

2. Cultural Heritage & Settlement

This text has been compiled from the proposal document submitted to UNESCO prior to Biosphere status being awarded. Therefore, please excuse any references made to the 'nominated area' and any out-dated terms (including reference to the former council) which might now appear confusing.

In order to limit the size of the document and make it easier for users to download, we have edited the original submission into sections.

This is one of eight (8) PDFs available to download from www.noosabiosphere.org.au :

1. Describe & Define Noosa Biosphere
2. Cultural Heritage & Settlement
3. Sustainable Development
4. Conservation
5. Flora Species List
6. Fauna Species List
7. Research Activities
8. Supporting document – Acronyms, Bibliography, Glossary

The content of all these documents is fairly scientific and designed to appeal to a more academic audience.

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1. LAND USE HISTORY

The following information is adapted from two Studies undertaken for Noosa Shire Council:

Indigenous Cultural Heritage Study of Noosa Shire (NSC, April 2004); and

Historic Cultural Heritage Study of Noosa Shire (NSC, Sept 2004).

Aboriginal history

During the 20,000 years of Aboriginal occupation and land management practices, human impact on the natural environment including native vegetation and fauna was considerable. Regular and systematic burning of the country created vast areas of grassland, which enacted a parallel increase in large herbivores (Flannery, 1995). Some 10,000 – 50,000 years BP the Australian continent was home to a large number of 'mega-fauna' species which became extinct approximately 10,000 years BP. Most but not all of these fauna were herbivores and owing to their large size and herbivorous nature they were hunted by Aborigines (Kelly and Symons, 1989; Flannery, 1995).

The burning of country by Aborigines was conducted for many reasons, although one which was readily noticed by early settlers and explorers, was to restrict and limit the growth of thick bush and forest in favour of open grassy areas with large trees and little undergrowth or shrubs (P & S Symons, 1994). Discontinuation of and disruption to Indigenous land management practices and cultural principles following European settlement, followed by implementation of substantially different European land management practices led to a very rapid change to the natural environment and to the ability of Indigenous peoples to maintain a traditional hunting and gathering mode of production or to fulfill ceremonial or religious obligations (Davies & Salmon, 1995).

Inter-tribal boundaries and pathways historically used by Aborigines have since been adopted and subsequently utilised as roads and railways by early Europeans with a number of these still existing today including Old Gympie Road and the alignment of the north coast railway (Steele, 1983).

Two major phases of Indigenous occupation of the Cooloola-Noosa region have been identified:

Recent Phase sites date to 1,000 years BP and are generally found across the northern and southern section of Cooloola along Tin Can Bay and the lower sections of the Noosa River respectively. Most sites are shell middens dominated by either pipi (*Donax deltoides*) or oyster (*Saccostrea commercialis*); and

Early Phase sites date between c. 5,500-2,300 years BP and tend to be found along the central east coast area of the region between Double Island Point and Noosa Heads. The main evidence for the Early Phase is a series of large stone artifact scatters located within sandblows across the eastern parts of the Cooloola sandmass. McNiven (1992:11) notes that these sites are dominated by exotic raw materials obtained from beyond Cooloola and may reflect use of the region by peoples who spent major parts of the year inland away from the coast. Subsistence activities during this time may have placed less emphasis on shell fishing and more on large game hunting (e.g. kangaroo) as stone tools such as bifacial points (spear points) and backed blades (spear barbs) possibly indicate the hunting of animals, while bevel-edged tools (plant food processors) may have been used in the preparation of rainforest and swamp

foods (e.g. fern roots). Occupation of the region during the Early Phase may have been more ephemeral compared to the Recent Phase.

Both Early and Recent Phase sites are located along the coastline to the west and northwest of Noosa. Most are located in the vicinity of Teewah Beach.

Historical records suggest that coastal groups may have lived a more sedentary lifestyle than sub-coastal peoples. This is likely to be due to the relatively abundant resources available in the area, negating the need to travel large distances during the annual cycle. Flinders (1799) and Thomas Pamphlett (1823) record descriptions of huts contained within villages on Bribie and Fraser Island and close to Laguna Bay and the coastal lakes in the Noosa area. The lands adjacent to the extensive lake systems of Noosa Shire were an expanse of lush, sub-tropical rainforest types studded with giant trees. The coastline and interior areas were so resource rich with foods and materials for all subsistence needs that most of the tribes had large, relatively dense populations. Fish, dugong and turtle within coastal waters, large amounts of shell fish and crustaceans within the inter-tidal zone and the expansive stretches of wetlands, swamps and lakes provided a veritable unlimited feast of aquatic food sources in addition to numerous bird, marsupial, mammal and plant species which were, at one time, abundant in the area. This is further supported by John Bracewell, a run-away convict who, in 1838, lived with the Aborigines at the mouth of the Maroochy River, in which eugaries (pipis), oysters and fish were plentiful (Monks, n.d.; Brown, 2000; Davies & Salmon, 1995).

Plants were also important to the Indigenous economy, in terms of food, medicines and for use in manufacturing utensils and other types of equipment. It will be noted that some plants, such as black wattle, were used for multi-purposes— food, utensils, and medicine. A number of these local native plants have been referenced in different publications including: Symons, 1994; Low, 1988; and Kelly and Symons, 1989. For example, *Blechnum indicum* (Bungwall), a fern growing with associated fresh and brackish water bodies, was a staple food and is frequently referred to in literature (Kelly and Symons, 1989; Cato, 1979; Brown, 2000; Adams, 2000).

The traditional Indigenous ways of life existent prior to European settlement suffered deleterious impacts as a result of the process of European settlement and colonisation. Disease, massacre, assimilation through government and religious policy, forceful removal of people and takeover of traditional lands made it largely impossible for remaining Indigenous groups to maintain traditional hunting and subsistence methods and cultural, ceremonial, ecological and spiritual obligations (Davies & Salmon, 1995; Brown, 2000).

