



Geoparks

A powerful development vehicle for Australia

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Vice President – Geoparks WA



**Global ECO Conference
Margaret River, WA
Thursday 3 December 2020**





Geoparks



**A powerful new driver
of sustainable
regional development**



**Geoparks
are not
National Parks**



Geoparks



- A Geopark is a UNESCO initiative which starts with geology and landscape to foster sustainable regional economic development
- Geoparks foster conservation, community well-being and economic development



Geopark Essentials



The five fundamental features of a UNESCO Global Geopark are:

- 1. Geological heritage of international value**
- 2. A clear boundary and good governance**
- 3. Visibility - information and promotion**
- 4. Networking – within the park and across the global network**
- 5. Geoparks are re-evaluated every 4 years**

Geoparks are powered by Geotourism

**Geotourism
is not Ecotourism
and it is not
Geological Tourism**



Geoparks & Geotourism



**Geoparks
are the vehicle**



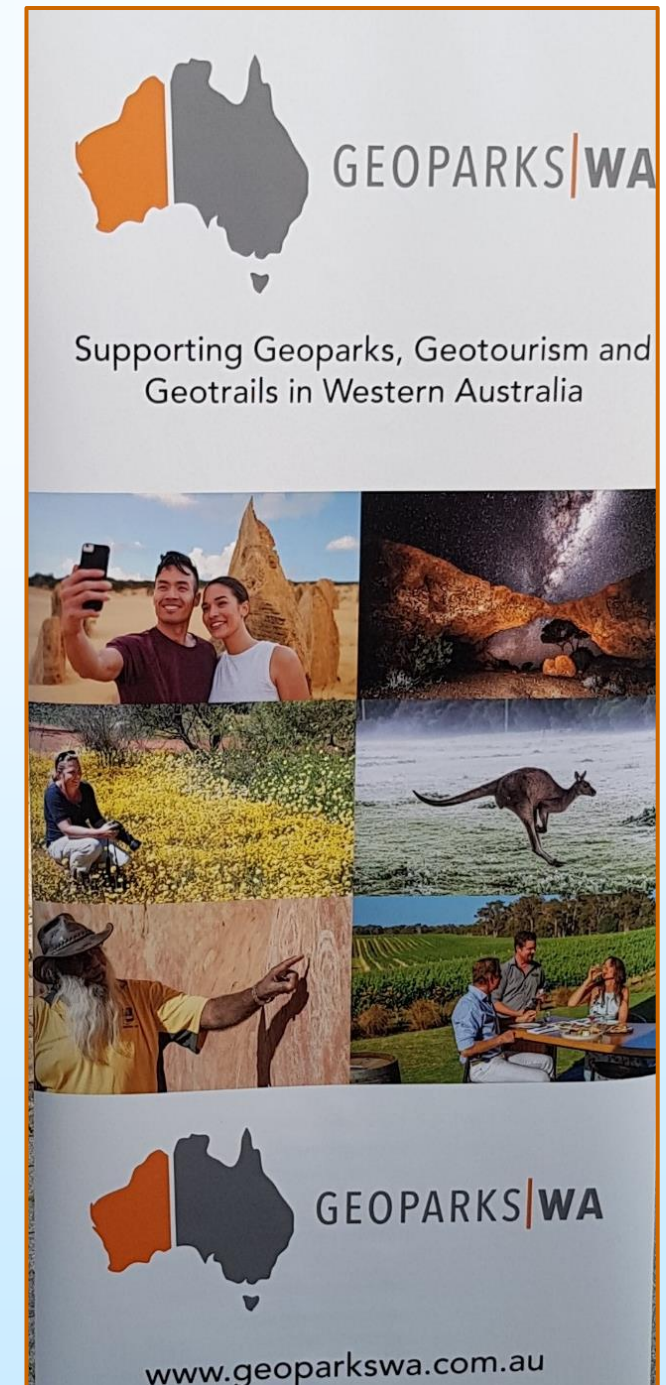
**Geotourism
is the engine**

Geotourism's 'ABC'

Abiotic – non living parts of the environment – earth **geology** (landscape & landforms) and **sky** (astrology & climate)

