

Noosa Sustainability Institute

Addendum to CSIRO 'Options and Potential Structures' Report

This addendum provides a summary only of additional information related to examples of local organisations and individuals currently undertaking or proposing sustainability related projects, research and activities.

Organisations Featured:

- 1. Noosa Council
- 2. Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF)
- 3. USC Sustainability Research Centre
- 4. Noosa & District Landcare
- 5. ZEN Inc
- 6. CQ University
- 7. Tourism Noosa
- 8. Clean Tech Industries Sunshine Coast
- 9. Noosa Community Gardens Group Inc.
- 10. Sustainable Planet Institute Noosa
- 11. Polkadot ecovillages, Noosa
- 12. The Global Change Institute, UQ
- 13. Permaculture Research Institute Sunshine Coast
- 14. Environmental Futures Research Institute Griffith University
- 15. #Earthtech
- 16. Centre for International Development, Social Entrepreneurism and Leadership (CIDSEL)

Organisation Name	Noosa Council
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Research, Advocacy, Projects, Education, Action
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank',	Sustainability Principles
research, etc.	Council adopted a set of Sustainability Principles for the purpose of providing a common basis for increasing sustainability in Noosa. These principles are embedded and guide the work of Council.
	Noosa's Six Sustainability Principles are:
	1. Resources are sustainably managed so that the lifestyle of the community is preserved, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (consistent with the Brundtland Commission definition of sustainability).
	2. Noosa's economy is prosperous, diverse and protective of its unique environment.
	3. Noosa residents belong to a community that values its diversity, accessibility and affordability.
	4. Noosa's community is inclusive, connected and resilient and encourages participation and information sharing.
	5. Noosa's community benefits from quality places and programs that enhance wellbeing and support creative, active and healthy lifestyles.
	6. Good governance is achieved through effective and efficient decision making, made in the interests of the community.
	A wide range of research initiatives are underway across Council including but not limited to – Coastal Hazards and Climate Changes, Sustainable Fisheries, Coastal processes (River mouth – SEMP), River Health, Emissions reduction etc
	Sustainable Living
	Council maintains a suite of educational information regarding sustainable practices related to; food; homes; transport; and composing & worm farms. https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/sustainable-living
	Key Plans/Strategies/Activities : Climate Change Adaptation Plan; Zero Emissions Strategy, Environment Strategy; Noosa River Fisheries research; The Nature Conservancy strategic partnership including the project to restore Noosa River's oyster reefs, SEMP, River Plan.
Governance	Elected Body – Council. Various governance arrangements including internal project control groups and external reference groups.
Funding	General Rates. Environment Levy funds specific projects (eg. Climate Changes adaptation plan funded through state government grant) Grants

Organisation Name	Peregian Digital Hub
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Research, Projects, Solutions
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	The Digital Hub has hosted a number of events and development programs with a connection to sustainability. The Hub provides a significant resource in terms of capability, networks, access to talent and solutions
	Govhack : This federal government supported event brings together groups of software developers and technology to specifically work on real-world problems, using publically accessible data to find solutions. The Noosa events held in mid-2018 resulted in sustainable transport solutions being piloted in Noosa over the period Christmas Period and seeded an exciting clean energy project based on water current technology called OceanHydro, that is currently in the assessment phase with federal Government support
	Expert Speaker Series – The Digital Hub plays host to a key note speaker series with a focus on technology and the impacts of technology transformation. Andrew McAfee, a principal research scientist at MIT, gave a great presentation on how digital technologies are changing business, the economy, and society. His most recent book is "Machine, Platform, Crowd: Harnessing Our Digital Future."
Governance	Part of Economic Development Unit within Environment and Sustainable Development Department of Council
	Council oversight and decision making.
Funding	Noosa Council General Rates, Tourism & Economic Levy funded some programs, State Government funded part of building construction. Sponsorship and Commercial tenancies (rental and co-work membership)

