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# BACKGROUND

Noosa is recognised globally for its outstanding biodiversity values and rich cultural history. In 2007, the Noosa Shire was awarded Biosphere Reserve status under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MaB) Programme in recognition of the ongoing efforts of our community to manage Noosa’s land, waters and wildlife sustainably – while maintaining a balance between people and nature. The Noosa Biosphere is one of only four recognised UNESCO biosphere reserves in Australia and is part of a network of more than 700 sites worldwide.

The MAB programme aims to establish a scientific basis and support for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. Biosphere reserves are ‘living labs’. They are learning places seeking to develop and test local solutions to the global challenges of sustainable development and biodiversity health.

The [Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation](https://noosabiosphere.org.au/what-we-do/) is a charitable trust established by Noosa Council in 2015 to support projects and ideas that enhance biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable living in Noosa.

# AIM OF THE AWARDS

The Noosa Biosphere Awards aims to celebrate local projects, products and service to the community that align with the UNESCO MaB Programme objectives and aim to broadly address the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our focus is on acknowledging individuals, businesses and organisations that are implementing local solutions to the global challenges of sustainable development and addressing climate change. The Awards recognise people who are making a difference in our community and are leading the way.

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation launched the Noosa Biosphere Awards program in 2021 as part of the 50th Anniversary of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere celebrations – It’s About Life!

**

# AWARD CATEGORIES

There are four award categories for nomination: Land, Water, Wildlife and People & Economy.

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# KEY DATES

* Nominations & Entries Open: Friday, 13 August 2021
* Entries Close: Midnight, Sunday, 26 September 2021
* Finalists Announced: October
* Winners Announced: Tuesday, 2 November at the [Noosa Biosphere Gala](https://noosabiosphere.org.au/gala/)

# ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The individual, business or organisation must be based in or operate within the Noosa Shire; with activities benefiting the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.
2. Represent one or more of our four priority areas of Land, Water, Wildlife and People & Economy
3. Should meet at least two of the objectives of the [UNESCO MaB](https://en.unesco.org/mab) Programme objectives:
   1. Combine the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems
   2. Establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.
   3. Promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.
4. Aim to meet at least three of the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)

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Image: The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Applicants should fall into one of these key focus areas:

1. Environmental Conservation
2. Social and Cultural connection
3. Sustainable economic development
4. Education and Research
5. Community Engagement and Collaboration
6. Innovation and Technology

# NOMINATIONS & ENTRIES PROCESS

Anyone can nominate an individual, business or organisation in the Noosa Biosphere Awards. Nominees will be notified by the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Secretariat. It is then up to the nominee to determine if they are eligible and decide if they wish to Enter the Awards.

To nominate someone else, fill in the online [Nomination Form](https://forms.gle/u1nQAcdMd4JxHz9b9).

If you are entering an Individual on their behalf, you must have their consent to enter the awards.

To enter, complete the Entry Application Form further in this document, and email your completed Application to awards@noosabiosphere.org.au by the closing date.

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# ENTRY APPLICATION FOR THE NOOSA BIOSPHERE AWARDS 2021

**ENTRANT DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of project, product or service to the community: |  |
| Category entering for: |  |
| Are you entering as an individual, group, business or organisation? |  |
| Group/Company name (if applicable): |  |
| Contact person: |  |
| Contact phone: |  |
| Contact email: |  |
| Briefly tell us about your project, product or service to the community  (200 words): |  |

**ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Does your project, product or service operate or established within the Noosa Shire? (Yes/No) |  |
| Does your project, product or service meet each of the Eligibility Criteria? (Yes/No) |  |
| If you are entering an Individual on their behalf, do you have their consent to enter the awards? (Yes/No) |  |

**ENTRY QUESTIONS**

|  |
| --- |
| **Describe your project, product or service to the community in 800 words or less.**   * What problem does it seek to solve? * How did you approach solving the problem?   + What was the methodology used? Was there scientific research involved?   + How did you engage community or stakeholders? * How does it impact our local community?   + Consider socially, environmentally, culturally, economically * Does it have a global application?   + Does it meet the SDGs?   + Is it translatable to other communities?   + What can others (including other biosphere reserves) learn from this * What is your vision for the future?   + How do you envision your solution providing long term benefits? |

*Include your written answer here*

**REFERENCES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please provide two references or reviews to validate your application. | |
| REFEREE 1: | NAME:  BUSINESS:  PHONE: |
| REFEREE 2: | NAME:  BUSINESS:  PHONE: |

**SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**

Applications are due by the closing date of midnight, Sunday 26 September 2021. Please email your application to awards@noosabiosphere.org.au

Thank you for entering the Noosa Biosphere Awards and the work you do.

We wish you good luck!