

BASS COAST DINOSAURS TRAIL



BASS
COAST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The **Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail** will provide an **extraordinary, creative and scientific experience** by drawing on the significance of the region's **unique pre-historic heritage and Bunurong culture**. The development of a scientific and creative experience will set the scene for this iconic cultural landscape and elevate the region as a year round tourism destination.

Bass Coast is one of the few places on earth where polar dinosaur fossils can be found. The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail builds on the **ground breaking work**, passion and enterprise of the local community and palaeontologists over the past 40 years. The Trail will **educate residents and visitors** about the embedded value and diversity found within fossils and pre-historic fauna in the region.

The Trail incorporates the values and significance of the **Bunurong Traditional Owners**, as traditional owners of the land and their deep connection to country over many thousands of years.

Science and culture, knowledge and sensitivity are amongst some of the many narratives of the trail. This **visionary project** offers numerous benefits to residents and the several million visitors who come to the region each year.

The Trail will work to link significant fossils identified at **six key geographical sites** from San Remo through to Wonthaggi and Inverloch. At each site a creative response including Gondwana garden, interactive playground and significant art installations along the coast will be supported by wayfinding information, stories and a digital platform. This multi-layered interpretation plan will be established alongside a leading tourism experience where visitors can step in and out of the Dinosaurs Trail, engage with Bunurong culture, and interact with local business and accommodation offerings in the region.

Visitors will be transported back 125 million years via an immersive storytelling experience sharing scientific value and cultural memories.

The synergy with a Museum/ Cultural Centre in Inverloch and a sound and light show in Wonthaggi would further support the Dinosaurs Trail Masterplan, encouraging extended visitation and excitement around Bass Coast. The Trail will work to entice local, interstate, national and international visitors to the region to experience this unique polar dinosaur trail, which will be an exemplar in its presentation and many moving parts.

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail Masterplan **will be complete in October, 2021** and provide a roadmap for the delivery of this incredible and important project.

What is the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail:

It will be an iconic experience **of learning and creativity** traversing 40kms of Bass Coast, Gippsland showcasing unique townships and building sustainable **tourism**.

Featuring six creative sites, the Trail will intersect with the Yallock-Bulluk Marine Coastal Park. The Trail will be collaborative with Yallock-Bulluk and the Bass Coast Rail Trail, both of which will be serviced by a walking and cycling path, from San Remo to Inverloch.

The six key sites on the Dinosaurs Trail will be **fully accessible by car** and supported by access on foot or bike. These sites will be located in San Remo, Kilcunda, Wonthaggi, Eagles Nest, The Caves and Inverloch.

Who are we working with:

The location of the Dinosaurs Trail sites have been developed in a close partnership with Parks Victoria, DELWP, specialist consultants, the Bass Coast community, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and key community stakeholders.

This project engages with local residents and visitors alike to gain knowledge and a sense of creativity in their connection with the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail and our amazing coastline.



What will it cost?

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail will cost approximately \$20 million. Whilst full costings are yet to be finalised, this will encompass construction phase, project and planning developments, creative components on the trail and art elements (\$7 million) as well as a proposed Museum/Cultural Centre (\$7 million) and Sound and Light installation in Wonthaggi (\$6 million).

How many jobs will it create:

Economic modelling indicates the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail will be a significant job creator for the broader Gippsland region generating hundreds of direct and indirect year-round employment opportunities across hospitality, retail, tourism, education and professional services sectors. These industries that have been particularly devastated by COVID-19 in regional Victoria.

As the Bass Coast continues to grow, employment boosts through major initiatives like these, are critical to the ongoing economic prosperity of the region.

Why are we developing the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail:

The value of the Trail is not exclusive to the dinosaurs themselves, but immersed in the stories of how polar dinosaurs came to roam the area which is now known as the Bass Coast.