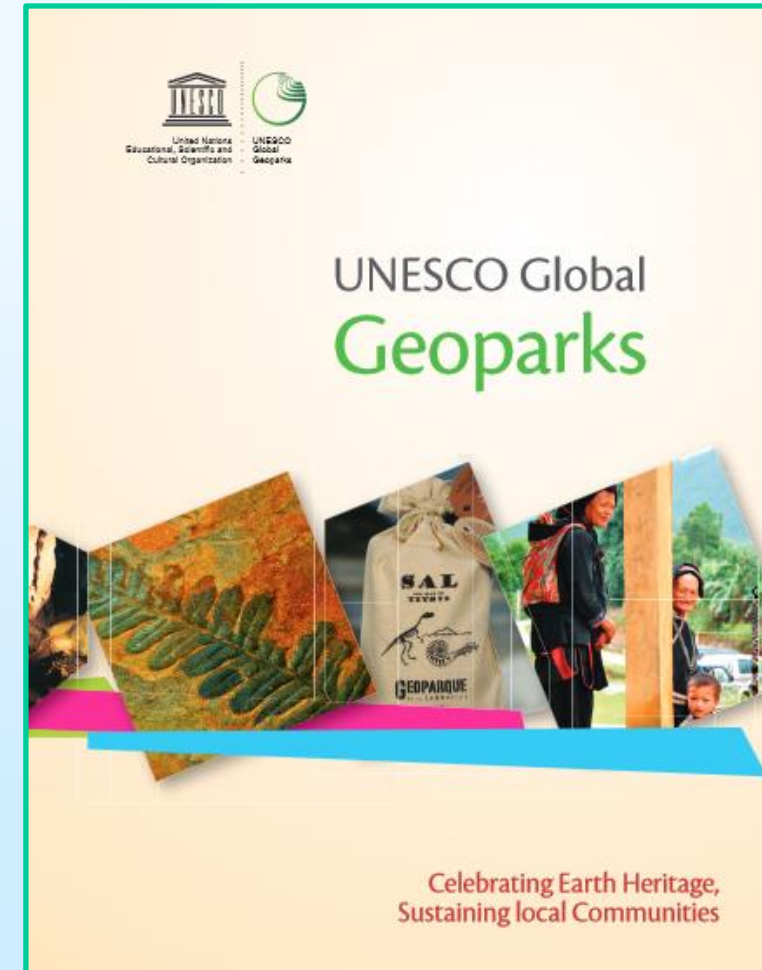
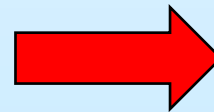
Biotic – the living parts of the environment - both **plants** (flora) and **animals** (fauna)

Culture – people **past** and **present**



Levels of Geoparks

| Level |
|----------|
| Aspiring |
| National |
| Global |





UNESCO Global Geoparks



***Celebrating Earth Heritage
Sustaining Local Communities***



UNESCO Global Geoparks

[161 in 44 countries]



Europe [75]







Geoparks are vehicles for



1. Economic growth
2. Job creation
3. Community well-being
4. Conservation
5. Tourism development
6. Educational links
7. Scientific research
8. Cultural revival
9. Aboriginal enterprise
10. A global network

Economic Benefits

Geoparks generate jobs, stimulate the economy and contribute to regional development



Ireland



China

Geoparks provide jobs for locals

HÀ NỘI — Local communities have an important role to play in the management and development of geoparks, said experts at the second Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium held in Hà Nội yesterday.

The symposium's theme revolved around sustainable development in the region through the promotion of geoparks, which are defined by UNESCO as a territory encompassing one or more sites of scientific importance, not only for geographic reasons, but also by virtue of archaeological, ecological or cultural value.




Đông Văn Karst Plateau Geopark, located in the northernmost province of Hà Giang, is the first geopark recognised by the Global Geoparks Network in Việt Nam, and also the second geopark in Southeast Asia.

According to Dr Phạm Khải Nguyên, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, concepts such as geoparks, geoheritage and geotourism, though relatively new, have already taken shape and are a strong trend in many societies.




According to Katherine Muller Marin, Representative...



UNESCO Programs

| Program | Sites | Countries |
|---|-------------|------------|
|  World Heritage | 1121 | 167 |
|  Man and the Biosphere | 701 | 124 |
|  UNESCO Global Geoparks | 161 | 44 |

Australia's UNESCO Programs

| Program | Australia | WA |
|---|-----------|----------|
|  World Heritage | 20 | 4 |
|  Man and the Biosphere | 10 | 1 |
|  UNESCO Global Geoparks | 0 | 0 |

What is the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark?

An epic adventure... 400 million years in the making



What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geopark status is awarded to special places with internationally important geology and outstanding natural and cultural value.

Fundamentally,
UNESCO Global Geoparks
are about people and about
exploring and celebrating
the links between our
communities and
the Earth.