The process of development within the area that now comprises Noosa Shire followed the pattern that is common to most areas within Queensland. Initially explorers, typically botanists and/or geologists ventured into unsettled areas and assessed the natural resource potential of the area (Cato, 1979). Within Noosa Shire, this exploration period occurred during the early 1800's. These early explorers brought information regarding the natural resources of an area back to the colonies where early free settlers set about exploiting these natural resources. This subsequent exploitation period occurred within Noosa Shire from the 1820's to the 1960's (Brown, 2000; Cato, 1979). During this period, great changes to land use occurred with forests being cleared for both collection of timber and to establish farming and

agricultural areas. Synonymous with this marked change in land use, came associated dispersal and dispossession of Indigenous inhabitants of the areas (Davies & Salmon, 1995).

A time sequence including documented early Indigenous and European interaction is given in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1 Early European and Aboriginal Peoples Interactions - An Overview

20,000 years before present	Indigenous settlement and occupation in southeast Queensland.
6,000 years before present	Archaeological evidence suggesting definite occupation by Aborigines within the charcoal record.
1799	Matthew Flinders becomes the known first European in the area.
1820's	Several escaped convicts lived with various Indigenous groups in the area eg, James Bracewell
1823	Richard Parsons and John Finnegan were castaway and taken in by local Indigenous groups and subsequently travelled through the Coolum area with them.
1824	British Government established the settlement of Brisbane.
1837	Eliza Fraser was rescued by a party including John Graham (a convict) and Lieutenant Otter. She was camped with Aborigines in the vicinity of the present day Elanda Point.
1841	Archer brothers settled in the area to run cattle.
1850's to 1860's	Timber was being taken from the area and floated down the Noosa River. Timber included red cedar, white beech, bunya and hoop pine, flooded gum, ironbark.
1852	The shipwrecked barque 'Thomas King' passed through Coolum. Of the six men who set off on land only two of them reached Brisbane alive. This plight hastened official resolve to establish settlement along coastal areas north of Brisbane.
1860's	Massacre of Aborigines at Murdering Creek (Lake Weyba) and Kilcoy.
1866	Most of the valuable timber in the area was removed and agriculture began. Therefore large scale draining of low-lying coastal areas was undertaken.
1867	Gympie goldrush, a new road was forged between Gympie and Tewantin.
1877	Pacific Islanders were brought to the area to work the sugar plantations.
1897 to 1965	Indigenous people were removed to settlements such as North Stradbroke Island, Barambah Aboriginal settlement and Woorabinda.
1900	Most of the area was subdivided and settled, sugarcane was becoming a prominent industry, roads and stopovers were being developed.
1905	Barambah Aboriginal settlement (now Cherbourg), was established at Murgon.

1967	<i>Aboriginal Relics and Preservation Act</i> proclaimed. Under this Act, any Indigenous relics become the property of the Crown and they are not to be taken, defaced, damaged or interfered with.
1987	<i>Cultural Records (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987</i> proclaimed. This legislation established to deal specifically with the management of Indigenous cultural heritage.
2003	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> This Act replaces the 1987 Act.

Source: Kelly and Symons, 1989; McNiven, 1990; Davies & Salmon, 1995

Many historical records exist which detail the process of dispersal occurring in Noosa Shire during this period. The term 'dispersal' used by the Government outwardly condoned murder of the local Indigenous inhabitants (Cato, 1979). Several sites in which massacres are believed to have occurred are known to exist within the bounds of Noosa Shire, such as that which occurred at Murdering Creek. Government policy at the time of the massacre at Murdering Creek was that there would be no granting of freehold title to settlers leasing land if Indigenous people were living there. Thus, the infamous Murdering Creek massacre took place in which several white men ambushed and killed many Indigenous men in canoes and on the surrounding creek shores (Davies & Salmon, 1989; Brown, 2000; Adams, 2000; Cato, 1979).

After the period of raw resource exploitation, the land was marked and opened up for wider free settlement. Accordingly, farmers and agriculturists constituted a new wave of people moving through the area and rendered further disturbance and change to natural and cultural heritage resources (Davies & Salmon, 1995). Further, land was cleared and exotic animals were introduced such as cattle and sheep. This third wave typically occurred in Noosa Shire from the 1860's onwards.

Early land titles records show how, in a few short years during the 1860's and 1870's land was widely taken up by settlers thereby excluding Indigenous inhabitants from access to these lands and ability to maintain cultural continuity with these lands. This process inevitably meant that continuation of Indigenous culture and its intrinsic ties with land and landscape was difficult.

Dispossession occurred entirely without compensation and often with the use of violence, force and massacre (Davies & Salmon, 1995; Monks, n.d.). cursory recognition of the remaining Indigenous occupants of the Noosa area was afforded during the late 1800's in the form of brass plates being presented to some of the older Aboriginal people (O'Neill (n.d.)). These plates were presented as a signal of status and proclaimed the wearers to be 'Kings' or 'Queens' of the area in which they lived (O'Neill (n.d.)).

Toward the end of the 1800's, local Aborigines were rapidly becoming fringe-dwellers around established townships or at stations owned by sympathetic station owners (Cato, 1979, Monks (n.d.)).

Here they worked as stockmen, selling fish and goods for rum and tobacco and celebrating corroborees on cleared lands close to towns (Cato, 1979; Monks, n.d.). From 1877 a series of Aboriginal Reserves were established within the southeast Queensland region, including a mission at Lake Weyba, White Patch at Bribie Island, the Durundur which was established in 1880 and Barambah (Cherbourg). By 1887, most of the Indigenous people remaining within the Noosa district were removed to Barambah.

The local police and government collected remaining Indigenous people and transported them to Murgon and Barambah for 'their own protection' (Brown, 2000, Cato, 1979). Few photographic records were taken of the Indigenous inhabitants of the Noosa area during the early period of European settlement and still fewer of these remain.

European land use

Initial Exploration and Settlement

The first recorded European accounts of the Noosa area were those of James Cook in 1770 followed by Matthew Flinders in 1799 and again in 1802. The next official expeditions to the area were in 1822 when John Bingle and William Edwardson sailed north to what is now Hervey Bay and Fraser Island (Gill, J.). Neither landed in what is now Noosa Shire. On the 4th of May 1842 Petrie led a trip to the Wide Bay region. On the 5th of May 1842, Petrie's party landed at Noosa:

"Mr Andrew Petrie and his companions...in May this year carried out an expedition to the near North coast of vital importance to the Colony. Mr Petrie's object was to extend his knowledge of timber resources, and others were anxious to find good sheep land....After a day's sailing, the party landed with difficulty at a picturesque beach where a tribe of natives had gathered" (Queensland Gazette, 1842, cited in Cato, N. 1979).