The significance of the Dinosaurs Trail is attached to the pre-historic fauna found along the Bass Coast since the **first dinosaur fossil** was discovered in **1903 at Eagles Nest**. For the past 40 years, more fossils have been found along our coastline. The findings have set the Bass Coast as one of the most exclusive places in the world related to polar dinosaurs. The Trail aims to inform visitors on this unique significance, but most importantly, outlining the body of **people** who elevated the area as a major finding location. **Stories** make memories and we want visitors to gain education and insight. In order to do this, we will think of the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail beyond its physical boundaries. A meaningful and creative narrative will be developed that is informed by science and arches all six sites through **storytelling**.

Pre-historic inspiring scientific information, **Aboriginal** Cultural Heritage, and **Geoheritage** are the themes that will run through the Dinosaurs Trail.

The story of the Trail gains **authenticity** through the **scientific knowledge** and pre-historic faunal heritage. However, it is the work of people that have allowed the experience, from the long lasting cultural practices of Traditional Owners to the modern day 'Dino Hunters' who scour the coast for remnants and fossils of our ancient land.

The local community's commitment to the Bass Coast region is also recognised as the protectors of the natural environment which ensures ongoing dinosaur fossil excavations and quality outdoor experience for residents and visitors.



Creative art installations:

Dinosaurs bring a sense of wonder and excitement. Curatorial drivers for the project push artwork beyond overt dinosaur sculptural depictions. There are many conceptual pathways an artist could take to create unique and engaging works of resonance and explore science, landscape, imagination and culture. Playing with scale, form, light, sound, material, site, colour, the landscape or even Paleo art itself are all considerations.

The opportunity to work with science, evidence and paleontological process will engage and stimulate the imagination of creators. This is already evident in depictions of dinosaurs in art. Paleo art, whilst faithfully depicting the science, is done as an imaginary exercise, using part of the available evidence to bring fossils to life as dinosaurs.

While diverse treatments, materials, form and approaches may be taken, a curatorial storytelling framework for the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail will bind the works together through a shared narrative. Within the curatorial framework, artists would be encouraged to move beyond literal depictions and play with many layers associated with palaeontology, excavation, prospecting, geology, local culture and ecology.

While the area is public space and should be treated respectfully, the subject matter provides permission for imagination, and by extension playfulness, while considering the cultural heritage of each area.

Wayfinding and interpretation

The creative art installations will be complimented by extensive interpretive wayfinding reflecting the culture and connection to country of the Bunurong People. Wayfinding signage will guide people through the landscapes and townships along the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail.

It will feature practical information that provides visitors with relevant mapping, accessibility levels and proximity to towns and amenities. While signage is an obvious wayfinding device, so too are indigenous plants, sound or text based storytelling, embedded within the surrounding landscape can provide direction and orientation.

Wayfinding signage would be a vehicle to embed stories and information across the region. The Bunurong stories, cultural values and connection to country would be complimented by paleontological information and historical dig references.

A joint project between the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and other parties involved in research and digs across Victoria, including in Bass Coast would establish a unique scientific and cultural thread for the project.





Museum/ Cultural Centre in Inverloch

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail presents an ideal synergy for a Museum/ Cultural Centre to be developed in Inverloch. The museum concept development would be considered with the local community and special interest community groups to deliver a multifaceted facility.

It would interplay with the adjacent Wyeth-McNamara Park (Rainbow Park) a key site for creative response, which is planned for redevelopment in 2021/22. This redevelopment will include a dinosaur narrative and it will also be the creative art installation site.

The museum would incorporate the overarching themes and narrative of the Dinosaurs Trail. It will also enable a space for ongoing education and research and ensure the sustainability of the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail.

It presents further opportunities for community participation, as well as science and cultural intercourse. A Museum/Cultural Centre would explore the connections among scientific knowledge and culture linked with stories.

It is a chance to extend the Dinosaurs Trail experience, bring together complementary experiences and become a key tourism driver.

Sound and Light Concept

A sound and light installation illustrates some of the creative possibilities for the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail.

Sound and light can be developed in a partnership with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and local community to help tell their stories through art at the Gondwana garden to be created as part of the project.

A Sound and Light Show in Wonthaggi would offer a world class experience within the Dinosaurs Trail and link science, Aboriginal culture and history. The collaborative work would support the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail experience and become a key visitor experience for the region.

