Legislative enactments applicable to Riversleigh

The following Acts of parliament are particularly relevant to activities at Riversleigh.

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld)
- *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* (Cth)
- *Cultural Records (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987* (Qld)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
- *Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1990* (Qld)
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (Qld)
- *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)
- *Queensland Museums Act 1970* (Qld)
- *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* (Qld)

Appendix E: Terms of Reference for Management Arrangements for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage Area

(A) AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL MAMMAL SITES MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(a) Terms of Reference

(i) Coordinate policy between Queensland, South Australia and the Commonwealth on all matters concerning the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area, including policy on:

- management requirements
- management plans and strategic plans
- research and education
- presentation and promotion
- community consultation and liaison; and
- financial matters

for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area.

(ii) Refer matters to the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee and consider reports from these bodies.

(iii) Resolve any disputes that might arise between the three Governments.

(b) Membership

(i) Equal membership of one member from each Government.

(c) Operation

(i) The Council will be chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

(ii) A quorum will be one member of each Government.

(iii) To meet on an as agreed basis provided that at least one meeting is held per calendar year.

(iv) Secretariat support will be provided by the Commonwealth Department for the Environment and Heritage.

(v) Decisions will be made on a consensus basis.

(B) AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL MAMMAL SITES STEERING COMMITTEE

(a) Terms of Reference

The Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) will, under the direction of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council), provide advice and strategic direction for the consistent, cooperative and coordinated management of the declared World Heritage property across administrative boundaries in accordance with the World Heritage Management Principles established in Commonwealth legislation and in accordance with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

The major functions of the Steering Committee will be:

- (i) To develop and coordinate strategic policy for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage area in relation to Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention;
- (ii) To advise the Ministerial Council, either at the request of the Council or of its own volition, on matters relevant to the effective management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites, in particular strategic management planning, funding arrangements and presentation;
- (iii) To initiate the development of long-term financial arrangements for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites and, in the interim, set broad priorities for expenditure;
- (iv) To seek and take advice from the Riversleigh and Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committees, as appropriate, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites from a 'whole of property' perspective; and
- (v) To resolve differences in points of view which may arise from time to time.

(b) Membership

There will be a total of 6 members of the Steering Committee:

- Two representatives from Environment Australia;
- Two representatives from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; and
- Two representatives from National Parks and Wildlife South Australia.

(c) Operation

The Steering Committee will operate according to the following procedures:

- (i) A quorum will consist of at least one member from each Government;

- (ii) The Steering Committee will meet up to twice a year or at the request of the Ministerial Council.
- (iii) Secretariat support for meetings will be provided by the Commonwealth Government.
- (iv) The location of meetings will be by agreement between the members of the Steering Committee;
- (v) A Commonwealth representative will be the Chairperson of the Steering Committee;
- (vi) The conduct of business will be, wherever possible, by consensus and resolution. There will be no provision for voting;
- (vii) Governments will bear the costs of their own representatives attending meetings of the Steering Committee;
- (viii) The Chairpersons of the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee will attend meetings of the Steering Committee when required to advise and present reports on the deliberations/recommendations of their respective Committees.
- (ix) State agencies will bear the cost of non-Government members attending meetings and the Commonwealth will bear the cost of sitting fees and allowances for non-Government members as prescribed in Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.

(C) RIVERSLEIGH COMMUNITY AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Terms of Reference

- (i) To advise the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, either at the request of these bodies or of its own volition, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage area from the view point of the community and scientists.
- (ii) To facilitate, and participate in, implementation of the Riversleigh Management Strategy, including providing advice on matters concerning funding requirements, sources and priorities and the development of plans of management.
- (iii) To consult with relevant State, Commonwealth and local government agencies, local landholders and the local traditionally affiliated Indigenous community concerning management of Riversleigh.
- (iv) To ensure appropriate consideration is given to the wishes of the local traditionally affiliated Indigenous community in relation to management of Riversleigh and in any cultural or natural heritage research, including providing advice or making recommendations on research proposals and programs.

(b) Membership

There will be a total of ten members of the Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee and two ex officio members, comprising:

- one independent Chairperson, nominated by the Commonwealth and agreed to by the Ministerial Council;
- two representatives from the Waanyi Ministerial Advisory Committee;
- the Waanyi representative on the Carpentaria Land Council;
- a representative from the Waanyi One Nations Claim Committee;
- a Waanyi representative from the Lawn Hill and Riversleigh Pastoral Holding Company (the adjoining leaseholder);
- one scientific representative from the palaeontology field of study;
- one representative from the Queensland tourism industry;
- one representative from the Queensland Museum;
- one local government representative;

- one representative of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (ex officio);
and
- one representative of Environment Australia (ex officio).

(c) Appointments

The Chair of the Ministerial Council will appoint members for a period of up to three years. Members will be eligible for reappointment.

(d) Termination

The Chair of the Ministerial Council may terminate the appointment of members.