UNESCO Global Geoparks highlight the relationship between the geological heritage and all other aspects of the natural and cultural heritage. Global Geoparks use their heritage to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet we all live on. Global Geoparks promote respect for the environment alongside sustainable economic development.



Napoleonic Soldier at
Berry Head



Rock songs on Torquay Harbour



Fun in the Paignton
Geoplay Park

Museum

Gardens

Museum

Church

Courtyard



Jawbone at Torquay Museum © Oxford University

The most important find from Kents Cavern, a human jawbone is currently on display at the museum. The museum was set up by Pengelly to house the artefacts from the caves.

www.torquaymuseum.org
Tel: 01803 293975
Postcode: TQ1 1HG



Royal Terrace Gardens

The sheer cliff is the face of a major faultline, the Sticklepath fault, that runs across Devon. Here it emerges and heads out to sea.

Postcode: TQ2 5EZ



Agatha Christie

World famous crime writer Agatha Christie was born in Torquay and spent many of the most important chapters of her life here, as well as using real places in the area as settings for her renowned murder mysteries.



Torre Abbey

Built using considerable amounts of stone from the very headland it overlooks, the historic Abbey's story began in 1196 when the sheltered aspect, rich fertile land and proximity to the sea provided all the Premonstratensian Canons needed.

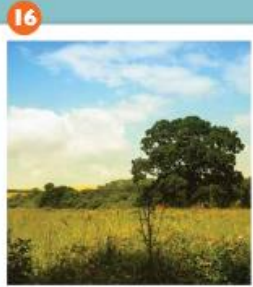
www.torre-abbey.org.uk
Tel: 01803 293593
Postcode: TQ2 5JX



Cockington Court

Safely out of sight from invaders, the ancient Saxon settlement of Cockington developed in a fertile valley set back from the sea. The traditional thatched village and manor house today reflect rural traditions and creative crafts

www.cockingtoncourt.org
Tel: 01803 607230
Postcode: TQ2 6XA



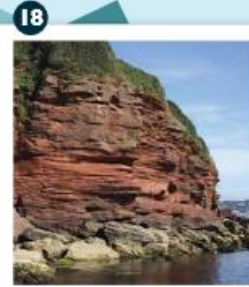
Occombe Farm

The mineral rich Permian rocks have provided a legacy of rich, fertile red soil. Open to the public Occombe remains a working organic farm today.
www.occombe.org.uk



Bishops Tower

Separated from the sea by salt marsh and dunes the oldest Saxon parts of Paignton developed 1.5km inland. Salt works made the town the most prosperous in the area.



Roundham Head

The diagonal patterns in the sandstone here are evidence of 270 million year old sand dunes.



