

8 January 2026.

To the Nannup Shire Council:

Nannup WA Geopark is currently seeking funding to build the Abiotic Display, a purpose-designed and built information display wall.

The original estimate for the project was \$850,000, which needed to come entirely from external funding. Nannup WA Geopark has been working tirelessly for over twelve months to source support and funding from a variety of organisations.

To date, Talison Lithium has committed and signed off on funding to the value of \$200K. During 2025 we were in discussion with Lotterywest, who told us they would consider contributing between \$350K to \$400K. They are willing to extend this amount further if we can find other sources of funding ourselves. They indicated we should approach the Nannup Shire to provide a cash contribution to the project, as it will be a major drawcard to the town, and potentially garner international interest as part of the global UNESCO Geopark group.

It should also be pointed out that we have sought, and continue to seek, funding and sponsorship for the project from a variety of organisations. This includes in-kind sponsorship from timber and steel suppliers, in order to reduce the overall project cost.

Below is a summary of our endeavours to date. We ensure Lotterywest is kept updated with these, to prove our efforts in sourcing our own funding.

- Nannup Shire

We met with the Nannup CEO and Shire President in November 2025. We were advised there was little provision in the budget for any funding, but were supplied with information regarding a self-supporting loan. The team looked into this and decided we are not in a position to sustain a loan at this stage. A further meeting was held on 11 December, where we explained the project further and again requested to be considered for funding. The Shire is currently in midyear budget review, and we were encouraged to lodge an application for \$20K.

- November 2025: Met with Tonia Home from Tourism WA

Tonia stated that funding is not available through Tourism WA and the best choice was a RED grant through Regional Development. These grants closed on 7 January 2026. Successful applicants are not announced until the new financial year. Unfortunately, costs are rising significantly in the current climate, and this may cancel out the benefit of waiting for a grant.

- Talison Lithium Mining

We met with the community grants team and asked if we could apply for additional money in the new year, as they operate their funds by calendar year. They will not hand out funds unless previous grants are acquitted.

- DBCA

We requested an opportunity to present to DBCA in December. This presentation will now be held in January, to ensure key staff are present.

- December 2: Met with Rick Wilson, Federal Member for O'Connor.

We were advised that there is not a lot of money around, and the federal regional development division have no money at all to hand out.

- Mineral Sands Mines

A Geopark team member is currently looking into the possibility of funds from mineral sand mining in the southwest.

- South West Development Commission

Nannup WA Geopark sent an email in late December to Cate Brooks, CEO of SWDC, describing our current shortfall and asking if any discretionary funds were available. We are waiting on her reply.

We also explored a number of other community grants:

- Rio Tinto: \$15K, applications due 1 February 2026. Rio Tinto funds small community projects in the southwest near Busselton, which supports a large number of the Rio workforce in the area.

- BHP: Due 11 March 2026. Focused on the Pilbara region.
- Hancock Foundation: Focused on the Pilbara region.
- FMG: We are researching the feasibility of applying for this grant, which opens 1 March 2026. Social media and announcements indicate that the system is Pilbara-orientated.
- Mindaroo Foundation: Created by the Forrest family and also Pilbara-orientated.
- Fortescue Community Grants Program: Only includes projects based in the Pilbara.

In addition to researching and applying for grants, the Geopark project manager is currently investigating ways we can save on costs of construction. To date we have a revised estimate of \$800K, down from \$850K, and are hoping to reduce this further to \$750K. We will keep you updated on this.

- Project and Builder meeting

Architect Paul Meschiati and the project manager have met to discuss ways to reduce construction costs, with a focus on not changing the aesthetics, design or functionality of the project.

- Steel supplier

The Geopark team has approached a major WA steel distribution company, requesting in-kind support by reducing the price of steel supplied to the builder. They are open to look at this and discussions are underway.

- Timber Mill

We have approached the Nannup timber mill (Parkside Timber) with a request for in-kind support by supplying the necessary timber to build the display and are awaiting on a response.

We acknowledge that Nannup Shire is a large shire with a small population and have limited our request to \$20K. This is a significant project for Nannup, with important implications worldwide. If we are successful in this, we can then go back to Lotterywest in the hope they will bridge the gap.

The Geopark team acknowledge and are grateful for the committed resources to the project and the in-kind support from the Nannup shire. The cash contribution from the shire will help us immensely with our application to Lottery west. To have the cash support of Nannup Shire will give us great encouragement moving forward.

Thank you for your support.

Mark White, Chair
Nannup WA Geopark

27 January 2026

Dear Nannup Shire Council,

As the Nannup Shire council is aware the Nannup WA Geopark has requested \$20 000 as a cash contribution to the construction to the Abiotic display. The request if approved by the council would only be required if Lotterywest approve the \$562,865.09 inc of GST. We believe we will receive a decision for the funding by the end of the Financial year.

The geopark team acknowledge the contribution by the shire in different forms and this is greatly appreciated. The team have been able to cut the costs of construction by \$96000. This has been achieved by changing the design of the paving for the area, Gary Dickson reducing his costs by \$15 000 as a community contribution, the timber mill supplying timber for the project free of charge and other smaller changes to help lower the cost. The \$20 000 we seek from the shire will help make a statement to Lotterywest.

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