(e) Operation

The Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee will operate according to the following procedures:

- (i) A quorum will be a simple majority of members.
- (ii) The Committee will meet up to four times a year, or as determined necessary by the Chairperson, or at the request of the Ministerial Council.
- (iii) Secretariat support will be provided by the Riversleigh Executive Officer.
- (iv) If the Chairperson is absent, the Committee will elect an Acting Chairperson.
- (v) Minutes and decisions of each meeting are to be kept and forwarded to the Chair of the Ministerial Council and the Chair of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee within 21 days of each meeting. An Annual Report will be prepared for the Ministerial Council.
- (vii) Procedures for the conduct of business will be by consensus and resolution and subject to direction from the Ministerial Council.
- (viii) Each appointed member will provide the Chairperson with the name and contact details of an alternative who may act during the illness or absence of that member.
- (ix) Commonwealth and Queensland agencies will bear the cost of their own representatives attending meetings. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will bear the cost of non-Government members attending meetings and the Commonwealth will bear the cost of sitting fees and allowances for non-Government members as prescribed in Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.
- (x) The Commonwealth will bear the cost of any interpreter services required for meetings.

(D) NARACOORTE COMMUNITY AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(a) Terms of Reference

- (i) To advise the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee, either at the request of these bodies or of its own volition, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Naracoorte component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) World Heritage area from the view point of the community and scientists.
- (ii) To facilitate, and participate in, implementation of the Naracoorte Caves National Park Management Plan, including providing advice on funding requirements, sources and priorities and the development of other plans of management.
- (iii) To consult with relevant State, Commonwealth and local government agencies and the local community concerning management of Naracoorte.
- (iv) To ensure appropriate consideration is given to any cultural or natural heritage research, including providing advice or making recommendations on research proposals and programs.

(b) Membership

There will be a total of nine members of the Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee and two ex officio members, comprising:

- one independent Chairperson, nominated by the Commonwealth and agreed to by Ministerial Council;
- two representatives from the local traditionally affiliated Indigenous community;
- one representative of the South Australian Museum;
- one representative of the Community Consultative Committee of the Naracoorte region;
- one scientific representative from the palaeontology field of study;
- one representative of the South Australian tourism industry;
- one representative from leaseholder/ landowners whose properties adjoin the World Heritage Area;
- one local government representative;
- one National Parks and Wildlife South Australia representative at the manager or regional manager level (ex officio); and
- one representative of Environment Australia (ex officio).

(c) Appointments

The Chair of the Ministerial Council will appoint members for a period of up to three years. Members will be eligible for reappointment.

(d) Termination

The Chair of the Ministerial Council may terminate the appointment of members.

(e) Operation

The Naracoorte Community and Scientific Consultative Committee will operate according to the following procedures:

- (i) A quorum will be a simple majority of members.
- (ii) The Committee will meet up to four times a year, or as determined necessary by the Chairperson, or at the request of the Ministerial Council.
- (iii) Secretariat support will be provided by the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia.
- (iv) If the Chairperson is absent, the Committee will elect an Acting Chairperson.
- (v) Minutes and decisions of each meeting are to be kept and forwarded to the Chair of the Ministerial Council and the Chair of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Steering Committee within 21 days of each meeting. An Annual Report will be prepared for the Ministerial Council.
- (vii) Procedures for the conduct of business will be by consensus and resolution and subject to direction from the Ministerial Council.
- (viii) Each appointed member will provide the Chairperson with the name and contact details of an alternative who may act during the illness or absence of that member.
- (ix) Commonwealth and South Australian agencies will bear the cost of their own representatives attending meetings. National Parks and Wildlife South Australia will bear the cost of non-Government members attending meetings and the Commonwealth will bear the cost of sitting fees and allowances for non-Government members as prescribed in Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.

Appendix F: Responsibility For Planning and Management of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/ Naracoorte) World Heritage Area

- (i) Under the World Heritage Convention the Commonwealth Government has an obligation to ensure appropriate management plans are in place for each listed property.
- (ii) Queensland is responsible for planning and management of the Riversleigh component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites. South Australia is responsible for planning and management of the Naracoorte component of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.
- (iii) Planning and Management will be undertaken in accordance with:
 - (a) Plans of Management adopted under respective State legislation; and
 - (b) the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (iv) Statutory management plans and pastoral property plans will among other things facilitate implementation of Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.
- (v) Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and National Parks and Wildlife South Australia (NPWSA), with assistance from the Commonwealth, are to be the lead agencies in the preparation of respective management plans and strategies:
 - (a) QPWS will be responsible for the Riversleigh Management Strategy; and
 - (b) NPWSA will be responsible for the Naracoorte Caves Management Plan.
 - (c) QPWS and NPWSA will be responsible for the compilation/collation of reports on implementation of their respective management arrangements and monitoring the status of the property, an annual report on protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the property to be provided to the Ministerial Council.
 - (d) QPWS and NPWSA will be responsible for the compilation and maintenance of a comprehensive database for their respective management purposes.