

# Kabi Kabi Commitment

Welcome to Noosa, a place of great cultural and spiritual significance.

This is the place of shadows from the guardian trees. It connects us all and draws us together from around the world.

We, the Kabi Kabi First Nations Peoples, are the Traditional Custodians of this land.

We acknowledge our ancestors and Elders who nurtured and looked after this land. Without them, we would not have the natural resources of the land that we have today.

We are part of the oldest continuing culture in human history, dating back 65,000 years.

Our song lines and stories go back to time immemorial.

We have cared for this land through ice ages, climate shifts, great floods, volcanic eruptions, and colonisation.

Through this time, we have adapted and learned to care for that which cares for us. We have learned to develop a deep custodianship and reciprocal relationship with all life that shares Country.

In this modern world, we often forget how much we depend on the natural systems around us. The trees give us clean air, the oceans give us a stable climate, the mountains and rainforests give us fresh water, and the soil gives us healthy food. Without it, we cannot thrive.

When healthy land is whole, it is generous and sustains its custodians. As we care for and restore the land, it can once again care for us and continue caring for future generations in the face of growing threats.

This is the Noosa we all want. A place with water we can swim in, streams we can drink from, food that nourishes the body, oceans that replenish the soul, and air that invigorates with every breath.

A place of mutual flourishing - where our natural world is as much a part of us as we are a part of it.

With this commitment, we invite you to join us in opening our hearts. To listen deeply, to learn intently, and embrace all life that shares this beautiful place with us.

## **This is the key to custodianship:**

**Having the humility and respect to care for and protect that which sustains us in return.**

We invite you to tread lightly on this Country, and to listen to the Traditional Custodians to protect the totems representing all of Country.

We invite you to experience the beauty of Noosa. From the koalas on the sacred Mount Cooroora in the west, to the white-bellied sea eagle fishing in the Everglades to the north; the humpback whales migrating along the eastern Noosa Headland; and the Loggerheads nesting on the white sandy beaches to the south.

We invite you to share your experiences of Noosa with others and encourage them to visit the region also with care and respect.

Together, we can be custodians of our collective home and transform it into one that is enduring, one that nurtures, and one that sustains nature now so that it can sustain our children indefinitely.

We thank you for helping us make the Noosa story into one that redefines our relationship with the living world. The place that defines what it means to be a Biosphere Reserve and shows the world how we are truly different by nature.

This is the commitment we make together for our children and their children after.

**Welcome to Noosa.**

Signed on 19 September 2024 in Tewantin, Noosa Shire

Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation

Noosa Council

Norman Bond, Chair & Director

Cr Frank Wilkie - Mayor

Brian Warner, Secretary & Director

Cr Brian Stockwell - Deputy Mayor

Melissa Bond, Treasurer & Director

Cr Karen Finzel

Cecilia Combo, Director

Cr Amelia Lorentson

Uncle Michael Douglas, Director

Cr Jessica Phillips

Aunty Helena Gulash, Director

Cr Tom Wegener

Kerry Jones, Director

Cr Nicola Wilson