Organisation Name	Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation
Website	http://noosabiosphere.org.au/
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Research, Projects
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank',	MISSION
research, etc.	"Support projects and ideas that enhance biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable living in Noosa." VISION
	"Our community is internationally recognised for its relationship between Noosa's environment and its people." GOALS
	The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation will engage with the Noosa community to:
	Preserve and enhance our biodiversity;
	Encourage and support sustainable living throughout the community;
	Help deliver projects and research to achieve the above;
	Increase understanding about the Noosa Biosphere Reserve through communication and education.
	The Noosa Biosphere Reserve, through fundraising efforts and project delivery under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program, aims to promote the "Noosa Soft Footprint" as a global benchmark.
	Specific Objectives:
	Achieving legally protected biodiversity conservation corridors that span the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
	Achieving sustainable resident and visitor actions across the Noosa Biosphere Reserve - progressing towards a Zero Emissions Noosa.
	Establishment of a university supported research centre or institute.
	Develop and promote Noosa Biosphere Reserve to be globally recognised as outstanding – KPI being progress towards global recognition as World Heritage listing of Noosa and Cooloola.
	The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation provides supporting grants to develop significant and innovative conversation projects that deliver environmental and socio-economic outcomes for the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
	Project partners with numerous other organisations including WWF Australia, Noosa Parks Association, University of the Sunshine Coast, UQ, Zero Emissions Noosa, , Noosa and District Landcare, Healthy Land and Water, MRCCC, BMRG

Organisation Name	Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation
	Projects: Examples include - Bring Back the Fish, Mapping Koala Health, 100% Renewable Energy, Noosa Trail Master Plan, Bush Tucker Garden, Cultural Learning Trail, Pandanus Preservation, Koala Forever Noosa, Rural Enterprise Plan, Keeping it in Kin Kin
Governance	The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd (the "Foundation") is a company limited by guarantee.
Funding	Under a three-year funding agreement, the Noosa Council has allocated funds to the Foundation from its Environmental Levy. The Foundation also has DGR status so can receive donations from public. The Foundation also leverages this funding to attract other sources of funding including in kind contributions. Leveraged funds are currently reported to be 3:1

Organisation Name	Noosa & District Landcare
Website	https://noosalandcare.org/
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Projects, Research, Action
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank',	Vision: Transforming our Landscape Together
research, etc.	"Noosa & District Landcare: Education, Protection and Participation."
	"Noosa and District Landcare is a dynamic, proactive organisation committed to achieving long term environmental outcomes."
	Activities
	The Conservation Services Crew, with Project Management experience, Bush regeneration and Horticultural Training, have the knowledge and equipment to undertake specialised work in Bushland and Riparian areas. All with sound knowledge and identification of local native plants, large scale revegetation, selective weed removal and seed collecting techniques.
	Staff are experienced and qualified to undertake a broad range of conservation (eco) services.
	NDLG have many years in the NRM industry, with a demonstrated track record in working effectively with partners and delivering good quality outcomes. Their clients and partners include local landholders, developers, environmental consultants, local government, state government and federal government, regional bodies, CMAs, Catchment & Landcare groups.
	DLG currently work throughout the Burnett Mary & Sunshine Coast regions, as well as delivering presentations and workshops interstate.
	Past Projects: Six Mile Creek Conservation, Sunshine Coast FarmFLOW Project, Smarter Travelling with Electric Bikes, Station Place Public Garden, Doggrell Tree Protection Area, Community Nature Conservation Program, Offsetting Noosa Biosphere Emissions, Mahers Dairy Erosion Control, Riparian Weed Control and demonstration, Determine the Resilience of the Upper Noosa River, Cootharaba Community Erosion, Awareness Project, Friends of Kin Kin Creek Landslip Rehabilitation, Low Carbon Diet (LCD) Community Funding Program, Building Skills & Networks in Sustainable Agriculture, Lake Cootharaba Nitrogen Project, Black Mountain Range Catchments Extension, Rainforest Recovery Consortium, Kin Kin Rainforest Project
Governance	NFP. Management Committee.
Funding	Since its inception in 1991, Noosa & District Landcare has been operating as a not for profit organisation. Surpluses from commercial activities are used to fund community education programs. Memberships and Grant funding

