

# Sapphire Gemfields Interpretive Trail Project

## What is the project?

The Sapphire Gemfields Interpretive Trail project is a significant investment initiative in the development of regional tourism infrastructure. It aims to enhance the visitor's experience through educational and learning opportunities in the interpretation of geological features, history, culture and the fossicking process.

This project expands on previous work done with the establishment of the 'Dig the Tropic' themed geo-tourism trail which links the wonders of the Southern Great Barrier Reef with the mysteries of Queensland's Outback. It is the only known trail of its kind in the world, enabling visitors to experience a self-drive trail like no other. Following the Tropic of Capricorn, visitors experience a living museum created by ancient events left behind. Dig the Tropic includes sites such as the Stone House Museum, Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Lark Quarry, the Sapphire Gemfields, Capricorn Caves and the Great Barrier Reef.

Key elements of the Sapphire Gemfields Interpretive Trail project include:

- One large, high quality, attention grabbing signature art feature, reflective of the local region;
- Five large interpretive nodes in a series of covered panels across each of the four townships of Anakie, Willows Gemfields, Sapphire and Rubyvale and in addition to the signature art feature, and;
- Thirty smaller interpretive place markers, used to convey key information and stories, located at points of interest or significance throughout the Sapphire Gemfields.

These components will be supported by geo-caching and smart phone enabled technology to enhance the tourist experience.

## How was it funded and when will it happen?

Council was successful in obtaining \$245 900 from the Australian Government's Tourism Demand-Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) Program, administered by the Queensland Government's Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. The Sapphire Gemfields Interpretive Trail project is jointly funded by council and has a total budget of \$590 000.

The project was initiated by the community-based volunteer group known as the Sapphire Gemfields Interpretive Trail Steering Committee. They work in conjunction with council and Central Highlands Development Corporation. The project works will be completed by 30 June 2017.

## How can I get involved?

Contact your Sapphire Gemfields Steering Committee representatives. Key contacts are Ewan Letts from Blue Gem Caravan Park at Sapphire on (07) 4985 4162 and Kim Tompson, Miner's Common Museum 0407 760 001. If you prefer to email, contact [admin@sapphiregemfields.com.au](mailto:admin@sapphiregemfields.com.au)

We will be hosting community engagement sessions for the commissioning of the public artwork over coming months.

**For more information or enquiries please contact Manager Community and Customer Service Luke Lankowski on 1300 242 686 or Project Manager Sonya Comiskey on 0438 876 729.**

