

IMAGE GALLERY

UNLOCKING KNOWLEDGE
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

Together we are digitising and sharing treasures from Queensland Museum's collections.

Images are available on request.
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PROJECT <DIG>

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

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BHP

 **QUEENSLAND
MUSEUM NETWORK**

 **Queensland
Government**

PROJECT <DIG>

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

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BHP and Queensland Museum have entered into a unique partnership not seen before in Australia. It's a partnership that will enable Queensland Museum to transform how it stores, explores and shares its research and information with students and scientists no matter where they are in the world.

WHAT IS PROJECT DIG?

Building on an already successful decade-long partnership, Project DIG is a ground-breaking five-year collaboration that will see the Museum's globally significant collection shared with the world. Project DIG will provide opportunities for innovators, researchers and students to work together to discover solutions to complex problems of international relevance.

Through Project DIG, Queensland Museum and BHP are working together to give the world access to the Museum's invaluable data – access that will see new discoveries and collaborations of scientific significance.

Project DIG will revolutionise Queensland Museum's scientific imaging capabilities by delivering a state-of-the-art data management solution.

New information sharing technology will see students, scientists and innovators working together to find solutions to complex problems as they explore Queensland Museum's extensive research and collections.

Project DIG will extend the reach of the Queensland Museum's educational program with an expanded focus on sharing knowledge and ideas with Queensland schools about the global relevance of Earth Sciences.

Interactive digital experiences, curriculum-linked resources and community events will be delivered through Project DIG.

The ground-breaking online data-sharing initiative Project DIG empowers students, researchers and communities around the world as they work together to unlock new scientific discoveries.

HOW DID IT BEGIN?

QMN and BHP have a long partnership history that began with the discovery of megafauna fossils at the BMC South Walker Creek metallurgical coal mine site near Nebo in 2008.

Megafauna fossils were first discovered by Barada Barna Traditional Owners during a routine cultural heritage survey in 2008.

The South Walker Creek site preserves fossilised evidence of a previously unknown ancient tropical ecosystem, full of extinct species of supersized crocodiles, lizards and marsupials; known collectively as "megafauna".

The South Walker Creek fossils may represent a new suite of extinct species unique to tropical Australia.

South Walker Creek is potentially the youngest megafauna site in Australia and may hold the key to understanding the evolution and extinction of Australia's megafauna, especially how these species responded to past climatic changes and the arrival of humans in the tropical north.

Project DIG will incorporate QMN's SWC megafauna research into a multi-disciplinary project that includes field work, research and education resources that explore both the modern and ancient environments of South Walker Creek. By examining how the environment at South Walker Creek has changed over time, and how these systems are connected today, we can better understand how our environment might change in the future.

HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY HELP?

With unprecedented digital and virtual access to our globally significant scientific collections and research, audiences can become curators of their own virtual collection, researchers will make new discoveries and new collaborations will harness the potential of new digital technologies.

Thanks to Queensland Museum's partnership with BHP, scientists big and small throughout the state will be engaged in the wonders of science through interactive digital experiences, curriculum-linked resources and community events.

WORKING TOGETHER

Queensland Museum Network connects real objects and contemporary research with communities across the state and beyond, creating authentic and compelling experiences and stories that inspire, enrich and empower.

BHP is a world-leading resources company determined to make a positive difference through their performance, shaping change for the better through innovation, productivity and technology.

Project DIG is a creative alliance centred on enabling and rewarding innovative thinking. It will provide new opportunities for researchers, educators, learners, entrepreneurs and innovators to work together to discover creative solutions to global challenges.

MEDIA RELEASE

August 2018

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM AND BHP'S \$7.6 MILLION COLLABORATION UNLOCKS QUEENSLAND'S RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Project DIG to help Australian scientists, innovators and researchers find new solutions to the complex problems facing the world today

Queensland Museum and BHP today announced a unique partnership, never seen before in Australia, which will transform how the Museum stores, explores and shares its extensive research with students and scientists no matter where they are in the world.

Building on a decade-long partnership, the ground-breaking five-year collaboration will see the Museum's globally significant collection shared with the world providing opportunities for today's researchers and tomorrow's experts to make discoveries of global significance.

The \$7.6 million investment was announced in Mackay today at the start of Queensland Museum's National Science Week celebrations by Queensland Museum Network Acting CEO Dr Jim Thompson and BHP General Manager Edan Stolberg.

Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch praised the project's aim to expand the global reach of the Queensland Museum by digitising and visualising research using cutting edge 3D interactive technology.

"Project DIG (Digital Infrastructure Growth) is an alliance that will transform how the Museum shares its extensive research with students and scientists no matter where they are – in a Year Two classroom in Mackay or a university laboratory in Germany.

"The Museum's educational program will also benefit by sharing new knowledge and ideas with Queensland schools, inspiring young scientists across the state," Minister Enoch said.

Together Queensland Museum and BHP will embark on a five-year collaboration that will create new education resources, world-class 3D scanning capabilities, interactive visualisation technologies and an extensive online research portal for students, scientists, innovators and researchers to explore.

Project DIG will initially focus on the South Walker Creek Mine site located 40 kilometres west of Nebo in the Bowen Basin, where megafauna, extinct supersized species of mammals, reptiles and marsupials have been discovered by Queensland Museum and BHP scientists during annual digs over the past decade.

The South Walker Creek site will form the baseline project for Project DIG as the Queensland Museum embarks on digitising and visualising the information collected there using cutting-edge 3D interactive technologies.

Queensland Museum Network Acting Chief Executive Officer Jim Thompson said Project DIG was a forward-thinking collaboration and commitment between Queensland Museum and BHP to enabling and rewarding innovative thinking.

"In the age of innovation through collaboration, the Museum needs access to new technologies to extend the reach and impact of its collection and research.

"Project DIG will make that possible – we are excited to have the opportunity to work with BHP and their extensive industry networks in the creation of this world-class eResearch initiative.

"It not only enhances the work already being done by Queensland Museum but benefits all scientists, big or small, in their quest to uncover, discover and solve the challenges facing the world.

"Project DIG will revolutionise how scientists, established and aspiring, use and interact with Queensland's State Collection of more than 1.2 million objects," Dr Thompson said.

BHP General Manager Edan Stolberg said the Project DIG collaboration will deliver innovative technologies that will allow scientists to reveal new and exciting information not accessible before.

"As a company focussed on excellence in innovation and technology, we are delighted to continue our partnership with Queensland Museum through Project DIG – together we can build on the state's eResearch capabilities sharing significant research that will help the scientists of today and tomorrow unlock solutions to global problems. Mr Stolberg said.

"It is our hope that through our continued partnership that communities of researchers, learners, entrepreneurs and innovators can work together to question, challenge and create solutions to the challenges of the future."

For more information and ongoing project updates please visit: www.projectdig.qm.qld.gov.au