Reach Outdoors at the Seashore Centre

Information centre and home of



Oyster Cove

A special geological feature is

Farm

Tower

Head

Research Centre

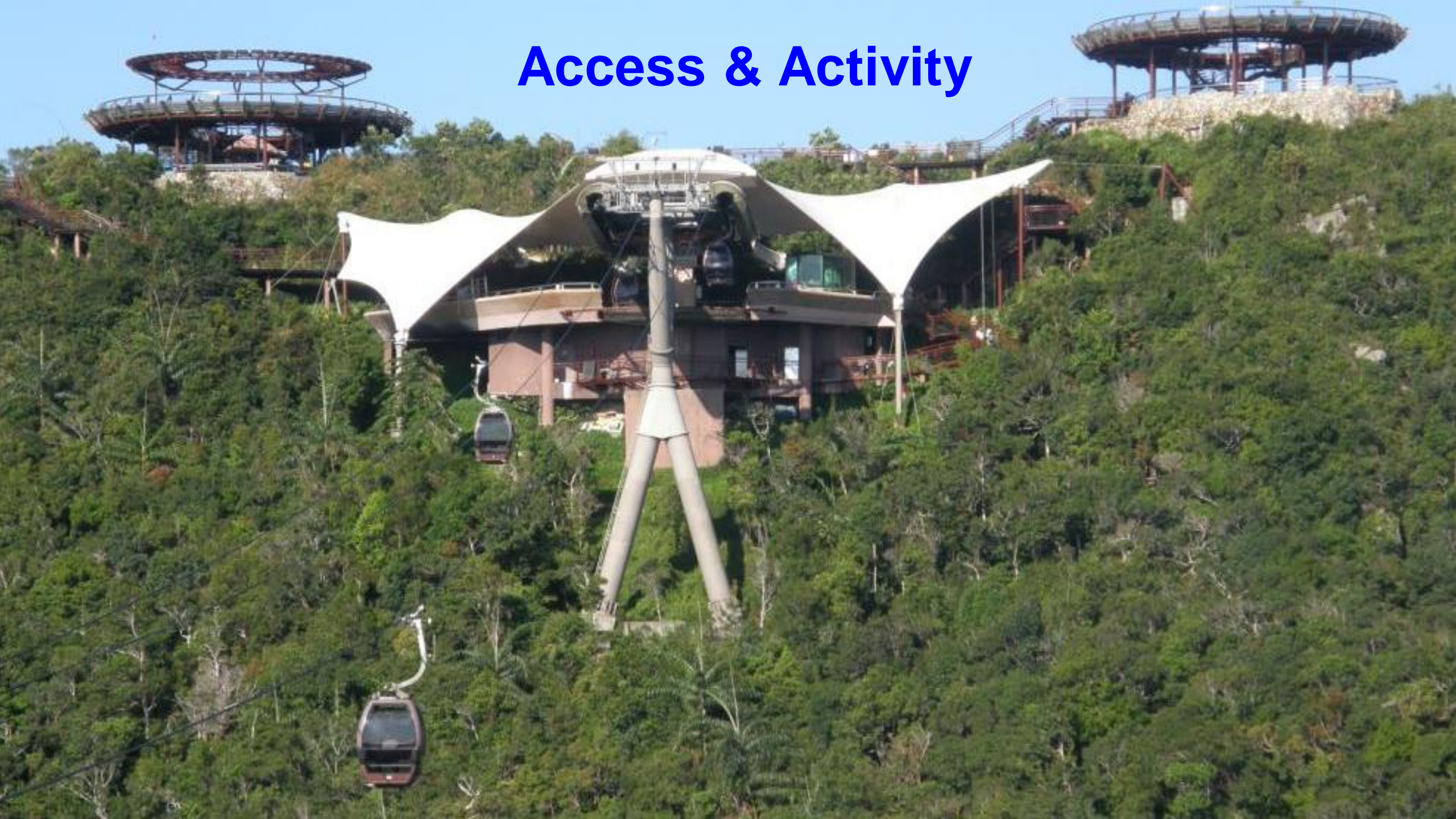
Cove



Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia



Access & Activity



Activity and Attraction



Accommodation





Awareness

2018 – The Business of Geoparks Workshop, Perth



Nick Powe



Karen Morrissey



Australia's Aspiring Geoparks



Margaret River

Augusta
Margaret River

TIMES

Serving the region since 1903

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A West Australian Newspapers publication

Chief back

Wild, weird,
wonderful theme

PAGE 3



Fur babies

Time to show off
your pet love

PAGE 8



Many gigs

Dallas Royal to go
on national tour

PAGE 10



Shire eyes geopark status

■ Warren Hately

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is eyeing the chance to have the region declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Councillors recently reviewed details about Noosa's UNESCO biosphere status and have triggered a rethink about how the popular Queensland location deals

president Julia Meldrum has discussed the project with Noosa's mayor, and the Margaret River-Busselton Tourism Association is one of the local groups driving the project.

MRBTA co-chief executive Shar-na Kearney said the UNESCO Geopark project was identified in last year's nature-based tourism strategy.

increase focus on the region's environment (see page 5), cementing Margaret River as a geopark would help guide tourism growth, they say.

"While becoming a geopark is certainly an aim of the association, it is really about doing a better job of telling the region's story," Ms Kearney said. "The first step is to develop this regional narrative in conjunction with our

visitors can experience the region.

"MRBTA views this as an important project, as a strong regional narrative has the potential to help inform future development and investment for the region."

Cr Meldrum told the *Times* if supported, the geopark project would be a voluntary covenant with no legal standing.

She said Noosa collected an extra levy from ratepayers for

investigation because of an increased council focus on the river.

"The branding and marketing of the area with biosphere status is a reminder to council and the community of their ongoing obligation to sustainability practices and promotes ecotourism," she said.

"Noosa have experienced improved channelling of money into environment projects (leverage) because of the biosphere

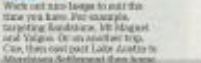
Augusta Margaret River Times - 28 September 2018

Murchison GeoRegion & Aspiring Geopark

Launched 18 September 2020



Two Page Spread in *The West Australian* 6 September 2020



Nationwide ABC TV News

3 October 2020



Conclusions

- Geoparks drive sustainable regional development
- Their aim is to sustainably **‘add value’** to local or regional communities
- This value should be easily measured through economic indicators such as **jobs** and **revenue generation**
- We need geoparks in Australia



Geoparks

A powerful development vehicle for Australia

THE END



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