

Media Release

The Hon Danny Pearson MP
Assistant Treasurer
Minister for Regulatory Reform
Minister for Government Services
Minister for Creative Industries



Monday, 7 March 2022

TRICERATOPS ROARS INTO MELBOURNE MUSEUM

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering another world class attraction to Victoria, with *Triceratops: Fate of the Dinosaurs* opening to the public this week featuring one of the world's most complete Triceratops fossils.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson visited Melbourne Museum today to get face to face with the jaw-dropping 67-million-year-old, 1,000kg fossil ahead of the exhibition opening on Saturday, 12 March.

Measuring six to seven metres from tip to tail and standing more than two metres tall, the fossil – named Horridus after the species of Triceratops to which it belongs – is larger than a full-grown African elephant.

Horridus is one of the most globally significant palaeontological discoveries. With 266 bones, it is the world's most finely preserved Triceratops skeleton, and the most complete real dinosaur skeleton in any Australian museum.

Melbourne Museum's immersive exhibition invites visitors to get up close and personal to the impressive fossil, taking them on a journey back in time to explore the landscape and complex ecosystems it once called home in the Cretaceous period.

The exhibit showcases the environments where the Triceratops roamed, the creatures Horridus lived alongside, and what became of the survivors of the Cretaceous period. Dino-fans will also learn about the process of fossilisation and how palaeontology helps us understand vast swathes of time.

In addition to the captivating exhibition, the acquisition of Horridus positions Victoria as a leader in paleontological science, delivering economic and educational benefits beyond the exhibition.

Discovered in 2014 in Montana, USA, Horridus was retrieved from under 3.5 metres of sandstone. Since arriving in Melbourne in 2021, a team of Museums Victoria paleontologists, conservators and collection managers have been working to prepare the fossil for display.

This exhibition is part of a \$36.2 million investment provided by the Labor Government in the *Victorian Budget 2021-22* to support the creation of new immersive family experiences at Melbourne Museum, including *Triceratops: Fate of the Dinosaurs*.

For tickets and further information on *Triceratops: Fate of the Dinosaurs*, visit melbournemuseumtriceratops.com.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson

"Horridus and its amazing backstory will be a massive drawcard for Melbourne Museum, inspiring wonder, curiosity and delight in dino-fans of all ages for generations to come."

"The museum is constantly evolving and that's one of the reasons why Victorians love it so much. We're proud to deliver an awesome attraction that will please crowds and lead to a new understanding of our natural history."

Quote attributable to Museums Victoria CEO and Director Lynley Crosswell

"It is not unusual for museums to collect dinosaur fossils. It is exceptional, however, for a museum to have a specimen of the quality and significance of this fossil, we can't wait for the public to experience Horridus."

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