Organisation Name	ZEN (Zero Emissions Noosa)
website	http://zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Education, Projects, Advocacy
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	"Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN) is a not-for-profit incorporated association whose members have set the goal of zero net community carbon emissions in the Noosa Shire by 2026. We believe that Noosa is capable of joining communities around the globe which are committing to meaningful action on climate change.
	Our timeline may seem ambitious but exponential change is happening in the fields of solar power, battery storage and electric vehicles. We see our role as kick starting that process in our own community, and empowering our residents and businesses and community organisations to come on the journey with us.
	Noosa's primary emissions sources are electricity consumption and fossil-fuel powered vehicles and our strategic plan currently in preparation will identify where best to target our energies."
	ELECTRICITY WORKING GROUP
	With 69% of Noosa's community emissions coming from electricity consumption, this is obviously a major area of focus. The ZENe working group are currently exploring:
	a community owned solar farm
	a Noosa community-owned electricity retailer company
	exploration of ways to encourage greater solar take up in the industrial estate and tourism accommodation areas
	encouragement and support for community organisations with buildings to install solar
	• potential to increase embedded networks in strata properties to minimise daily charges and free up funds for solar installation.
	Find out more about the electricity subgroup, affectionately known as "Electric ZEN" at www.repowernoosa.com
	TRANSPORT
	At least 30% of Noosa's emissions are attributable to vehicles, and this is likely to be a significant under-estimate as it does not include visitor vehicles.
	Noosa Council has recently adopted a Transport Strategy to 2027 which includes a focus on reducing vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. However the ZEN Transport Action Group (ZENTAG) are keen to accelerate this process whenever and wherever they can. Key actions for 2017-2018 include:
	Promoting national Ride2Work Day on 18 October
	Calling for community identification of bicycle black spots
	Community bike rides to promote safe cycle pathway networks
	An electric vehicle expo (EVE) in early 2018

Organisation Name	ZEN (Zero Emissions Noosa)
	Follow the Transport Group's main activity the Electric Vehicle Expo website - https://www.noosaevexpo.com/ on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NoosaEVexpo/
Governance	Non-profit, non-government body. Members from across community groups including: Country Noosa, CQU, TN, landcare, NPA
Funding	Grant funding from Noosa Council, NBRF. In kind support

Organisation Name	USC Sustainability Research Centre
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Research, Projects, Education
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank',	Goal
research, etc.	"At the Sustainability Research Centre, our goal is to help regions transition towards sustainability. Our collaborative, transdisciplinary approach is focused on understanding the relationships between people, place and change, and is broadly aligned with the fields of human geography and environmental management."
	Mission
	The Sustainability Research Centre strives to solve persistent and emerging issues related to the social and environmental nexus at local through global scales, using innovative, transdisciplinary applications of social, economic, and environmental sciences to foster long-term environmental and social resilience.
	The Centre focuses on evolving sustainability issues, such as coastal management, water resources, community development, rural landscape management, indigenous aspirations, natural hazards, and climate change adaptation. In the first decade the Centre's research focus was largely in the social sciences, more recent research has emphasised collaborations with environmental and biogeophysical scientists — a trend that will continue to capture the full spectrum of sustainability, and grow our already excellent research programs.
	Currently working a number of research projects internationally, nationally and locally.
Governance	Director and four person advisory board. Researchers include about 30 staff and 43 higher degree by research students.
Funding	USC Funded. Grant funding and Partner funding

