Noosa Biosphere® Reserve Foundation Ltd

Expressions of Interest for a Noosa Biosphere Reserve Grant

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation is inviting Expressions of Interest for project grants. Please read the **NBR Grants Scheme Guidelines** before completing this form.

*All fields are required

Your Full Name *	Dr Michael Gloster OAM
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Name of Applicant Organisation *	Noosa Parks Association Inc and The Thomas Foundation
Type of Organisation * *Refer to Guideline 2. Eligibility for an NBR Grant*	Incorporated Community Association and Private Foundation
Title of Your Proposed Project * *This can be a working title and can be changed later.*	Project 2: Bringing fish life back to Noosa: restoring a lost habitat in the Noosa Biosphere Reserve
Summary Project Idea * *Keep it short, around 200 words. Outline your project idea, noting 'what', 'where', 'who' and 'how it would work'. Describe the main issue(s) the project would aim to address.*	The Noosa River and Lakes system and Laguna Bay were once teeming with marine life. Recreational fishing flourished, as did commercial fishing. No longer. Guided by marine science and complemented by high levels of community engagement and participation, fish populations will be progressively re-established. The long term outcome sought is a considered balance between marine biodiversity recovery and sustainable recreational and commercial fishing. Over the past year Noosa Parks Association, The Thomas Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, University of Sunshine Coast, University of Queensland, and Ecological Service Professionals have established that to increase fish productivity in the Noosa River and Lakes system, three key initiatives are required: i) Constructing oyster reefs to replace those lost in earlier times, in order to improve water quality, to bring back habitat

	structure, and to bring back a key component of the fish food chain; ii) Introducing measures to bring back prawn populations, in order to bring back another key component of the fish food chain; iii) Reducing suspended fine sediment pollution and attached nutrient pollution resulting from soil erosion in the Kin Kin catchment, as this hinders fish habitat (e.g. oyster reefs and seagrass) recovery.
Significance for Conservation and Sustainability * *Highlight the contributions your project would make to conservation and sustainability in the Noosa Region.*	This project will progressively: i) Restore the marine biodiversity of the Noosa River and Lakes system and Laguna Bay by restoring fish populations to levels that better reflect past abundance; ii) Move towards the realisation of local recreational fishing and commercial fishing practices that are sustainable. In so doing, this project is very much about producing better biodiversity conservation outcomes, and sustainable socio-economic outcomes .
Main Project Activities and Timings (month, years) *	To implement this project NPA and The Thomas Foundation will be seeking to work in partnership with Noosa Council, Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, Noosa Community Biosphere Association, Noosa and District Landcare, Country Noosa, Tourism Noosa, and CCIQ Noosa. In the coming year the main project activities will be: i) Commissioning of the design, construction and monitoring of pilot oyster reefs, as well as complementary citizen science and community involvement projects, guided by The Nature Conservancy and University of the Sunshine Coast; ii) Commissioning of a University of Queensland and Murdoch University scientific study on the most effective ways to bring back prawn populations; iii) Assisting Noosa and District Landcare fund the commissioning of a 2015/16 scientific Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) study identifying the amount (if any) of soil erosion from each allotment and road reserve in the Kin Kin catchment from 2009 (last LiDAR data set) and 2015-2016.

	In subsequent years, main project activities will include: i) Ongoing oyster reef building and scientific monitoring; ii) Ongoing implementation of measures to bring back prawn populations; iii) Ongoing implementation of measures to progressively reduce erosion runoff in the Kin Kin catchment; iv) Community and stakeholder consultation on reforms necessary to achieve genuinely sustainable recreational and commercial fishing.
Summary Budget * *Estimate your total project costs. Indicate all potential sources of funding including the NBR Grant.*	i) To construct and monitor pilot oyster reefs involving University of Sunshine Coast and The Nature Conservancy: $183,000 pa for 3 years Proposed USC contribution $ 76,000 pa x 3 Proposed Thomas Foundation contribution $ 12,500 pa x 3 Proposed NPA financial contribution $ 7,500pa x 3 Sought NBRF grant contribution $ 92,000 pa x 3 ii) To commission a University of Queensland and Murdoch University scientific study on the most effective ways to bring back prawn populations: $243,000 pa for 3 years Proposed UQ and MU contribution $173,000 pa x 3 Proposed Thomas Foundation contribution $ 12,500 pa x 3 Proposed NPA financial contribution $ 7,500 pa x 3 Sought NBRF grant contribution $ 50,000 pa **x** 3 iii) To assist Noosa and District Landcare commission a NBRF co-funded LiDAR study identifying the amount of soil erosion from each allotment and road reserve in the Kin Kin Creek catchment between 2009 and 2015/16: Proposed Thomas Foundation contribution $ 12,500 x 1 Proposed NPA financial contribution $ 7,500 x 1 (Refer to Noosa and District Landcare 'Keeping it in Kin Kin' EoI to NBRF for further detail).