Early European settlement of southeast Queensland in the early 1840s bypassed the Noosa area. The Upper Mary, Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers were effectively 'locked up' by the declaration of the Bunya pine resources as an exclusive area. The road to the Kilcoy area which runs from the Pine Rivers also led people west, away from the wetter, more densely vegetated coast. Furthermore, the response of the Aboriginal clans to the intrusion of settlers with their cattle and sheep was known to be fiercer on the coast, and the effects of the poisoning of Aborigines on the Kilcoy run in 1841 inhibited and soured Aboriginal - settler relations in the whole of south east Queensland.

The first European settlers within the Noosa Shire was the Skyring family in 1853 (Tuck, C. 1994). Zachariah and Daniel Skyring took up four runs - Whildka Whildka (later known as Tuchekeoi) bounded on the north by the creek that became known as Skyring Creek, Canando and Yandina to the south along the Maroochy River and bounded on the west by the Coast Range, and Pooreema east of Whildka Whildka and across to the coast. These runs changed hands several times over the next decade. The Skyring family left the area but later returned to take up land around what is now Skyring Creek.

John Bligh took up part of the Pooreema run, called Caroora in 1860. The other part of the Pooreema run, Coutharaba (sic) was taken up by Walter Hay. Both Bligh and Hay, who pioneered Noosa Heads and Tewantin as a port for transport of timber, located the route from Gympie to Tewantin following the eastern watershed of Six Mile Creek as far as possible and crossing down from the escarpment immediately north of Tinbeerwah Bluff, paralleling Ringtail Creek and turning south along the flats to

Tewantin. Hay did this informally for the government in 1873 and it is retained to this day as Old Tewantin Road.

Bligh had been in the area in 1853 - 1854 in the course of his work with the Native Police when he had blazed the track from Traveston to Lake Cooroibah. An imperfectly described report of the area ('The Freshwater Lake') appeared in the Moreton Bay Courier on 11 October 1860 and 'J.B.' (possibly John Bligh) followed it up with a similar article in the Wide Bay and Burnett Times. A key element was his assessment that the kauri pine stands were better than those in the Mary River Valley. That offered new opportunities for Brisbane sawmillers.

Timber Industry

The work of the Native Police, the publication of newspaper reports, including those described above, and the promotional character of colonial immigration campaigner, John Dunmore Lang's book, *Queensland*, attracted timbergetters to a region served by a good harbour.

The timber industry was the foundation of the Noosa Shire economy and settlement patterns. Mill Point, on the shores of Lake Cootharaba, was the first major settlement in the Shire, at its peak, up to 150 workers and their families lived there. Clearing of the Kin Kin scrubs and beyond provided timber to the growing settlements around Brisbane and was the impetus for further settlement and agriculture.

Clearing of land and sale of the timber was standard practice on the majority of land selections until World War I.

The income enabled capital improvements, that is, house and fencing to be done to fulfill the conditions of the Land Selection Acts. The land could then be stocked and maize and cane crops grown.

The selectors also tended to work in the timber industry outside of their own selection as bullock drivers, timber cutters, sniggers, and in the bush sawmills.

As the timber was removed from the land selections, the timber industry contracted to the rougher ridgy country, the timber concession around Cooroy and to land selections further west.

Fishing and oystering

Europeans immediately appreciated the abundant marine resources of the area. Readily available fish, crabs and oysters became a tasty adjunct to the diet of flour, sugar, tea and red meat that the settlers brought with them. From the time of first contact, Aborigines traded in seafood with the newcomers. For the settlers the problems of exploiting perishable marine resources commercially in a remote area were not quickly or easily overcome. Some preservation of fish by salting and smoking was carried out during the nineteenth century, but it was not until the introduction of such twentieth century advances as iceworks, refrigeration in the early 1900s, and motorboats that fishermen could reliably deliver large quantities of fresh marine products onto distant markets and make fishing an important local industry. Before the Second World War, about ten commercial outfits fished the lakes in single-engine motorboats.

In the late nineteenth century, a new local industry exploited the oyster, native to southeast Queensland's coastal inlets, to supply the Sydney and Melbourne markets. Activity in south east Queensland's oyster industry peaked around the turn of the century and then began to decline, slowly at first, more rapidly after 1920 due to a combination of economic and environmental factors. At Noosa, where the Moreton Bay Oyster Company once employed men to dredge the river bed for culture and sent it by the steamer *Adonis* to Moreton Bay for fattening, environmental changes created by increasing urbanisation and farming activities upstream eventually destroyed the oysters and brought about an end to the trade.

Dairy industry and subsequent agricultural development

As traveling dairies entered the districts in the 1890s selectors could transfer to dairying and start supplying creameries established in the area.

The establishment of the Noosa Shire Council in 1910 confirmed the State Government's confidence in the maturity of the new towns in the area and the timber and dairying industries. Landholders and town storekeepers became quite aggressive in advancing their arguments for opening and building new roads focusing on the towns. The dairying industry became the backbone of the Shire. Butter factories opened at Kin Kin on 1 January 1914, Cooroy in April 1915 and Pomona in 1920 – the Silverwood Association Company at Kin Kin, Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association at Cooroy, Caboolture Assoc at Pomona. Prior to that farmers railed their cans of cream in louvered vans from Cooroy, Pomona and Cooran railway stations. Trafficable roads for cream lorries were essential to the dairy industry.

The family farm became a critical element of the Noosa hinterland society. Milking machines were introduced on the larger farms from 1911 but it was the children who provided the substantial labour for milking cows and feeding pigs and calves and herding cattle. Dairying is a 365 day a year job. Social life, weddings, meetings and church services were all timed to accord with available time between milking. Farmers' wives formed social grouping – CWAs, Church Guilds – to raise funds for country comforts, social welfare and building programs.