Organisation Name	CQ University
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Education, Research
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	CQU undertakes a range of research and is growing its capacity as a leading research institute, specifically Noosa Council and CQ University are considering research partnerships through the development of an MOU across a number of sustainability and environmental projects. Some examples for potential research opportunities include:
	• Development of a methodology and baseline for the ecosystem health of the Noosa River wetlands, specifically to monitor long-term impacts related to climate change (saline intrusion, groundwater impacts etc).
	Ecotoxicology investigation related to potential long-term pesticide residues in the Noosa River and its impacts on ecosystem health.
	Causes of long-term declines of aquatic invertebrates in the Noosa River and wetlands, and potential management/mitigation actions.
	 What is the economic cost/acceptable losses from coastal hazards (e.g. sea wall construction for private property protection) at the expense of estuarine wetland migration. In coastal hazard areas, what value do we put on biodiversity assets and associated ecosystem services and their protection? Important for considering retreat options for Noosa North Shore and other vulnerable areas.
	Detailed study on the role of groundwater systems on the Noosa River and associated wetlands, and potentially human impacts on groundwater quality.
	• The Climate Change Biodiversity Assessment Report (first draft now available) highlights the vulnerability of freshwater-wetland dependent aquatic species including the Honey Blue-eye and Oxleyan Pygmy Perch. What specific management strategies would assist with natural adaptation for these species in Noosa?
	Long-term study of specific threatened (or key economic or indicator) aquatic species in the Noosa River.
	• Changes in catch in recreational and/or commercial fish catch as a result of management actions taken to restore biodiversity of the Noosa River (eg. survey of recreational fishers and catch times (hours taken to catch a legal sized fish). Potential to link this to the importance of recreational fishing as an economic driver for Noosa?
	What are the Carbon sequestration opportunities in the Noosa Shire focusing on Blue Carbon?
	What are the virtual power plant opportunities for Girraween Sportsfield and local residents?
	What is the carrying capacity of the Noosa River with regard to marine infrastructure and boating?
	Could Noosa Council act as a potential power supplier to the Noosa Shire?
	What is the contribution of the Noosa Biosphere brand to the local economy?
Governance	Based out of CQ University. Noosa Council and CQ University are considering an MOU
Funding	University funded

Organisation Name	Tourism Noosa
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Projects, Advocacy
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Ecocheck - Offers an online program designed to assist businesses in implementing environmentally friendly business practices that will save money and also support Noosa in becoming a truly sustainable and eco-friendly destination. The program provides a selection of easy-to-implement key actions in areas such as energy, water, waste and corporate social responsibility with great examples of sustainable business initiatives from across the region.
	GREEN SHOOTS GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM The Green Shoots Grant Funding Program will aim at assisting Tourism Noosa members to fulfil and develop innovative and sustainable tourism initiatives and products.
	TREES FOR TOURISM – EVENTS CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM - To help Noosa Council and Zero Emissions Noosa in reaching the target of zero carbon emissions by 2026, Tourism Noosa has launched a project assisting major events in Noosa to offset their carbon emissions. Through the collaboration with Noosa and District Landcare, and by allocating a percentage of event participation fees to the Trees for Tourism project, Noosa events help to revegetate rainforest and wetlands and to build wildlife corridors in the Noosa Shire.
Governance	Not for profit with Board
Funding	Noosa Council
	Membership to Noosa Tourism annual fees and Joining fees Grant funding

