

# **NOOSA BIOSPHERE COMMUNITY SECTOR BOARDS**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET**

### **1. Community Sector Boards – a brief history:**

In September 2001, Noosa Council established five Community Sector Boards as part of its community governance thrust to engage members of our community in the planning and delivery of environmental and quality of life outcomes to which our community aspired.

The success of the former Noosa Council's community engagement program has, in some significant way, contributed to the success of Noosa Shire being awarded with Biosphere status on the 20th September 2007. In awarding this status, the Bureau of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO, noted the strong sense of community involvement and co-ordination over a broad range of human settlement and natural environmental issues.

### **2. What is a Biosphere Reserve?**

A biosphere reserve is an international conservation designation given by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) under its Programme on Man and the Biosphere.

Biosphere reserves are sites that demonstrate innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. They share their experience and ideas regionally, nationally and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. There are 507 sites worldwide in 102 countries. Biosphere Reserves go beyond confined protected areas, and include zones where sustainable economic development is fostered via partnerships that include local people.

Biosphere Reserves are about developing quality economies based on local community action and entrepreneurship, sound science, public-private sector partnerships and networking. Biosphere reserves also provide learning sites to experiment with and showcase various approaches to sustainable development that are culturally relevant to local communities. The Noosa Biosphere Reserve is the first in Queensland.

### **3. What are the benefits of biosphere reserves?**

The biosphere reserve concept can be used as a framework to guide and reinforce projects to enhance people's livelihoods and ensure environmental sustainability. UNESCO recognition can serve to highlight and reward such individual efforts.

Designation of a site as a biosphere reserve helps to raise awareness among local people, citizens and government authorities on environmental and development issues. It can help attract additional funding from different sources.

### **3. What are the benefits of biosphere reserves? (Cont'd)**

Biosphere reserves can contribute to a global network of high profile pilot sites or "learning places" to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development, providing lessons which can be applied elsewhere.

This decision recognises the need for the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Governance Model to meet UNESCO's community involvement requirements. It is based on the conclusion that a sustainable future and an acceptable quality of life for our community requires a balance and integration between social wellbeing, cultural and heritage values; economic prosperity and environmental sustainability, education, research and development and tourism.

### **4. Noosa Biosphere Community Boards:**

The Sunshine Coast Regional Council has endorsed the continuation of the existing four Community Boards and the establishment of an additional two Community Boards to form part of the structure to manage the Noosa Biosphere Reserve. The Boards will address the following broad subject areas

1. **The Cultural Board** - advises the Noosa Biosphere Governance Board on cultural heritage and contemporary arts, and strives to preserve, promote and enhance the Noosa Biosphere Reserve's unique cultural identity.
2. **The Economic Sector Board** - this Board's focus is economic sustainability and equity, communities meeting present needs whilst not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
3. **The Environment Sector Board** - concentrates on places, the life supporting capabilities of the landscape, atmosphere and waterways and what they comprise (what is on it or above it) and the ecological process and systems of the biosphere reserve area.
4. **The Social Sector Board** - concentrates on people, the social well-being of communities and the way people interact.
5. **The Education, Research & Development Board** - this Board's focus is to facilitate learning and research in partnership with the community and to encourage sustainable development practices through education and research that involves active participation.
6. **The Tourism Noosa Board** - Tourism Noosa is charged with the strategic Tourism industry development, marketing of the biosphere reserve region to domestic and international consumers, trade and the media.

Only Board Members are entitled to vote. Service by the community representatives on the six Boards is voluntary.

### **5. Roles & Responsibilities of the Boards:**

Based on the acceptance that the Governance Board is the supervising body for decision-making on biosphere reserve governance matters, the major roles of the Noosa Biosphere Sector Boards are:

1. To provide advice, guidance and information to the Governance Board on matters relevant to the theme of their Sector Board, such advice may be at the request of the Governance Board or on the initiative of the Sector Board.

## 5. Roles & Responsibilities of the Boards (Cont'd)

2. To assist with developing, refining and implementation of the strategies, objectives, actions and timelines from the Biosphere Reserve Action Plans adopted by the Governance Board from time to time.
3. To monitor progress on achievement of the strategies and objectives and their relevance or contribution to achieving the overall vision for the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
4. To develop, maintain and evaluate performance against key performance indicators relevant to the Sector's Action Plans.
5. To provide feedback to the Governance Board on the overall development and progress of the plans and with the agreement of the Governance Board play a role in advancing issues/projects.
6. To provide and receive advice without fear or favour.
7. With the approval of the Governance Board, facilitate and collaborate works to advance the achievement of actions, projects and programs that advance the vision of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.

## 6. Vacancies on the Boards:

Vacancies become available on the following Boards from time to time:

Cultural Board (1)  
Economic Board (?)  
Environment Board (3)  
Social Board (3)  
Education, Research & Development (2)  
Governance Board (0)

## 7. Terms and conditions of appointment:

A copy of the "Noosa Biosphere Community Sector Boards – Operating Guidelines" is available. This document provides details on the purpose, structure, roles, responsibilities and protocols for the Sector Boards and their formal and informal relationship to the Governance Board.

The following pertinent matters are particularly highlighted in relation to the current call for nominations:

**Term of Appointment:** 4 years

**Appointment:** By Sunshine Coast Regional Council

### **Selection Criteria:**

In order to achieve well-balanced teams with a range of different skills, experience and strengths, the following Selection Criteria shall apply:

- a. Extensive experience and/or a keen interest in one or more themes of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
- b. Sound experience in strategic planning and/or thinking.

## 7. Terms and conditions of appointment (Cont'd)

- c. An understanding of sustainability issues within the Noosa Biosphere community.
- d. Capacity to take a holistic view.
- e. Enthusiasm for the project and a commitment and capacity to devote the reasonable time required by the Board.
- f. Board members shall be appointed for their individual skills and experience and shall not be appointed to represent the views of any community group or organisation.
- g. In considering any vacant positions, selection will also be based on a gap analysis model and aimed at appointing nominees with skills and qualifications relating to the initiatives to be planned and implemented by the Sector Boards.

## 8. Meetings:

Each Board determines the time and date of its meetings and whilst this may vary from time to time depending on the current issues and projects being considered, on average, the Boards meet for 2 – 3 hours every 6 weeks.

- **Project Support:**

Council's Community Governance Project Officer provides support to all the Sector Boards.

- **Obligation of Members:**

The Community Governance Framework provides details on members' obligations in respect to privacy of information, dealing with matters where members may have a material personal interest, absence from meetings, etc.

The obligation most stressed, however, is for Board Members in accepting appointment, being willing to commit the necessary time, energy and enthusiasm to be a productive member of the Board.

## 9. Nominations:

A Nomination Form is attached. It is particularly important that applicants provide reasonable details of their past experience and background in order to enable Council to make an objective and well-considered selection.

It would be particularly helpful if applications endeavoured to address the selection criteria previously detailed.

Should I be unsuccessful in my nomination, I agree that my details may be kept in Council's database for future contact.                      Yes ( )                      No ( )

## 10. Closing Date:

Nominations on the prescribed form should be delivered to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Attention Helen Gregory), P.O. Box 141, Tewantin, Qld. 4565 by <> For further information, please contact Helen Gregory on telephone 5449 5122 or Email [helen.gregory@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:helen.gregory@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)..