The 1920s were boom years. The population of the shire almost doubled between 1921 and 1927 and another 30.7% increase to 1933. Bananas were the boom crop. The first bananas were grown in an experimental way by selectors around 1911-12 beside their orchard crops. Growers were able to prosper quickly using acreages as small as five acres of fertile soils for the first time. Increasing population and improved rail transport to southern markets via Wallangarra offered profitable returns. Kin Kin was one of the prolific producing areas (*Noosa Advocate*, 28 Sep. 1917 p.2). Cooran and Pinbarren farmers quickly joined in an enterprising way. Cooroy farmers railed 1 375 cases of bananas in early October 1917. 1928 was the peak year with 1.5 million bunches grown in the Gympie District. The decline was rapid because of falling prices after the Tweed River district recovered its pride of position after the bunchy top disease was overcome.

What were the banana growers to do then, when they were effectively decimated by disease in Queensland and recovery south of the Queensland border? In the face of an enveloping world-wide economic depression they turned to four options – return to dairying and (reclamation of the land from the plough); joining the depression construction works such as construction of the Somerset Dam on the

Stanley River, and the railway deviation work on the Blackall Range; join the ranks of the unemployed; or farm to pineapples and beans and legumes such as peas.

Easter, Christmas and New Year holidays were highly popular times when hinterland residents, Gympie and Brisbane people visited. Since the 1870s there have been holiday cottages homes available at Noosa Heads and Tewantin. The Royal Mail Hotel at Tewantin has hosted governors, high society and workers on holiday.

In the 1920s families began the practice of camping at the beach for holidays. There were camping areas at Tewantin near the bathing area, at Munna Point and at Noosa Heads. Tents were packed in "cheek by jowl", the ropes coming right up to the next tent. All of these holiday venues prospered according to the standard of transport access. The beaches could only be reached easily by road after the bridges over Doonella and Weyba Lakes were built. Likewise the state of the road from Weyba Lake over Noosa Hill was critical.

The improvement of roads between 1920 and the late 1960s provided easy access to the beach and parks. In the 1960s, in the era of full employment, increased opportunity to privately owned motor vehicles stimulated the beach culture and weekend travel. Noosa Heads with its north east facing beach became a mecca. The establishment of motels and private holiday houses and subsequently resorts followed.

The 1960s were a key formative period in the Shire's development. The pioneers had died and their children were leaving. The farmers were retiring by selling out to inland graziers who used the land as cattle agistment country or to real estate companies for land subdivision. Sawmills were closing because of decreasing production.

New farmers were buying and converting the land to agriculture, particularly beans. The Shire was producing 19% of Queensland's beans in 1964-5. The advent of bulldozers and tractors allowed contractors to plough whole hillsides in preparation for planting beans.

As the price of butter had steadily declined in real terms since 1951 with inflation and rising wages, the remaining ageing farmers converted to beef or sold out. Those who persevered invested in improved pastures often aeri ally seeded to improve production. When they couldn't consolidate the work or had not replanted beans or bananas etc, the noxious weeds (groundsel and lantana) intruded and engulfed the hillsides and creek banks. Cash-strapped farmers were unable to afford aerial spraying and Noosa Council battled to enforce noxious weed By Laws. The land was by then enormously degraded.

The only way farmers could pay day to day expenses was by taking on outside jobs. Cream supplies to the butter factories plummeted affecting town economics severely. Carriers then concentrated on cattle transport. Meanwhile, enterprising younger farmers on more profitably managed blocks converted to milk supplies, buying quotas and installing refrigerated vats at considerable capital cost.

This placed considerable pressure on the farmers to perform and impacted severely on unformed country roads.

The developments of the 1970s and 1980s projected Hastings Street as a mecca to the world. The introduction of southern capital after the Queensland Government had abolished death duties in 1975 gave the Gold and Sunshine Coast economies an enormous financial boost on a broad scale. Not only were tourist and holiday accommodation built on the coast at Noosa, there was a land subdivision and building boom. People who had camped at Noosa Woods and the Tewantin Camping Grounds were coming back as permanent retirees to experience the quiet lifestyle and the beautiful mountains and lakes scenery.

A Sustainable Noosa

The awakening of the world to Noosa's beauty had its downside. Successive pro-development Councils in the 1970s and a similarly minded State Government approved canal developments, subdivision of beachfront dunes and the construction of buildings with no connection to the surrounding landscape. Developers ran rampant, much of Noosa Hill, Hastings Street and Noosa Sound were touted as the site for an "integrated Hawaiian style resort" (Gloster, M 1997).

By the mid 1970s Noosa was attracting new residents who came for the natural beauty of the area and were concerned that their paradise was being fundamentally changed for the worse. They were determined to halt this form of "progress" and retain the values that brought them to Noosa. The 1978 Council elections saw the election of Jim Fearnley the first Councillor elected on a pro-conservation platform. Cr Fearnley was derided by his colleagues and development continued largely unchecked. By 1982 the community was ready for a change and local government elections that year resulted in the election of a team of 5 conservation minded Councillors. The 1982-85 Council is considered a turning point not only in the mindset of Council, but also the community as a whole.

However a downturn in the Australian economy in the early 80s combined with a push by the development industry resulted in the defeat of the most of the 'green' Councillors and the election of a self proclaimed pro-development anti-conservation Council. Grandiose plans for development of the northern side of the River were touted, high rise buildings were approved and Council refused to support the nomination of extensions to Noosa National Park.

Council found itself at loggerheads with conservation organisations. At the end of its 3 year term, Council had successfully blocked the aims of the conservation movement and the conservation movement had thwarted most of Council's development ambitions. The community had had enough, it was fed up with the "development at any cost" approach of Council and in 1985 voted out the Mayor and most of the pro-development councillors in favour of those a greener view (Gloster, M 1997).

Noosa continued to attract new residents and in 1989 population growth peaked at around 11.5% and averaged over 6% per annum between 1990-95. It was clear growth needed to be controlled otherwise the environment and lifestyle that made Noosa so attractive would be lost. In response, Council set about planning for a sustainable future for the Shire.

The 1997 Strategic Plan set the first limits to growth for the Shire based on the carrying capacity of the environment and infrastructure. The Strategic Plan has proven an effective tool in limiting growth. When it commenced in 1997, the annual population increase was around in 4%. In the 6 years from

1998-2004 it declined to 2.5% per annum despite a housing boom across Australia. As the area reaches its identified population capacity the growth rate is declining. The growth rate for the period from June 2004 to June 2006 was 0.8% per annum. In 2006, Council adopted the Noosa Plan, which builds on and refines the approach of the 1997 Strategic Plan.