Organisation Name	Clean Tech Industries Sunshine Coast & National Conference
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Projects, Solutions, Research, Action
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank',	Description
research, etc.	An eco business hub promoting local clean technology and sustainability businesses. An independent, not-for-profit organisation providing the latest cleantech news, information and professional development opportunities for cleantech business owners and supporters.
	National Clean Technologies Conference May 2019, Sunshine Coast
	The National Clean Technologies Conference (also known by some as Cleantech) is a new nationally focused two day clean technologies conference plus workshop program and exhibition that will encompass all clean technology growth areas including energy, waste, water, built environment and transport
	This important clean technologies event will bring together stakeholders across the entire cleantech industry to drive growth, innovation and investment. This inaugural cleantech event will also be a vehicle for the development of a National Regional Cleantech Network, inviting participation from various regional centres who have a cleantech emphasis.
	The aim of this Network is to generate new business opportunities, enhance competitive advantages and create added value for companies, higher educational institutions and local authorities within the target regions.
Governance	Management Committee of 8 industry representatives
Funding	AusIndustry and Sunshine Coast Council grant

Organisation Name	Noosa Community Gardens Group Inc.
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Projects, Research, Action and Demonstration
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Noosa Community Gardens groups has recently proposed the establishment of a centre for research and demonstration
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	"To make Noosa the most outstanding centre in Australia for the integration of the Environment, Conservation, Water and Soil Management, Food, Energy and Education."
	Proposing the concept of a Noosa Environment Institute as an umbrella organisation.
	Overview
	"Noosa Community Gardens is a community group recently incorporated in 2018. The group is fast growing but also has a vision for the future that in actual fact would be greater than the scope of the NCG Charter. We seek to work with the Council in the creation of a unique facility in Australia that people will travel to Noosa to see participate in. Our proposal is by no means complete as the council will have many of their own ideas to will enhance this vision."
	Vision
	Elements that will make up this Vision include:
	Environment and waste
	Water
	Energy –Both sources and conservation
	Indigenous and International Cultures
	Food – from soil to plate
	Cooking techniques and methods
	Community engagement
	 Education of all age groups with a big focus on the young. Corporate Involvement
	Commercial element is proposed in there concept to generate revenue. The size and scope is hoped to attract corporate sponsorship, donations, bequests and grants from State and federal governments. Initial requirement for \$20k-50k grant
Governance	Recently Incorporated
Funding	Grant funding

Organisation Name	Sustainable Planet Institute - Noosa
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Research, Solution, Action, Education
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	The Sustainable Planet Institute has been established as a Social Enterprise venture, as a for-profit business that uses its profits towards applying solutions to sustainability issues.
,	The focus is on taking action in solving sustainability problems around the world and partnering with organisations to deliver set outcomes, for example, a plastic free ocean, zero carbon emissions, etc on a local and global level.
	It solves problems collaboratively in accelerated and highly executed ways through connections and consultancy services.
	They are planning for an International Summit in 2020.
	The Institute has developed a one-of-a-kind training program and are in the process of developing some unique business ventures.
	They have chosen Noosa as their home base as they believe that its iconic natural setting is an asset which can help entice top talent and foster increased economic activities which are aimed at sustainability proactiveness in commercialised ways.
	The intent is to boost the diversity of technical skills in the region and accurately channel those skills to meaningful purposes whilst being financially rewarding and socially recognised.
Governance	Recently Incorporated
Funding	TBC

Organisation Name	Polkadot ecovillages, Noosa
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Projects, Demonstration, Advocacy, Think Tank
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	"To demonstrate the principles of sustainable community living to the mainstream in an accessible and engaging way so that the planet may be enjoyed for generations to come."
,	Polkadot aims to:
	help facilitate and support open discussion, education, networking and collaboration by thought leaders, government, advocates, academics, community groups and leaders with the general public
	 help create an open source operating system for viable eco villages, by using their facility, to help introduce the future governance and currency of Blockchain; by assisting with the responsible and ethical on-ramping of people into the global creative digital economy of the future through education about Smart Contacts, creating Digital Passports, and the secure accrual of Digital Reputation, establishing more transparent and immediate trust through peer 2 peer exchanges between strangers; all the while being cognizant that this may help usher in the next enlightenment in consciousness for the human race.
Governance	Community incorporated association
Funding	Paid events

