



Gigantic bronze dinosaurs arrive on The Jump-Up

Winton's Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum today announced the arrival of 13 life-size bronze dinosaurs at The Jump-Up, near Winton in western Queensland. Digitally sculpted by palaeo-artist Travis Tischler, the bronze models, two of which are long-necked sauropod dinosaurs, were cast at a foundry in Thailand and took nearly a year to complete.

The new dinosaurs were made using modern 'lost-plastic' technology that involves 3D printing of digital models in meltable plastic, instead of the 'lost-wax' method traditionally used in bronze casting. At 17m long and nearly 4m high, the largest sauropod was too big to fit in a standard open-top 40-foot-long container and had to be transported with its neck and tail removed. Other models include a 10m-long sub-adult sauropod, emu-sized ornithomimid dinosaurs and chicken-sized carnivorous theropods.

After spending over a month at sea the dinosaurs were offloaded in Townsville before continuing their journey out to Winton by semi-trailer. The immense size of the sauropods necessitated the employment of a crane to lift them out of their containers and place them into position at their new home at Dinosaur Canyon.

The dinosaurs will become part of the future *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition, which is centred on a newly discovered 60m-long sauropod trackway currently being relocated from a creek bed on a property west of Winton. The trackway, which contains the best-preserved sauropod tracks in Australia, will be enclosed in a 900sqm solar-powered air-conditioned building at Dinosaur Canyon.

The *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition forms part of the Museum's *Dynamic Destination* project that has been funded by the Queensland Government's Growing Tourism Infrastructure (GTI) Fund. The project, which is due for completion by mid-2021, will be a comprehensive addition to the Museum's tourist attractions and is a prelude to the future Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History.

Executive Chairman of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, David Elliott, who is overseeing the sauropod trackway relocation and Dynamic Destination project, said the safe arrival of the bronze dinosaurs is very exciting. "The logistics in getting these models built and transported all the way to Winton from Thailand has been very intense so having them finally arrive without a scratch is a huge relief" he said. Mr Elliott said that visitors will soon be able to see the sauropod trackway and then stand next to the dinosaurs that made them. "The sauropod models are based on the bones of *Diamantinasaurus* that were discovered near Winton about 15 years ago. The models are massive and they are incredibly detailed – they will be a significant drawcard for