2. COMMUNITIES

Demographics – ethnicity and age profile

The majority of the Shire's residents (93.2%) are either Australian born or are from another English speaking country. People from the United Kingdom and New Zealand at 8.1% and 4.3% respectively represent the two major cultural groups other than Australian born.

Persons from non-English speaking countries represent around 1.8% of the Shire's population. Indigenous Australians represent just 0.8% of the Shire's population which is significantly lower than the Queensland average of 3.1% (NSC, 2006).

The population of the Shire has an under-representation of persons aged up to 35 years (40.7%) compared with the wider Queensland population (52.2%). The proportion of residents aged up to 35 years has declined by 1.5% between 1996-2001 which is comparable with Queensland.

Persons aged over 50 years are significantly over-represented, comprising 37.8% of the population compared with 28.8% for Queensland as a whole (NSC, 2006). This probably reflects two major trends in Australia's societal structure: the aging of 'baby boomers' (persons born between 1946-1961); and the general attractiveness of Australia's coastal areas for retirement or semi-retirement, with Noosa Shire being a particularly desirable location.

Tourism

Noosa attracts 1.65 million visitors a year, spending \$706 million - the equivalent of 4,100 full time jobs. An estimated 52% are day-trippers with 40% domestic overnight visitors and 8% international overnight visitors (Harman, P. 2006, pers com).

Repeat visitation to Noosa is high, with 28% of visitors returning four or more times in the last three years. South East Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria are all significant domestic markets for Noosa. Noosa's largest overseas markets are New Zealand, United Kingdom and Europe (Harman, P. 2006, pers com).

During peak tourism periods, Noosa's population increases by 15,000 persons (2006). At maximum expected population (approx 2009), tourists are likely to add 21,000 to resident population during peak periods.

Population centres

The human communities within the nominated area are nestled within a mosaic of vegetation corridors and remnant vegetation. This mosaic results in opportunities for residents and visitors to observe part of the fauna diversity of the area and contributes to its appeal to residents and visitors alike.

The settled areas comprise a largely contiguous urban coastal area south of the Noosa River and a number of rural hinterland towns and villages (See Map 2). The hinterland also supports agricultural

production interspersed with large lot rural settlement and hobby farms which are generally in proximity to the more densely settled areas.

Of particular note is the fact that significant numbers of residents from communities bordering Noosa Shire identify with the values and beliefs of the Noosa community and visit the Shire to enjoy its facilities and lifestyle. A significant number of residents from areas bordering the Shire also contribute to the social and economic capital of the Shire through paid employment, charity and volunteer work within the Shire.

Coastal communities

The coastal communities extend from Peregrin Beach in the south to Noosa Heads at the mouth of the Noosa River and include Noosaville and Tewantin (the administrative centre of Noosa Shire), located along the flood plain on the southern side of the River. Coastal communities represent 67% of the Shire's total resident population. Economic activities are focused on tourism, commercial and retail activities and service industries. Parts of these communities are below 2m above sea level and are vulnerable to sea level rises.

The communities from Peregrin Beach to Sunshine Beach are located on a complex sand dune system and form an elongated nodal development with small interurban breaks provided by vegetated minor creek systems and drainage lines.

Peregrin Beach, south of Peregrin Creek, provides housing and unit accommodation for permanent residents and visitors, as well as local shopping, business and community services. The level of services and beach access available at Peregrin Beach makes the area particularly attractive to families and older residents. The prominence of its high dunes and exposure to the David Low Way results in development being more apparent in these locations. In addition to a variety of detached housing styles, Peregrin Beach also contains many older style holiday flats, more contemporary masonry unit developments and a variety of resort complexes, mainly on the eastern side of David Low Way. Low cost visitor accommodation is also provided for within the Peregrin Beach Caravan Park and other accommodation types (NSC, Feb 2006).

Marcus Beach is bounded to the south by Peregrin Creek and to the north by the Marcus high dune system. The dune system is the only substantial break in the linear pattern of development between Sunshine Beach to the north and Peregrin Beach to the south. Development is established and integrated with the low dunes and their vegetation. The area's low density coastal character is accentuated by mature vegetation, curving streets and undulating topography. Marcus Beach provides predominantly housing for permanent residents, though it also has many older style holiday flats, more contemporary masonry unit developments and duplexes and a small number of resort complexes. (NSC, Feb 2006).

Castaways Beach, located between Castaways Creek to the south and Burgess Creek to the north, largely provides housing for permanent residents, with its residential appeal enhanced by an integrated open space system and safe links to the beach. Development within this community is characterised by a range of contemporary single and two storey houses in a mix of styles from lightweight with a variety of

claddings, through to modern composite construction to heavier masonry styles. More recent development has produced a relatively orderly, yet green, streetscape with less mature vegetation to most areas and a high proportion of large homes particularly where views of the ocean are available (NSC, Feb 2006).

Sunrise Beach is attractive to families and permanent residents, with relatively easy access to the beach, local shopping services, schools and higher order services available in nearby communities. Sunrise Beach has a high proportion of detached housing, as compared to Sunshine Beach, and that housing is characterised by a mix of lightweight and masonry construction, featuring a greater proportion of low set brick and tile homes in lower areas and large masonry homes on the ridges with ocean and/or lowland views. Closely spaced three storey unit developments are located along the beachside, nodes of duplex style dwellings are set on the slopes of the dunes and while gated enclaves of attached housing are present in the north-western areas (NSC, Feb 2006).

Sunshine Beach enjoys a casual lifestyle, with its own local shops and restaurants and a distinct character focused on accessibility to the beach and the urban services of Noosa Heads. This lifestyle and character, in combination with Sunshine Beach's relatively high proportion of unit development, also makes it attractive to visitors. Sunshine Beach provides an extensive mix of housing and unit accommodation in a secluded vegetated setting, amongst undulating to steep landforms. In beach areas of Sunshine Beach, some larger buildings lead to visual intrusion onto the public beach, emphasising the need for special care in the design and construction of new development.