Organisation Name	The Global Change Institute
Description of Sustainability Activity:	Global change affects everyone. As the global population grows, urbanisation has continued to increase, placing an unprecedented burden on the planet's fragile ecosystems.
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Research, Advocacy
	The UQ Global Change Institute is an independent source of innovative research, ideas, policy and advice for addressing the challenges of a changing world. GCI is a collaborative hub drawing together resources from across UQ to find solutions to the global challenges facing us all – healthy oceans, food systems, clean energy and sustainable water
	GCI works to address the impacts of climate change and population growth through collaborative research across themes such as food systems and healthy oceans. They also facilitate research projects in marine plastic and Indigenous health and human rights through GCI <u>Flagship Projects</u> . https://gci.uq.edu.au/
Governance	UQ Institute - advisory board
Funding	University funded, donations, grants

Organisation Name	Permaculture Research Institute Sunshine Coast
Description of Sustainability Activity: i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	PRI Sunshine Coast Inc. re-empowers people by providing training in permaculture, sustainability and self-sufficiency at the Permaculture Demonstration Site and Education Centre "Maungaraeeda" ("place of food" in the local Aboriginal language). Education
	Provision of training courses, demonstration of permaculture, workshops and events https://permaculturesunshinecoast.org/
Governance	Incorporated not for profit
Funding	Courses and events

Organisation Name	Environmental Futures Research Institute - Griffith University
Description of Sustainability Activity:	"Our vision is to be recognised as a leading scientific environmental research institute that influences and expands new knowledge in the era of the Anthropocene."
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Research Centre - facilitating clean, resilient and sustainable futures
	Comprises 4 research centres –
	Centre for Clean Energy & environment
	Australian Research Centre for human evolution
	Planetary Health
	https://www.griffith.edu.au/environmental-futures-research-institute/our-institute
Governance	Griffith University Institute
Funding	University funding, research grants

Organisation Name	#Earthtech
Description of Sustainability Activity:	#EarthTech is a new initiative, created by local social enterprise entrepreneurs Brian Keayes and Anthony Moorhouse and born out of the Peregian Digital Hub.
i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Projects, Solutions and Action
	Their vision is to make Noosa the global epicentre for #EarthTech. EarthTech's purpose is to fuel technologies which have an exponential impact on making humanity sustainable on Earth.
	In July 2019, The EarthTech Venture Studio will open at the Peregian Digital Hub. Open to early stage companies from the Sunshine Coast and beyond, the EarthTech Venture Studio provides commercialisation, technology, scalability and investment support which helps aspiring entrepreneurs in the EarthTech space.
Governance	Company – Co- founders
Funding	Investor funding, grants

Organisation Name	The Centre for International Development, Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership
Description of Sustainability Activity: i.e. advocacy, projects, tech, 'think tank', research, etc.	Projects, Education and Research Formerly the USC International Development Centre, and recently rebranded and relaunched as CIDSEL. CIDSEL attracts and manages development projects worldwide, with a focus on creating solutions, collaborating with partners and connecting with communities. The group started as the International Projects Group in 2008 in the Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering. Since its inception, it has expanded significantly and is now operating out of Noosa. It is using academic expertise to tackle local and global challenges with a positive social impact having successfully managed over 100 projects. They have a professional development alumni network of over 2000 participants globally. CIDSEL's aim is to create a healthy, resilient and sustainable future, to improve people's livelihoods and to make a significant contribution to foster sustainable and equitable development in the world's most vulnerable countries. Their approach is to adopt and adapt innovative practices to overcome complex global challenges while remaining committed to developing local talent to solve local problems. This is done by focusing on research-informed capacity building which is reflected in a delivery model underpinned by our three pillars: Create, Collaborate, Connect. CIDSEL's objectives are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with the end goal of improving people's livelihoods around the globe. They are problem solvers utilising the university's collective capability to respond to the world's most critical issues.
Governance Funding	University of the Sunshine Coast Council Government, research grants, philanthropic