

## Geo-Tourism Trail

**Northern Australia Priority: Simpler land arrangements to support investment / Our Business, trade and investment gateway.**

**State Electorate:** Traeger / Hill / Cook

**Federal Electorate:** Kennedy

**Council:** Etheridge / Croydon / Mareeba / Tablelands

### Priority Recommendation

FNQROC provide advice for noting only re future collaboration/funding opportunities.

### Project Overview

Geo-Tourism aims to foster sustainable tourism based on landscapes, including protecting, communicating and promoting geological heritage, building communities and working with a wide range of people. It's about tapping into a large and rapidly growing overseas market seeking high value and branded nature-based tourism experiences.

Geo-Tourism offers the opportunity to reinvigorate the domestic travel market so that the whole community benefits from packaging and branding the current tourism product and experience using the landscape and geological factors to enhance economic growth.

The trail recognises well patronised geosites comprising Undara Volcanic Park, Cobbold Gorge, Copperfield Gorge, the three fossicking areas of Flat Creek, Agate Creek and O'Briens Creek.

Of critical importance the strategy also proposes collaborative pilot projects to both develop opportunities for grazing properties and with the Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation to assist the redevelopment of Talaroo Hot Springs geo-site.

It is envisaged the establishment of strong geo-trail linkages with attractions outside the Shire such as Chillagoe, Croydon, 40 Mile Scrub National Park, Mt Garnet / Herberton / Irvinebank, as well as with the Dinosaur Trail and Flinders Discovery Centre of Western Queensland. Essentially you could develop a tourism journey from Cairns to Broome.

### Key Strategic Drivers

<b>Economic</b>	Opportunity to develop collaborative trail link across a number of local government areas in the region
<b>Social Enterprise</b>	Foster sustainable tourism based on landscapes, including the protection and promotion of geological heritage.
<b>Employment</b>	Increased employment opportunities through newly developed tourism ventures.
<b>Tourism</b>	Diversification of traditional tourism offers, developing a Geo-tourism journey from Cairns to Broome.  Ability to align with rapidly growing international market seeking high value and branded nature-based tourism experiences.