Noosa Heads community is located in the southern and western lee of Noosa Heads and Noosa Hill, (146m). The hill is the predominant landscape feature forming the skyline and backdrop to urban development in the area. Noosa Heads is the principal focus for visitor accommodation and services in the Shire. Noosa National Park, Main Beach, world class surf breaks off the headlands and Hastings Street and Noosa Junction are the key visitor attractions. The area has substantial commercial and retail services with two main focal points: Hastings Street and Noosa Junction. Given the relatively high number of visitors accommodated in this locality, the two centres are designed to cater for the differing needs of visitors as well as local residents. Hastings Street particularly accommodates a high proportion of entertainment and dining premises providing interest for visitors.

Noosa Heads consists of various smaller communities defined by topography and the age of development. These communities are described below:

Little Cove is located in a well vegetated setting with ready access to Noosa National Park, Hastings Street and the surf. Development here is not as visually exposed as other parts of Noosa Hill and the topography is not as steep. Buildings represent a cross section of ages and styles;

Noosa Hill and Cooloola Estate are both close to the commercial and recreational opportunities of Hastings Street and Noosa Junction and offer breezes and views over Laguna Bay or the beach communities to the south east;

Noosa Sound, a constructed canal estate combines ready access to Hastings Street and the Noosa River and Quamby Place with waterway frontage. Detached houses dominate and are generally large masonry buildings that address the water where located on a canal or the river; and

Noosa Springs is a newer gated residential estate focused on a golf course and associated recreation and social opportunities. Villas are of consistent masonry and tile roof construction reflecting a Mediterranean style. Noosa Springs is expected to expand with significant visitor accommodation and sporting and recreational facilities.

Noosaville provides a mix of resident and visitor accommodation and is one of the principal visitor destination and accommodation areas in Noosa Shire. The Noosa River, extensive foreshore parkland with formal and informal facilities and the many fine restaurants close by are some of its key attractions. Residents and visitors also have convenient access to sporting and cultural facilities provided in Wallace Park.

The area is part of a complex system of lowlands that drain to the Noosa River via Eenie Creek and Lakes Weyba and Doonella. The natural landscape has been substantially modified in many areas, though stands of vegetation, including mangroves, remain in areas that are poorly drained or adjacent to watercourses. There is relatively little topographical relief in the area however variety in the built form is emphasised through the historical development of the locality and the many architectural styles it exhibits.

Noosaville's urban residential areas provide fully serviced, generally low density, housing in quiet neighborhood settings. The character of these neighborhoods varies due to factors such as lot sizes, the established character and age of the development and proximity to open space, watercourses and business development. Substantial areas have been set aside for attached housing. Whilst some areas predominantly service visitors, there is generally a strong mix of visitors and permanent residents within the attached housing neighborhoods.

Tewantin has a strong historical heritage, reflected in the many older buildings of the locality. While much of the original town heritage and character has gone, those elements that remain are more valuable as a consequence. Today Tewantin is the administrative centre of the Shire and a gateway to the Noosa River, the hinterland, Noosa North Shore and the Great Sandy Region. The community comprises mainly permanent residents and has a strong family focus. The area offers distinct lifestyle opportunities, which exhibit different characteristics.

Tewantin's urban residential areas provide fully serviced, generally low density detached housing in quiet neighborhood settings. The character of these neighborhoods varies due to factors such as lot sizes, the established vegetated character and age of the development, open space provision and the like.

In areas close to the Tewantin Business Centre provision is made for attached accommodation for permanent residents. These areas have convenient access to public transport services; and

The rural settlement communities to the south of Tewantin offer residents tranquil, bushland and range settings, where open space, privacy and rural and ocean vistas are key features.

Noosa North Shore has a primary role as a substantial coastal area largely dedicated to conservation. This role is assisted by lack of a bridge crossing of the Noosa River. Consequently access is by private vessels or a vehicular ferry from Tewantin. Only a small portion of the area is privately owned with the majority held by the State or Council for conservation purposes. The Great Sandy National Park mostly

lies to the north of the locality but also permeates through it, southwards to the lower reaches of the Noosa River.

Private lands are primarily used for residential purposes. Residents and landowners on the Noosa North Shore generally have a strong environmental awareness and are actively involved in protection and management of the area. While no further subdivision is anticipated the resident population is expected to grow as more properties become permanently occupied. One substantial visitor accommodation facility is under construction in the locality and provision has been made for camping close to the beach. Limited services are provided in the locality.

Hinterland communities

The hinterland communities of Cooroy, Pomona and Cooran are located along the main North Coast Rail Line which links Queensland's capital Brisbane, with the north Queensland city of Cairns some 1600 km north. Smaller villages of Kin Kin and Boreen Point are located in relatively isolated parts of the Shire.

Cooroy is some 18kms inland from Noosa Heads and is the major service centre for the hinterland, generally supplying lower to medium order goods along with some higher order goods including vehicles and rural supplies. Cooroy is a bustling country town with a high level of residential amenity built on local rural and service industries, environmental values, outdoor recreation opportunities, built heritage, artistic talent, social networks and family values (NSC, Feb 2006).

There is a rural, almost rustic quality to many of the original buildings in the town. The town centre is scattered with it's original simple timber building incorporating wooden framed windows and parapet walls that address the street. Many early buildings retain wide awnings providing sheltered areas for pedestrians to meet and talk. Outdoor dining has been promoted on the footpaths and locally made public artworks reflect the historic value of the timber and dairy industries to the area. The former Cooroy Butter Factory in the town centre has been transformed to an art centre and is the venue for community events, music and exhibitions (NSC, Feb 2006).

Pomona is located to the north of Cooroy in a generally undulating forested landscape dominated by the volcanic inselberg of Mt Cooroora. The town is physically split into two by the North Coast Rail Line and associated reserves. Historically, Pomona was the administrative focus of the Shire, with the early Council Chambers being located in what is now the Noosa Shire Museum building. The historic courthouse, post office and police station are still operational. Today Pomona functions as a significant business centre for the locality servicing small and the wider rural area. It is also a popular visitor destination with attractions such as the King of the Mountain festival, Noosa Show, Majestic Silent Movie Theatre, Railway Artisan Gallery, Art Deco and Federation style buildings lining Memorial Avenue and the Pomona Hotel. Other community facilities include Pomona Memorial School of Arts and Pomona Community House (NSC, Feb 2006).

Pomona's distinct country town atmosphere is derived from its traditional grid pattern street layout, old style town centre, country town façades, predominantly low rise buildings and diversity of building forms

which are reflective of past eras. The residential areas of Pomona are characterised by typical Queensland vernacular houses (pitched roofs and lightweight construction raised on stumps) with some newer infill housing of brick and tile, slab on ground construction. Properties generally have open landscaped front yards with no or only low fences to frontages. The Central Queensland University and Rural Futures Centre in Pomona also provide important educational and research functions for the region (NSC, Feb 2006).

Cooran is located on both sides of Six Mile Creek and the foothills of the volcanic inselberg of Mt Cooran. It is small in scale with a limited range of businesses, community facilities and services. The small scale and low-key nature of the community contributes to its friendly, family-oriented focus and rural village character. The residential areas of the village are characterised by relatively large urban lots and rural settlement lots that add to the low-density rural character. Detached housing is typically of Queensland vernacular style of lightweight construction raised on stumps with verandahs and hooded windows. A newer residential area located away from the original town presents some more contemporary dwelling styles, although still retains the low rise, open streetscape character of the locality (NSC, Feb 2006).

Kin Kin village is set in an isolated valley with steep forested slopes. Residents of the village enjoy the quiet relaxed lifestyle offered by its remote setting, the agricultural focus of the surrounding area and the open space and rural vistas that characterise the village. The small size of the village is another of its attractive and defining characteristics. The built form of commercial and residential development in Kin Kin expresses important characteristics of early 20th century architectural styles and provides a historical connection. Outside of the village there is rural production and associated activities with significant opportunities for expansion. The locality is also attractive to residents seeking a rural retreat lifestyle relatively remote from urban services (NSC, Feb 2006). The village is also a popular destination for tourists with a Queenslander style 2 storey hotel which has a 'living museum' in its public bar.

The village of **Boreen Point** has a special character derived from its lakeside setting, foreshore with extensive public space and shading vegetation, mix of traditional and location responsive building designs, low levels of infrastructure and relative lack of commercialism. Residents enjoy a relatively quiet relaxed lifestyle offered by the village's lakeside setting, its focus on lakeside and river activities and the open space, rural and water vistas. The village attracts significant numbers of visitors particularly during holiday periods, weekends and special events.

The compactness of the village, general grid pattern of streets, low traffic volume, shaded streets and attractive views suit walking and this mode dominates local trips. The curved esplanade and views to the lake and beyond, framed by trees and buildings, from the higher parts of the village, provide a sense of exploration and scenic beauty for visitors and residents.

The village retains strong connections with its history with many of the early modest style cottages remaining. The character has been enhanced over time with typical Queenslander style homes relocated from surrounding areas to the village. More recently, designs and lightweight construction that respond to the climate, setting and character further add to the appeal of the village (NSC, Feb 2006).

Nearest major town

Brisbane, the Capital of the State of Queensland is 134 km from Tewantin, the administrative centre of Noosa Shire.

3. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The area retains a rich and varied cultural history. The beaches and river provide rich evidence of Aboriginal history through numerous middens and story places.

Teewah Beach, north of the Noosa River has the largest middens found along the oceanic coastal periphery of the Cooloola region occupying approximately 10 hectares.

These middens have the greatest diversity of archaeological material and degree of stratification of any middens yet discovered along this section of coast, and they are listed on Australia's Register of the National Estate. The Coloured Sands, Cooloola Sandpatch and Noosa Heads all have well document Aboriginal stories associated with them.

Ceremonial sites including bora rings can be found in the Lake Cooroibah and Lake Cootharaba areas. Scar trees, which were used for making canoes, shields and other implements, can be seen throughout the Shire.

Residents and visitors to the Noosa National Park may be unaware of the Aboriginal quarry or stone arrangements they are walking past. Evidence of a fish trap remains in Lake Weyba.

Early European settlers acknowledged an Aboriginal pre-history through retention of local Indigenous names and meanings for a number of landforms, features and waterways.

Local Indigenous derived place names include: Lake Weyba - place of Stingrays (Monk, N.D.); Kin Kin - red soil (Steele, 1983); Lake Cooroibah - place of possums (Steele, 1983); Lake Cootharaba - place of wood for making of special clubs (Steele, 1983); Tinbeerwah - place of grass trees (Steel, 1983); and Tewanin - place of dead logs (Steele, 1983). Other references to place names can be found in Davies & Salmon, 1995; Adams, 2000; and Brown, 2000.

Whilst "Noosa" has been documented to mean shade or shady place (Cato, 1979), this is believed by Traditional Owners to be incorrect. Linguistically speaking, there are no sibilants in the Australian family of languages.

"Noosa" (originally spelt "Nusa") is an Indonesian word meaning island (NSC, April, 2004).

The Table 2 identifies some of the many Indigenous cultural heritage items or places and their general localities in the Noosa area.

TABLE 2 Some Indigenous Cultural Heritage Items Found in Noosa Shire

Item	Locality
Scarred trees/Canoe trees	Murdering Creek, Lake Cooroibah, Lake Cootharaba, Pomona
Middens	Tewanin, North Shore and North Shore Beaches, Noosa Springs, various other sites

Item	Locality
Ceremonial grounds/Bora rings	Lake Cooroibah, Six Mile Creek, Como, Lake Cootharaba
Stone tool scatters	Throughout the Shire
Art sites	Mt Tinbeerwah
Fish traps	Lake Weyba
Scattered artefacts	Throughout the Shire
Camp sites	Cooran lagoon
Quarries	Sunshine Beach, Mt Seawah
Stone arrangements	Noosa National Park
Grinding grooves	Rocky Point
Cultural sites	Noosa Heads - Cooloola Sandpatch, Murdering Creek, Coloured Sands, Tewantin.

As a result of the chain of events triggered by European settlement of the area many of the original Indigenous inhabitants of Noosa Shire have been displaced and removed from their traditional lands. Consequently there has been an inability to maintain connection to country and to practice cultural traditions (such as ceremonial or religious obligations) for an extended period of time. (Davies & Salmon, 1995). Further, this loss of connectivity to culture, lands and each other has resulted in cultural decline and loss of cultural information. This effect in itself increases the significance of remaining cultural heritage sites and places, which inherently provide valuable links to the past. A productive relationship has been fostered between the elders of the aboriginal communities claiming an association with the Noosa landscape and the local government for the nominated area.

Traditional owner elders are routinely consulted about matters that may be of interest, or impact on traditional owners. In particular Dr Eve Fesl an Elder of the Gubi Gubi people and a recognized authority in local indigenous cultural heritage matters has worked closely with the local government on the development of cultural heritage aspects of the Noosa Plan 2006. Dr Fesl has also been closely involved in the development of the Noosa River Water Quality Management Strategy, and is working with local conservation groups to protest the proposal to construct the Traverston Crossing Dam (in Cooloola Shire to the north of the nominated area).

European

Council's report, Historical Cultural Heritage of Noosa Shire (NSC, Sept 2003) provides individual citations for 55 European cultural heritage sites in the Shire. The following provides a brief overview of some sites comprising the major elements of European history in the area.

The area has a rich European cultural heritage dating from pre-settlement times. In 1836, the *Stirling Castle* foundered off the Queensland coast. Survivors of the shipwreck spent several weeks on Fraser Island and in the Cooloola region and were 'rescued' by a search party which found them in the vicinity of what is now known as Lake Cootharaba. The rescue is commemorated by a memorial located at Breen Point.

Mill Point (synonymous with Elanda Point) became the focus of the efforts of early timber getters in the area and retains significant remnants of what was possibly the first 'company' town in Queensland. At the height of timber felling and milling there were between 100 and 150 workers and their families living at the mill and settlement. Evidence of the settlement of Mill Point includes a raised mound on which a tramway was located, remnants of the original cemetery, large components of boilers, bricks, remnants of a farmhouse and stumps which were once pylons from the jetty that extended into Lake Cootharaba. The tramway dates from 1870 to 1892 and extends from Mill Point to the Wahpunga area. There are associated remains of bridges over Kin Kin and other creeks.

Elements of early agricultural enterprises can be seen throughout the hinterland in various farm houses and outbuildings and the sites of several local schoolhouses associated with what were once isolated farming communities. Cooroy and Pomona retain historic butter factories associated with the early dairy industry although both are now used for other purposes.

Evidence of early 20th Century heritage can be found in many of the hinterland towns and villages. Kin Kin and surrounds has two churches dating from pre-1930. The School of Arts building (1911) is still a focal point for the local community. Pomona retains significant areas of early 20th Century residences and public buildings including largely intact streetscapes and housing dating from the 1920s to the 60s. The Majestic Theatre in Pomona was opened in 1921 and has been in more or less continuous use until recently when it was temporarily closed for structural repairs. The theatre is included on the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate. The Pomona police residence (and former station), Courthouse and lock-up are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register along with the Mill Point site, the former Cooroora Masonic Lodge in Pomona and Halse Lodge at Noosa Heads.

Halse Lodge provides a link between the area's fledgling tourist industry dating from the 1880s and the current focus on Noosa as a widely renowned tourist destination. By 1882, a guest house, Bay View Lodge had been constructed on the elevated site overlooking Laguna Bay. Substantially rebuilt in the 1920s and renamed Hillcrest Guest House, the guest house remained popular with tourists until bought by the Anglican Church and renamed Halse Lodge after Archbishop Halse. Halse Lodge was mainly used for group accommodation for up to 80 people. In 1988 the building was leased and substantial alterations and additions made. Since that time, the Lodge has reverted to its original function as a private guest house.

As the only extant guest house in Noosa Heads from the 1920s, Halse Lodge is indicative of early twentieth century holiday accommodation, and is important in demonstrating the pattern of the development of Noosa Heads as a tourist resort. It retains a special association with the community, evidenced by the comments in guest books at the Lodge, which over several decades have changed little in their content and express the value and special qualities, which Halse Lodge holds for its visitors.

Overall Cultural Significance

The nominated area has a wider overall cultural significance in the South East Queensland, Australian and international context. Noosa is an area where one can map the classic progression from traditional indigenous ownership through the stages of early European contact and pioneering (with associated natural resources exploitation for forestry etc), wide scale European settlement (with associated

agriculture and service industry development including tourism), to the development of a high tech affluent modern western society. Due to its outstanding natural beauty, Noosa has always had a magnetic attraction for tourists and people seeking to pursue a high quality lifestyle over and above other factors. Noosa is the quintessential Australian beachside tourist community. There is a notable section of the population that is highly transient and much of the built infrastructure caters for visitor demand.

Noosa however differs from many other similar coastal tourism dependant communities in its decision to focus on managing its growth within sustainable limits. The Noosa community has rejected the notion of growth at all costs and has embarked on the process of containing development within a predetermined sustainable level. Noosa is therefore seen by many as an experimental community exploring an alternative approach to development and conservation.

Contemporary Noosa is a diverse community that maintains historical industries and land uses, while exploring new ones. Agriculture and forestry are going through a phase of reinvention with farm forestry, 'bush tucker', horticulture (based on local native plants) and organic farming all growing in popularity. The commercial sector of the local economy is diversifying also. Noosa has grown its focus on cuisine and service industries to attract a more diversified tourism market. The tourism industry is also in the process of better developing its range of ecotourism experiences. There is a growing focus on small business development within Noosa. This has been assisted by an increased emphasis on economic development from the local government and business development groups.

The culture of Noosa is now becoming more rich and diverse than ever before. At the same time Noosa is moving increasingly towards the notion of sustainable development and the challenges that it holds for the future. These factors reinforce the cultural significance of the area to the wider communities of South East Queensland and Australia. Noosa has built a reputation over decades as a fun, safe, affordable holiday and lifestyle destination with outstanding natural beauty. This reputation has been increasingly accompanied by a reputation for wise land use planning and controlled growth.

The Noosa area is increasingly the subject of case studies into sustainable development and growth management. At the time of the preparation of this submission the Australian Institute for Research on Education for Sustainability was undertaking a case study dealing with Noosa's approach to sustainable development. Within this context, the Noosa community is becoming recognised as a pioneer for the exploration of practical approaches to sustainable development.